

# Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

27 May 2021

We have developed this weekly update to help us keep the community of Newcastle under Lyme up to date with developments around our regulation of Walleys Quarry.

We are sorry the community is continuing to live with the distress that odour causes and we are challenging Walleys Quarry Ltd (formerly Red Industries RM Ltd) every step of the way to take action on the odour levels produced from their operations and the impact these are having on local people.

## News in brief

- The Environment Agency has issued Walleys Quarry Ltd with three Compliance Assessment Reports, identifying five permit breaches. Compliance assessment reports form part of the Environment Agency's formal regulation. The Environment Agency now legally requires the operator to complete a significant number of actions to rectify these breaches.
- The breaches were for general management failures related to a late surface emissions survey and inadequate related remedial work; failure to review the procedures for managing dust on site; and odours offsite being directly attributed to the site. Read more [here](#)
- We have held the first in a series of virtual community events this week. We really welcomed the opportunity to listen to your experiences and answer your questions. Approximately 150 people joined the call. We are planning more engagement in the coming weeks and months, and we're hoping to have some face-to-face sessions when Covid restrictions allow. See the transcript and recording here from the event.
- We have now published our air quality monitoring report for April and the data that supports it. Public Health England's health risk assessment report is also now published for March and April. [The Environment Agency report](#) and data are available on the webpage and you can see the [PHE report](#) here.
- For the week 17 May to 23 May, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the WHO 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects, but were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level between 1% and 53% of the week. During this week we received 1613 odour reports in the Newcastle under Lyme area.
- There have been many comments on social media in the last couple of weeks about closing Walleys Quarry landfill. We understand that many residents want the landfill closed. Walleys Quarry is an active landfill and closing it would not stop the odours emitting from the site, and these odours would still need to be managed.

- To assess health impacts of the odours from Walleys Quarry, our public health partners are asking people to complete a daily survey detailing health impacts, and build further evidence to support our regulation. The survey can be found: [here](#)
- Where possible, we ask residents to report odours in the local area surrounding Walleys Quarry via email. To report an odour issue related to Walleys Quarry, please [Click Here](#). This will open a template email for you to complete and send to our Incident Communications Service (ICS).
- If you are not able to email us please report your odour issues via 0800 807060. We have reduced the number of questions we need to ask you but your complaint will still be logged and you will be provided with an incident number.

### **Air Quality in the last week**

We are committed to sharing with you the outcome of our monthly monitoring. However, we realise local people want to see more frequent information about recorded hydrogen sulphide levels. We will seek to bring you this information every week in this update.

This data will be compared against the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level. Should the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level be exceeded, Public Health England will be immediately informed as short-term health effects may be experienced by the public such as irritation to the eyes, nose and throat. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions may be more susceptible to these effects.

The data will also be compared to the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level, i.e. above which there is likely to be complaints about odour annoyance.

The Environment Agency conducts its monitoring and data handling using approved standards and methodologies. As a result this weekly data is based on raw data that has not yet been subjected to quality assurance checking or calibration. As a result this data may change significantly once the quality assurance check and calibration has been carried out.

For the week 17 May to 23 May, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the WHO 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects, but were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level for between 1% and 53% of the week.

Data from our monitoring stations for the percentage of the week hydrogen sulphide were above World Health Organization's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level:

- Silverdale Cemetery 1%
- Silverdale Pumping Station 9%
- Newcastle under Lyme Community Fire Station 10%
- Galingale View Pumping Station 53%

We are updating the information on this webpage every week. To receive notifications email your contact details to: [Engagement\\_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk) and we will add you to our mailing list.

See [Staffordshire County Council website](#) for the information on public health impacts of odours in the Silverdale and wider Newcastle under Lyme area.

Walleys Quarry website: <https://walleysquarry.co.uk/>

### **Multi-agency roles and responsibilities**

- The Environment Agency regulates the two environmental permits held by the operator for the landfill. The permit covers on-site activities with the aim of minimising the impact on the local environment in terms of air quality, noise, odour, dust, leachate and impacts to groundwater. We enforce that permit through monitoring and undertaking site visits (both announced and unannounced) and where needed we take enforcement action to address compliance issues.
- Staffordshire County Council is responsible for determining planning permission across the area. The Environment Agency comments on planning applications. The Council also has responsibilities for traffic movement. This is part of planning permission for the site and is not included in the Environment Agency permit conditions.
- Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council is responsible for regularly monitoring air quality across the area, to ensure that it does not impact human health.
- Public Health England is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct organisation with operational autonomy. They provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific expertise and support. They have no statutory powers in relation to odorous sites and therefore work with multi-agency partners to ensure public health is protected.