

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

22 July 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 are sorry the community is continuing 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 act to address this and to operate in line with their permits.

News in brief

- On Friday 16 July, we served CLP Envirogas Limited with a notice for information. CLP Envirogas is subcontracted by Walleys Quarry Limited to manage the gas utilisation plant at the landfill.

The notice requires CLP Envirogas Limited to supply us with more detailed monitoring information about the operation of the gas utilisation plant by the 25 August. To provide this information, CLP may have to invest in additional monitoring equipment at the landfill.

Like an enforcement notice, failure to comply is a criminal offence under the environmental permitting regulations.

While Walleys Quarry Limited are the permit holders of the site and are ultimately responsible for their operations, this notice has been served to CLP Envirogas as the most appropriate person (s) to deliver this action.

- One of the actions we require of the operator is to cap the steep flanks of the landfill. Walleys Quarry Limited were due to start this work mid-July. This work has not started as the required specialist materials have not yet arrived from the US. We are pressing the operator to investigate the delay and deliver a revised plan for these crucial works.
- An application for a judicial review has been lodged with the High Court involving the regulatory decisions of the Environment Agency in relation to the operational activities of Walleys Quarry Limited. The Environment Agency is currently following the relevant litigation process in relation to this application and is unable to comment on matters that may appear in court.
- Over the last few months we have been saddened to be on the receiving end of social media abuse. This has been particularly serious recently and has resulted in us reporting some accounts to Twitter. Those posts containing threats of violence or sexual violence will be reported to the Police. 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 in the levels of landfill gas escaping the site, 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.

- 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 12 July to 18 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 less than 1% and 23% of the week. During this week we received 815 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 12 to 18 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 less than 1% and 23% of the week (although final information is still being collated).



Hydrogen Sulphide World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects



Hydrogen Sulphide World Health Organisation's 30 minute average odour annoyance guideline level



Odour Reports/complaints last week

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 = less than 1%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 2%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 2%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 23%

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/>