Update - Bolton House Road Illegal Waste Site
November 2025

Dear Resident,

Following a recent request from local residents we have agreed to produce a monthly newsletter to keep you updated on the activities at the Bolton House Road illegal waste site.

Wigan Council, with support from our partners, have successfully applied for the closure order to be extended by the maximum period of a further three months. We also applied for a variation to the Order, to increase the area that the Closure will cover.

A closure order stops any unauthorised people from entering the site and a breach of the closure order is a criminal offence.



Looking at the wider and longer-term situation, the Environment Agency (EA) has an ongoing and significant criminal investigation into waste deposits at the site. The EA continues to interview individuals under caution who are potentially involved in this illegal activity.

The EA are also pursuing multiple lines of enquiry in their investigation, to hold those responsible for this situation to account.



The EA continues to gather evidence and members of the public who have information about the waste deposited on the site are encouraged to report any information on its incident hotline on **0800 80 70 60.**

Alternatively, if you want to report a crime or illegal activity anonymously you can ring Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111.**

As a partnership we understand the impact this site is having on the local community and want the site cleared as a matter of urgency. Unfortunately, the legal and financial landscape for clearing illegal waste sites is complex. The Environment Agency has sent out several formal notices to those parties with an interest in the land at Bolton House Road requiring the waste to be removed and failure to do so will result in legal action being taken.

Partners including Wigan Council, Environment Agency, Greater Manchester Police, United Utilities and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service continue to meet regularly as part of a multiagency recovery operation.

In addition to work of the multiagency recovery group the following actions are being taken to ensure the environmental impacts of the site are closely monitored and controlled –

- The Council, GMP, EA and Fire and Rescue regularly visit the site to monitor the safety aspects and the environmental impacts.
- Local CCTV continues to be monitored.
- Warning/Keep out signage has been erected around the perimeter of the site.
- The Council has erected protective fencing at the rear of the site to stop access to the waste from the Bickershaw Nature Reserve.
- The "run off" from the site continues to be managed and any excess will be removed from site when required.
- The waste has now been sampled; results are due later in November.
- Odour monitoring is ongoing; to date no significant odour has been detected by Officers off site. If you do detect an unpleasant odour, we would encourage you to keep a diary and contact the Council by using our Statutory Nuisance online form which can be accessed via the Council's website.
- The Council do monitor the site on a regular basis for vermin activity. We are not finding evidence of increased vermin activity. However, the local drainage system has been baited as a precaution. We are also planning to undertake vermin baiting of the wider area.
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service have put a fire plan in place, ensuring the local water supply to residents' homes remains unaffected should another fire break out.
- Unfortunately, we are not in a position to advise on timescales regarding the removal of the waste. The waste has been deposited on land belonging to a number of landowners. The Environment Agency has served formal notices to persons with an interest in the land, requiring them to remove the waste.
- Site information continues to be updated via the frequently asked questions page on the Council's website - Bolton House Road Bickershaw FAQ's

Wigan Council are also an affected landowner with a small amount of this waste now on council owned land, following the activity to extinguish the fire. The Council is working closely with the EA and a number of contractors to get plans in place, with the aim of responsibly removing this waste early in the new year.

In addition, one of the other landowners is now actively removing metals from the site which is also subject to a legal order issued by the EA.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience.

We will keep you updated via our Newsletter, and you can access further information on our Frequently Asked Questions page on the council's web site.