

Walley's Quarry Landfill Site, Silverdale- Community Update July and August 2020

Introduction

These updates will provide residents with the latest information about our regulation of the Walley's Quarry landfill site in Newcastle under Lyme.

Keeping you up to date on our progress is very important to us and we hope our updates and frequently asked questions (FAQ) document will answer many of your questions.

Please see link below for our FAQ document:

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-silverdale/supporting_documents/Generic%20Landfill%20FAQs.pdf

Coronavirus: The Environment Agency response

We are working hard with Government and other emergency responders on protecting the public and the environment from the effects of Coronavirus. The Environment Agency remains fully operational, with the majority of our staff working from home. In accordance with the Government's and our own internal guidance, we continue to carry out regulatory visits to sites. Since restrictions have lifted we have completed site visits to Walley's Quarry landfill in June and July.

Latest news

Public consultation – 19 August 2020 until 16 September 2020

In December 2018 we received an environmental permit variation application for Walleys Quarry Landfill Site, Cemetery Road, Silverdale, Newcastle under Lyme ST56DH, on behalf of Red Industries RM Ltd. The variation to the existing environmental permit, requested and increase in the annual waste inputs from 250,000 tonnes to 400,000 tonnes.

We ran our first public consultation on the variation application from 24 May 2019 to 20 August 2019. We have now reached our draft 'minded to' decision to issue the variation to the environmental permit. We will now run a public consultation on our draft decision from 19 August 2020 until 16 September 2020. The draft decision document can be viewed online- see link below: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/st5-6dh-red-industries-limited-dd>

You can submit your comments on our draft 'minded to' decision until 16 September 2020, as detailed below:

- **Online:** <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/st5-6dh-red-industries-limited-dd>
- **Email:** pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk Please use the following reference when emailing us your comments: EPR/DP3734DC/V002

Once we have reviewed all comments submitted through our public consultation, we will make our final decision on whether or not to issue the environmental permit.

It is important to us that our consultation is as representative as possible and that all voices are heard. Please feel free to pass details of the consultation onto anyone else who you feel would have an interest.

Site inspection

We visited the site in June and July to inspect the engineering works to the sidewall liner in preparation for the next phase of waste deposition. These engineering works involve laying an approved source of clay against the side wall of the landfill under the full time supervision of an independent third party engineer. The works have now been completed and we have received a Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) validation report which we have reviewed and accepted. Waste deposition may now commence in the areas which have under gone the engineering works. Further information on landfill engineering can be found in the FAQ's in our online information page.

New unloading pad

We have approved the use of a new unloading pad within the landfill. The unloading pad allows vehicles to tip waste onto a specially engineered platform. The waste can be safely held before being transported by Red's vehicles into the current landfill cell. All waste is removed from the pad at the end of each day. The use of the pad reduces the number of vehicles driving across the landfill site and the need to tow vehicles during wet weather. This will also ensure a quicker turnaround time for vehicles which will reduce waiting times for trucks entering the landfill.

Odour assessment

We are completing regular odour assessments within the local area and undertaking more frequent assessments at locations where we receive the most complaints of odour. As part of these visits we also assess the number of birds and whether mud / debris is leaving the facility.

What you have told us?

- Residents have raised concerns about odour, pests and the height of the landfill.

We have continued to contact the site regularly and ensure details of complaints (although we never release personal data so they cannot identify complainants) are provided to them. In accordance with their Odour & Noise Management Plan the site operator must investigate and advise of the outcome of their investigations. We have recently reviewed the sites pest management procedure to consider if all appropriate measures are being used. We have recommended the operator use their own monitoring records to ensure rotation of different techniques as their effectiveness changes over time. For example gulls become used to rockets, distress calls and times a falconer arrives on sites.

Some complaints have included comments about the height of the landfill. The final "landform" or shape of the landfill was decided as part of the sites planning permission held with the County Council. The Environment Agency does not decide the final landfill / shape of the site. The

Environmental Permit considers how the site will be engineered to achieve the landform required by the planning permission. The operator has started to raise the height of the site above ground level to achieve the shape required, currently the site has not achieved the final levels.

Keeping local residents updated

During this period of restriction due to Coronavirus we will only update you if there are any significant changes we need to make you aware of.

Our online information page has been updated in line with this:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-sliverdale/>

If you would like to provide feedback on how useful you have found this update, or be added to our mailing list to receive these updates in the future, please email

Engagement_Westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environmental concerns

To report an environmental incident or concern, please call our free 24 hour incident hotline on:

0800 80 70 60

Please do not try to contact our officers directly - we cannot guarantee that your call will be logged and dealt with in a timely manner unless it is made through the incident hotline.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.