

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

10 June 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

- WLQ are continuing to work on the necessary actions from the Environment Agency's recent compliance assessment reports. As a result the operator has identified areas suitable for additional sealing works to reduce the odour. This will see a further 17,200m² of uncapped areas sealed. Additional sealing would help to reduce the odour by ensuring it doesn't escape and instead is captured by the gas wells.
- Around 130 people joined our virtual community session last night (Wednesday 9 June). We really valued the opportunity to listen to your experiences and answer your questions. A written transcript and audio recording of the session will be available soon. A [written transcript](#), [audio recording](#) and [answers to questions](#) asked electronically during the meeting from the session held on the 26 May are also available.
- We've recently met with Councillor Huckfield, and Councillor Tagg to talk about the impact of odours felt by constituents. Councillor Huckfield shared with us issues and actions for us to consider, and we've arranged to talk through those in more detail with Councillor Huckfield next week. We've also held two virtual meetings with local councillors representing Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. Plus, sessions with local MPs.
- We have now received the independent construction quality report of the permanent capping work we required the operator to carry out in the enforcement notice we issued on 26 March. Following a review of this work, we will be able to confirm if the requirements of the enforcement notice have been met.
- Our priority is to reduce the odour and as a regulator we are holding the operator to account to bring the site back into compliance with their environmental permit, in line with our published guidance, relevant legislation, whilst following the regulators' code of conduct.
- For the week 31 May to 6 June, 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 30% of the week. During this week we received 972 odour reports in the Newcastle under Lyme area.

- Number of complaints: For the week 31 May – 6 June we received a total of 1035 complaints relating to odour in the Newcastle under Lyme area.
- Our public health partners are asking people to complete a daily survey detailing health impacts. This is so they can assess health impacts from Walleys Quarry and build further evidence to support our regulation. Please fill in the survey [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 indicative 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 31 May to 6 June, 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 30% 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 30%
- Silverdale Pumping Station 1%
- Newcastle under Lyme Community Fire Station 6%
- Galingale View Pumping Station 18%

Inappropriate behavior and threats

Our staff being present on site and in the local area is a critical part of our response. It is something we have always prioritised and that we have stepped up since the beginning of this year. We plan to continue with this. Unfortunately we have recently had inappropriate behaviour and threats directed towards our staff from a minority of people. We know you are frustrated and angry and our staff will be professional and fair when they deal with members of the community. In return we ask the community to respect our staff **whether this is in person or over the phone**. We will not tolerate any abuse of our staff and will report any incidents to Staffordshire Police attributed to the site.

We are updating the information on this webpage every week. To receive notifications email your contact details to: 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.