



Mogden Sewage Treatment Works: 2011 updates



20 December 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

Construction work to increase capacity at Mogden Sewage Treatment Works will wind-down for Christmas at 3pm on Friday 23 December 2011.

No construction activity is planned throughout the festive period, however security will be present round-the-clock to ensure site safety and security.

Construction work will recommence on Tuesday 3 January 2012.

The team at Mogden would like to take this opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

23 November 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

Over the last year, we have hammered into the ground 3,500 concrete piles to create the foundations for the additional treatment tanks. Fortunately, this means our noisiest construction activity is now at an end.

However, you may notice a further noise during the first few weeks of December while we finish the last piece of foundation work. This will support a new pumping station, which on completion will help to transport wastewater around the works.

This month, we've also commissioned some new equipment which will capture more of the methane gas produced by the treatment process, helping to reduce the risk of odour. We burn the gas to create renewable energy, so this work will produce more electricity to help power the works.

Meanwhile, the team are working hard to finish building the tanks, which will be complete next year.

Once again, thank you for your patience while we carry out this crucial work.

31 October 2011 - River Crane pollution - odour notification

A two-metre valve (penstock) in a major sewer serving Heathrow Airport jammed shut on Saturday afternoon at Cranford Bridge on the A4 Bath Road while engineers carried out routine maintenance.

All attempts to re-open the valve were initially unsuccessful. It is now being forced open using specialised lifting equipment fitted overnight.

While we are able to take a lot of backed-up sewage away in tanker lorries for treatment, the volume of sewage was such that we were not able to tanker all of it.

Faced with the unpalatable choice of letting the remaining sewage back up into the airport or spill to the River Crane, we were forced to opt for the latter, resulting in sewage entering the river and damaging wildlife, which we deeply regret.

We are working with all those affected by this problem and with the Environment Agency, who are aware of our plan to tackle this problem as soon as possible.

Once normal flows resume, probably later this morning, some stronger than normal effluent will arrive at Mogden and this may cause elevated odour levels for a few hours, for which we wish to apologise in advance.



Some of the pollution from the River Crane has passed into the Duke of Northumberland river, and this has required a temporary closure of the footpath through the Mogden works, for which we would also like to apologise.

21 October 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

As the nights are drawing in, you may notice our workforce installing additional lighting around the western embankment. We are putting this in place so we can continue to carry out work to upgrade Mogden safely.

Next month, we will finish our noisiest construction activity, which involves hammering concrete piles into the ground.

We will then have created all of the foundations for the additional treatment tanks, where we will be able to treat the large volume of sewage that enters the site during heavy rain. This progress will allow us to finish building these tanks.

To make sure we have enough room on site to do this safely and efficiently, we need to temporarily store some more soil on top of the embankment. This will be the last time we need to do this, and unfortunately means the mound will be about three metres higher in places until around spring 2012. However, from that point, we will start to remove soil from the mound, which we will reduce to its original height by the end of next year.

Working hours for the main construction activities will continue to be limited to between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

14 October 2011 - Sludge export problem further update

Further to our update notification on Wednesday 28 September regarding a rupture on the sludge pipeline from Mogden Sewage Treatment Works (STW) to Iver South Sludge Dewatering Centre (SDC), we can report that this issue has been resolved.

The pipeline is due to be brought back into service today, this delay has been caused by a problem with the lining of the pipe. We will continue to tanker sludge off-site in order to help the sewage treatment process at Mogden recover and reduce odour, which you may have experienced recently.

We would like to apologise again for any inconvenience caused by the extra traffic around Mogden and any odour noticed during this period.

13 October 2011 - Primary tank drain down

The scraper on one of our west side rectangular primary settlement tanks has developed a fault and requires repair.

Before the maintenance team can carry out any work, however, we need to empty the tank. We are giving 24 hours notice and plan to drain down the tank tomorrow.

We would like to apologise for any odour that residents may notice as a result of this essential work.



28 September 2011 - Sludge export problem update

Further to our notification on Wednesday 14 September regarding a rupture on the sludge pipeline from Mogden Sewage Treatment Works (STW) to Iver South Sludge Dewatering Centre (SDC), there has been no change in the situation and we are still using road tankers to transport sludge off-site.

The repair of the pipeline has started and is due to be finished by Monday 10 October 2011. We would like to apologise again for any inconvenience caused by this extra traffic around Mogden and any potential odour noticed during this period.

27 September 2011 - Mogden Upgrade odour notification

As part of our upgrade works at Mogden, our contractors, Black & Veatch, are cleaning 13 of our sludge digester tanks in the south-west corner of the site.

Work is underway, and the first four tanks have been done. We plan to start working on the fifth tank on Thursday 29 September 2011 and have it completed by Friday 14 October 2011.

We are notifying you of this work as there is a small chance of an increase in odour during this time. We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause.

We will issue further notifications for the remaining eight tanks, which will be finished by the end of 2012.

23 September 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

We are nearly past the peak of construction activity, and have almost finished building three of the four key treatment areas being extended.

The improvements will increase the site's capacity by 50 per cent, reducing the amount of sewage that overflows into the River Thames following heavy rain.

This month we are taking delivery of four large stainless steel vessels that will be installed and used as part of the sewage treatment process. These are being delivered overnight to limit impact on traffic in the surrounding area.

Meanwhile, we are a third of the way through creating the foundations for the last treatment area to be extended, which we plan to complete in November. We are also in the process of removing the supporting walls that held open previous excavations. These activities can generate noise and vibration, but we are working hard to keep this to an absolute minimum.

14 September 2011 - Sludge export problem

There has been a rupture on the sludge pipeline from Mogden Sewage Treatment Works (STW) to Iver South Sludge Dewatering Centre (SDC), near the Colnbrook Bypass.

This has reduced our ability to export sludge from Mogden via this pipeline and as a consequence, we are currently using road tankers to transport sludge off-site until we are able to repair the pipeline.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this extra traffic around Mogden and any potential odour noticed during this period.



1 September 2011 - Unplanned maintenance work

Today we will be carrying out some unplanned maintenance on one of our process tanks in the pasteurisation area (towards the south-west corner of the site).

The work will involve draining a sealed tank to carry out the necessary maintenance, which we expect to finish by the end of the day.

There is a chance you may notice a slight increase in odour during this essential work, for which we would like to apologise.

22 August 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

We are now into our second year of construction to improve Mogden Sewage Treatment Works, and have already built more than half of the additional treatment tanks.

This puts us firmly on track to increase the site's capacity by 50 per cent by March 2013, which will reduce the amount of sewage that overflows into the River Thames after heavy rain.

Our good progress has allowed us to start installing the machinery for two of the four key treatment areas being extended, which means they will be in use at the beginning of next year.

At the inlet works, we have installed screens that will remove from the incoming sewage items like nappies and other materials that should not be flushed down the toilet. The flow of sewage is then slowed in the primary settlement tanks, where we have put in place the equipment that will remove the heavy particles that settle to the bottom.

We have also built two of the five new aeration lanes, where we bubble air through the sewage to encourage bacteria to eat the organic matter.

In addition, we have recently started building the foundations for the ten new final settlement tanks, where any remaining solids are removed before the cleaned effluent is safely returned to the river. This activity will continue into the autumn, and can generate noise and vibration, as it involves hammering 1,700 concrete piles into the ground.

19 August 2011 - Mogden Upgrade odour notification

As part of our upgrade works at Mogden, our contractors, Black & Veatch, are cleaning 13 of our sludge digester tanks in the south-west corner of the site.

This work is underway, and the first three tanks have been done. We plan to start working on the fourth tank on Monday 22 August 2011 and have it completed by Friday 2 September 2011.

We are notifying you of this work as there is a small chance of an increase in odour during this time. We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause.

We will issue further notifications for the remaining nine tanks, which will be complete by the end of 2012.



12 August 2011 - Mogden Upgrade odour notification

As part of our work to improve Mogden Sewage Treatment Works, we recently started cleaning grit from one of our concrete tanks.

We emailed you recently to tell you about this, suggesting that we would have finished by the end of this week. Unfortunately, the work is taking longer to complete than we'd anticipated.

We are confident that this will be finished by Friday 19 August, and until then there is a chance that you may notice a slight increase in odour.

2 August 2011 - Mogden Upgrade odour notification

As part of our work to improve Mogden Sewage Treatment Works, our contractors Black & Veatch will be demolishing one of the concrete tanks located in the north-west corner of the site.

Before this work can take place, we need to clear the tank of grit. We plan to start this work on Thursday 4 August, and expect it will last around eight days.

We are notifying you of this work because there is a chance that you may notice a slight increase in odour during this period. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience.

1 July 2011 - Mogden Upgrade odour notification

As part of our upgrade works at Mogden, our contractors Black & Veatch are cleaning 13 of our sludge digester tanks in the south-west corner of the site.

Work is under way, and the first two tanks have been completed. We plan to start working on the third tank on Monday (4 July) and have it finished by Friday 15 July.

We are notifying you of this work as there is a small chance of an increase in odour during this period. We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause.

We will issue further notifications for the remaining ten tanks, which we will complete by the end of 2012.

28 June 2011 - Primary tank drain down

The scraper on one of our west side rectangular primary settlement tanks has developed a fault and requires repair.

Before the maintenance team can carry out any work, however, we need to empty the tank. We are giving 24 hours notice and plan to drain down the tank tomorrow.

24 June 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

As we approach the end of the first year of construction, our work to upgrade Mogden is really starting to take shape.

Behind the western embankment, a 200-strong workforce is making great progress in building the new extension to the works - which will significantly reduce partially-treated sewage overflowing into the River Thames following heavy rain.



Around three-quarters of the foundations for the additional treatment tanks are now complete, and we are nearly half way through building the concrete structures. This means we will soon be able to install the machinery which will make these tanks work.

We have started using the gravel stored in the north-west corner of the site, near Worton Industrial Estate, to fill around the new structures. We plan to start using the remaining soil temporarily stored on top of the embankment in spring 2012, which will reduce the embankment to its final height by the end of next year.

During July we will start the final sections of foundation work. This will continue into the autumn, with short intermittent breaks throughout this period. As this activity involves hammering concrete piles into the ground, it can generate noise and vibration, which we will monitor closely and keep to an absolute minimum.

25 May 2011 - Mogden Upgrade odour notification

As part of our upgrade works at Mogden, our contractors, Black & Veatch, are cleaning 13 of our sludge digester tanks in the south-west corner of the site.

Work is underway, and the first tank has been done. We plan to start working on the second tank on Friday 26 May and have it completed by Friday 10 June.

We are notifying you of this work as there is a small chance of an increase in odour during this time. We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause.

We will issue further notifications for the remaining 11 tanks, which will be complete by the end of 2012.

19 May 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

We are continuing to make good progress with work to improve Mogden, helped by the recent dry weather. We have now created enough room on site to build all of the new treatment tanks and interconnecting pipework. As a result, we have now significantly reduced our earth moving activities and no longer need to transport soil off site.

The main focus of our current work is building the new tanks, where we will be able to treat the large volume of sewage that enters the site during heavy rain. Most of this activity is behind the western embankment, so our work should be less noticeable.

The landscape will remain largely unchanged until early next year, when we will start to complete the tanks and will be able to use the soil temporarily stored on top of the western embankment to fill around them.

As part of this upgrade to extend the works, there are four key areas of construction:

inlet area – where we screen the sewage to remove grit and items which should not be flushed down the toilet, such as nappies and sanitary products

primary tanks – where solids settle to the bottom and are removed



aeration lanes – where we bubble air through the sewage to encourage bacteria to eat the organic matter

final tanks – where any remaining solids are removed in the final treatment process before the treated effluent is returned back to the River Thames

The foundations for the first three areas are now complete. We will begin creating the foundations for the final tanks in late June, and will confirm the start date nearer the time. This work is likely to finish in the autumn. As this activity involves hammering piles into the ground, it can generate noise and vibration, which we will monitor closely and keep to an absolute minimum.

15 April 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

Now that spring has finally arrived, finer weather and improved ground conditions mean we can do more on the western embankment. We can also concentrate on building the new treatment tanks.

During this upgrade, we are concerned about the impact of construction traffic on the roads around Mogden. To keep vehicle movements to a minimum, we will continue to temporarily store excavated soil on top of the embankment. This will continue to increase the height of the mound in the short term, but we estimate it will save up to 750 lorry movements each day. Customers living nearest to the works will be more aware of this. After two months, the work will reduce and become less frequent.

Excavated soil, together with sand and gravel stored in front of the oak trees, will be used to build up the retaining walls for some of the treatment tanks. Although temporary storage of soil will continue throughout 2011, we will reduce the embankment to its final height by the end of 2012.

We have finished half of the foundations for the additional treatment tanks, involving 3,500 concrete piles in the ground. The final phase of this work will restart in the summer, and is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

23 March 2011 - Odour from blocked drains

Due to the problem with the sludge main that we experienced last week, we had digested sludge returning to Mogden via our high level sewer.

This passed back into the process for treatment, resulting in settlement issues in our picket fence thickeners. As a result, this blocked the low level return drains.

The problem was identified at the end of last week due to odour noticed on our site investigations, but because of the complexity of the site drainage system, we were unable to pinpoint the location of the blockage until today.

We apologise if you have noticed this odour over the last few days, but we have now jetted the drains with water to clear them and the digested sludge, which caused the problem, has now passed through the process.

18 March 2011 - Mogden Upgrade update

Our work to upgrade Mogden is moving well, and with improving ground conditions now that winter is nearly over, we will be able to carry out some more work on the western embankment soon.



We are continuing to dig out the bases of the remaining sewage tanks, and so will need to temporarily store some more of the removed soil on top of the embankment as there is limited space elsewhere at the works. This will increase the height of the mound in the short term, but retaining this earth on site avoids up to 750 lorry movements in and out of Mogden each day.

The first two months of this activity is likely to be more noticeable from neighbouring properties, after which time, the scale of this work will reduce and be carried out intermittently.

We plan to gradually reduce the embankment to its final height by the end of 2012, and will shortly install marker posts to show the approximate level it will reach.

We are building the retaining walls for some of the treatment tanks from the soil dug out of the ground, mixed with the sand and gravel presently stored in front of the oak trees. This will reduce the amount of concrete imported to the site, and limit traffic on local roads.

Meanwhile, we are making good progress with creating the foundations for the additional treatment tanks, which involves pushing around 3,500 concrete piles into the ground. We have already completed around half of these, and plan to break from this activity in April. The final phase of this work will then resume in the summer, and is likely to run into late autumn.

15 March 2011 - Sludge export problem - update

Further to our notification on Thursday 10 March, we have resolved the problem with the sludge main from Mogden sewage treatment works to Iver South sludge dewatering centre and lowered the sludge stocks on site, particularly in our uncovered west side primary settlement tanks.

This means we have been able to reduce the number of tankers taking sludge off-site and, as always, we will continue to monitor our sludge stocks carefully.

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10 March 2011 - Sludge export problem

We have had a problem with the sludge main from Mogden sewage treatment works to Iver South sludge dewatering centre.

This has impaired our ability to export sludge from Mogden via this main and as a result, the sludge stocks in our uncovered west side primary settlement tanks have increased.

To minimise potential odour, we are currently tankering sludge off-site and we will provide further updates as and when more information is available.

09 February 2011 - Minor sludge spill

We have had a minor sludge spill today inside one of our pump houses in the south-west area of Mogden sewage treatment works, and a full clean-up is being carried out.

It is unlikely that odour will be noticed off-site as a result, as most of the spill was contained in the building and the sludge is digested, not raw.



If any odour is noticed, however, we would like to apologise.

10 January 2011 - Primary tank drain down

The scraper on one of our west side primary settlement tanks has developed a fault and needs to be repaired.

Before the maintenance team can carry out any work, however, we need to empty the tank.

We are giving 24 hours' notice and plan to drain down the tank tomorrow.

We would like to apologise for any odour that residents may notice as a result of this essential work.