



## **Waste Management**

### *The Science of Landfill*

#### **Jane Van Hool:**

Landfills, they've always suffered from an image problem, and in the past, perhaps it was justified, especially back in the nineteen eighties. Today's sites have to be at the cutting edge of technology, and even more safeguards and constraints are being introduced.

#### **Lesley Heasman Technical Development Director, MJ Carter Assoc.**

Well unfortunately the current image of land fill amongst most of the public is not a very happy image. I think people base their image on the history of land fill, what they perceive as land fill as being a site that's uncontrolled, it's not scientific, it's not, it generates litter and flies and vermin. But in reality, sites are designed with a great deal of care, a great deal of control goes into the generation of them, in the operation of them, and the management of them, both whilst they're being filled, and afterwards.

#### **Jane Van Hool:**

This golfer may not know it, but beneath his feet, is a former land fill site. There are around six thousand land fill sites dotted all over Britain, taking about eighty percent of our household waste. Once they've been filled up, many of them are restored to useful amenities, like this golf course. In 1999, a European union land fill directive, brought in new legislation, that sites like this, must be carefully monitored for thirty years after the land fill has been covered over. It's aiming to ensure, that the rubbish beneath the surface doesn't come back to haunt us in the future. But are land fill sites still a justifiable option for waste disposal in the new millennium, and what impact has the EU directive had on the way sites are designed and run. From first selecting the site, right through to what happens to them after they've been closed down, it's a highly technical process.