

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

15 July 2021

We have developed this weekly update to help us keep the community of Newcastle under Lyme and areas around 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

- Over the last few months we have been saddened to be on the receiving end of social media abuse. This has been experienced by both named individuals and also by the people who monitor our @EnvAgencyMids Twitter account. This has been particularly bad in the last few weeks and has resulted in us reporting some accounts to Twitter. Please stick to the principles of our [social media policy](#) when engaging with us. Everyone deserves respect.
- 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](#)
- 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 4 July to 11 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 3% and 17% of the week. During this week we received 853 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 4 to 11 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 3% and 17% 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 = 5%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 18%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 3%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 17%

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/>