

## Odour Monitoring Poole Borough Council

Poole Borough Council commissioned Entec to carry out an investigation into possible odour nuisance affecting properties in the Canford Heath district of the borough. The suspected source of the odour nuisance was a local landfill site.

The programme was initiated on behalf of the council, to present any evidence that was able to justify a decision declaring that a statutory nuisance exists, and to support any subsequent action or constraints taken against the landfill operator.

The investigation involved installing continuous monitoring equipment that would be able to detect any odours in the area. The instrument used for the survey measured for hydrogen sulphide gas (H<sub>2</sub>S), which is recognised as being a suitable marker gas for landfill gas odour. In addition to monitoring, residents in the area were issued with log books, in which to record any odours which they detected in the area. These were then correlated with the monitoring data for evidence of any coinciding relationship, and were both compared with local meteorological data.

There were a number of occasions throughout the monitoring period when H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations exceeded the WHO recommended guide value for the control of nuisance, and a good correlation developed between the records provided by the residents and the measured H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations.

Entec provided a report for evidence to show that the landfill had the potential to cause nuisance for local residents during the monitoring period. A series of recommendations were made in order for the council to be able to compile a detailed case for declaring a statutory nuisance. This was done by reviewing complaint data and information held by the Environment Agency in respect of their site inspections. Further advice was also recommended for the council to seek legal opinion to assist in making their decision on declaring the statutory nuisance.

*Independent investigation of reported nuisance odours assists local council in decision-making process*

