

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

8 July 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 act on the odour levels produced from their operations and the impact these are having on local people.

News in brief

- The Environment Agency joined Staffordshire County Council, Public Health England, Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council and North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group at a multi-agency community engagement session on Tuesday evening. A recording of the session has been made available by Staffordshire County Council [here](#). Plans are being prepared for further opportunities for all partners to talk to local people about experiences and actions.
- Many people have asked us about why we're not taking legal action against Walleys Quarry Limited. We've not ruled this out, but we would not be able to discuss this if we were. Right now, we're doing everything within our regulatory powers to stop landfill gas emissions escaping from the site and impacting local people. There have been some improvements, but there is still a long way to go and more will take time. As regulator, we will not stop until the operator effectively manages the odour from its operations.
- We've committed to providing you with as much information as we can about the actions we are taking to hold Walleys Quarry Limited to account for the odour. We've recently published a timeline, which was in part shared with people attending the engagement call on Tuesday. The timeline includes the history of the site, the actions we've taken to date including site inspections and odour reports along with detailed plans for the next three months. View the timeline [here](#)
- We've seen concerns on social media about how we count and log complaints. We take all calls and emails seriously, and every call and email received is counted as a complaint. Our internal processes for logging complaints group all contact made over 24 hours from the same person or address under one reference number, however, all contact is counted separately. For example, if someone from the same address calls us three times on the same day, there will be one reference number, but we will register it as three complaints.
- The Environment Agency air quality monitoring report and data for May, and the PHE air quality monitoring report for March to May is now available on our webpages [here](#)

- If you would like to talk to someone about any mental wellbeing issues, there are several 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 28 June to 4 July, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects but were above the WHO 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level between 1% and 10% of the week. During this week we received 801 odour reports from local people.
- 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 are 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 28 June to 4 July, 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 10% of the week (although final information is still being collated).

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

- MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery = 1%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 8%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 8%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 10%

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 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.