

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

4 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 are actively scrutinising the work that has been undertaken by Walleys Quarry Limited after we issued the operator with three Compliance Assessment Reports, requiring action by agreed dates. These included completing more than 60 individual actions and we are assessing each to determine whether they have been carried out to the required standard. 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.
- We required Walleys Quarry Limited to carry out additional checks of the waste coming into the site. Following investigations into seven separate loads of waste rejected by the operator, we have identified three waste producers in England and Wales who have incorrectly described waste they had delivered to the landfill. We have taken enforcement action against one of the companies, and have further action and visits to the other producers planned.
- Our next virtual community session will be held on Wednesday 9 June at 18.00. Details on how to join will be available [here](#) by Monday 7 June. Our last session was held on 26 May and over 150 people attended. We really valued the opportunity to listen to your experiences and answer your questions. You can access the transcript [here](#). The audio recording will be available soon.
- 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](#)
- For the week 24 May to 31 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 7% and 47% of the week. During this week we received 1679 odour reports in the Newcastle under Lyme area.
- 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.
- 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. Read more [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 24 May to 30 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 7% and 47% 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 7%
- Silverdale Pumping Station 15%
- Newcastle under Lyme Community Fire Station 16%
- Galingale View Pumping Station 47%

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.