

# Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

24 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

- We have held a meeting with the operator to discuss gas management on the site and have agreed an action plan to improve gas containment and collection to further reduce odour. An additional 500 cubic metres per hour of landfill gas is now being collected and managed by the gas plant since February following the works which have been completed on site. This included additional capping, the installation of additional gas extraction wells and better sealing of the gas wells. Further capping on the flanks of the landfill is expected to commence mid-July.
- We have recently installed continuous water quality monitors downstream of the landfill and are also in the process of installing an additional monitor upstream of the site. The monitors will allow us to obtain live data on some key water quality parameters remotely. We know this has been a local concern and will allow us to monitor water quality in the local area continuously. Currently the landfill is not discharging to the local watercourse.
- We held our third engagement session for residents impacted by the odour from Walleys Quarry on 23 June from 6-8pm. A written transcript and recording will shortly be available.
- Our Citizen Space pages have had a refresh! To make it easier to find information we have updated our pages. You can find the latest weekly updates, FAQs and health information all in clearly marked sections, access it [here](#).
- We are expecting the May Air Quality Monitoring reports for Environment Agency and PHE will be available next week.
- If you would like to talk to someone about any mental wellbeing issues there are a number of sources of help on [Staffordshire Council's website](#). Anyone experiencing significant mental health issues should see their GP for a referral to primary care mental health services.

- For the week 13-20th 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 7% and 13% of the week (although final information is still being collated). During this week we received 1207 odour reports 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 13<sup>th</sup>-20th 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 7% and 13% of the week (although final information is still being collated) Data from our monitoring stations for the percentage of the week hydrogen sulphide were

above World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level:

- MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery = 11%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 7%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 9%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 13%

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.