

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

15 September 2021

We have developed this weekly update to help keep the community of Newcastle under Lyme and wider area up to date with developments around our regulation of Walleys Quarry landfill.

We don't want the community to continue to live with the distress caused by landfill gas being released from the operations at Walleys Quarry landfill. We are challenging Walleys Quarry Ltd (formerly Red Industries RM Ltd) every step of the way to operate in line with their permits.

News in brief

- **Action to address permit breaches**

We've issued Walleys Quarry Ltd with a further series of remedial actions after we identified two further breaches of the landfill's environmental permit.

In response to community concerns about gulls, we found breaches relating to:

- Insufficient covering of tipped materials at the end of the working day.
- Odour outside the site at a level likely to cause pollution, as perceived by an authorised officer, in the absence of appropriate measures to prevent or minimise the odour.

Please note, the permit does not require all waste to be covered at the end of the working day. However, sufficient cover is required, where appropriate, to control pests and vermin. On this occasion, an Environment Agency officer confirmed there was a breach relating to the pest control plan.

The Environment Agency has required the company to complete a number of actions to remedy these breaches, including:

- Covering waste sufficiently by the end each working day to avoid attracting vermin. There will be further assessments and inspections to check that the operator is taking this action.
- Urgently carry out a surface emission survey and make checks on the temporary capping layer and identify any necessary improvements.
- Install appropriate capping to prevent emissions of landfill gas outside the site boundary (due by 30 September).

[Read our press release](#) for further information.

- **Latest hydrogen sulphide levels**

For the week 6 to 12 September, 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 0% and 18% of the week. During this week we received 720 reports from local people.

- **Increase in complaints and levels of hydrogen sulphide at our monitoring stations**

Last week, compared to the week before and other recent weeks, we saw an increase in the hydrogen sulphide levels recorded at some of our monitoring stations, and an increase in the number of reports to us from local people.

We are looking into the cause of that increase in emissions from the site.

We know that some weeks we're seeing lower levels of hydrogen sulphide escaping from the site, and while that is good news, we understand the problem remains and we will continue to use our regulatory powers to require Walleys Quarry Ltd to bring hydrogen sulphide emissions under control.

- **Reporting issues to us**

Thank you for continuing to use our online reporting form, we've had over 1,300 reports using this online form, which has given us key information about what is happening locally.

We're aware of a small number of confirmation emails being sent without an incident reference number, or inaccurate reporting time details. Thank you to those raising this with us, we've now investigated and rectified an error in our processes. All complaint reports were still logged and counted.

We log and count every report that comes into us, no matter which method people choose. If you do receive a response without a reference number, your complaint is still counted, recorded and logged on our system at the time you submitted the report. For your records, we recommend you keep our email reply to you.

It may take a few days to receive a reply with an incident reference number, but we are improving the process, our systems and increasing the team size administering the forms. These changes will improve the service and the speed of replies.

Our [online reporting form](#) is available (see also the 'Contact us' part of this website).

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 6 to 12 September 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 0% and 18% 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 = 0%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 1%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 13%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 18%

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/>