

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

5 August 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 act to address this and to operate in line with their permits.

News in brief

- **New online reporting form available**

Many of you have asked us for an online form to make it easier to report landfill gas odour from Walleys Quarry Landfill. We've now developed an [online reporting form](#) for you to use and the link is available on the 'Contact us' part of this website. Like phoning us, you will receive a reference number, but as this is a new process, it may take a few days for the reference number to come through. We piloted this with representatives from your community, and the process will change over time. Our aim is to make it much easier for you to report issues.
- **Please avoid using the app 'Fix my street'**

Unfortunately due to the way in which FixMyStreet works it does not capture all the information we require to make an accurate record of an incident some people will have reported to us on this App. We want to ensure that all the reports made through FixMyStreet is captured correctly and therefore we have contacted those who have used the App to resubmit their report via our new online tool.
- **June's air quality reports available**

The air quality monitoring report and data for June from the Environment Agency and the PHE health risk assessment are now available on these webpages. See Section 5 on air quality monitoring.
- **Recording available from Tuesday's engagement event**

A second multi-agency virtual engagement session was held on Tuesday (3 August), with representatives from the Environment Agency, Public Health England, Staffordshire County Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (who represent GPs in the area) on hand to answer your questions.

A recording will be available soon. A transcript is also being written and will be available as soon as possible.
- **Locations of our air quality monitoring equipment**

We've received some questions around why we are not monitoring for landfill gas over a wider geographical area. We have four mobile monitoring units spread around the landfill which monitor continuously. Any emissions detected by these or by our

officers show the operator is not working within its permit and give us the evidence to take action. We're working closely with our partners who are monitoring a wider area and also monitoring health impacts over a wider area.

- **Paying for regulation**

We've seen comments on social media concerning payments that the Environment Agency receives from Walleys Quarry Limited. Every business we regulate has to pay for their environmental permits. In the case of Walleys Quarry, that payment does not cover the total costs of regulating this site due to the odour issues.

In these cases, under Treasury rules we are also allowed to charge an operator for additional 'time and materials'. We have passed some of the additional costs associated with bringing Walleys Quarry Limited back into compliance on to them to pay. This means that the operator pays for the cost of the site regulation and not the taxpayer.

We are completely dedicated to bringing the site back into compliance with its environmental permit and will not stop until the landfill gas odour issues have been resolved.

You can find more information about time and materials charges in the [environmental permitting charges guidance](#).

- **Further capping work**

Walleys Quarry Ltd were due to start work on covering the steep flanks of the landfill in mid July with new technology not yet used in the UK called Posi-Shell. They have informed us this material has not yet arrived from the USA. They anticipate it will arrive in late August and we have asked the operator to deliver a revised plan for these crucial works and timeframes.

- **Judicial Review**

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. A hearing is scheduled for 18/19th August.

- **Mental wellbeing**

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.

- **Latest hydrogen sulphide levels**

For the week 26 July to 1 August, 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 1.5% and 26% of the week. During this week we received 1653 reports from local people.

- **Reporting issues to us**

Where possible, we ask residents to report issues relating to Walleys Quarry landfill via our online form. To report an issue, 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 issues to us on 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 26 July to 1 August, 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 1.5% and 26% 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 = 1.8%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 1.5%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 11%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 26%

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/>