

Walleys Quarry

Background:

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site is a high-profile active landfill site in Newcastle-under-Lyme operated by Walleys Quarry Ltd (WQL). The site is regulated by the Environment Agency through an environmental permit. Since early 2021, Walleys Quarry has been a site of high public, political and media interest due to air quality concerns and odour complaints.

The Environment Agency has concluded that the management of Walleys Quarry is poor and that further operation of the site may result in significant, long-term pollution.

The Environment Agency are satisfied that WQL has failed to demonstrate that it can exercise the appropriate level of control necessary to manage fugitive landfill emissions effectively, so that they do not have an adverse impact outside the site boundary therefore we issued WQL with a closure notice on 28 November 2024.

A closure announcement was issued on **28 November 2024**.

You can read more background to this on the Engagement Hub HQ page [Walleys Quarry Landfill Site | Engage Environment Agency](#) and on GOV.UK [Environment Agency issues Closure Notice to Walleys Quarry Ltd - GOV.UK](#).

What does this mean for other problem landfill sites?

Why won't you issue a Closure Notice at Buckden Landfill?

A Closure Notice is used as a last resort once all other enforcement options have been exhausted. Details of our current regulatory and enforcement activity can be found on the main site home page, and within the FAQ document.

Does this mean that the Environment Agency is now more likely to close down other problem landfill sites?

The Environment Agency has taken this decision about Walleys Quarry following years of regulatory and enforcement action. The EA deals with each local landfill site separately, considering a range of issues such as the permit of the site, history of compliance, and likelihood of long-term environmental damage. The decision taken at Walleys Quarry doesn't affect decisions that may be made about the future operations of other sites.