

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

2 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

- **Additional mental health support being offered to residents affected by Walleys Quarry**

Residents experiencing emotional distress due to the odours emanating from the Walleys Quarry landfill site are being offered additional mental health support.

The new service, provided by Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) in partnership with North Staffs Mind and Changes Health & Wellbeing is open to those aged 16 and over who live or work in close proximity to the site in Silverdale.

As well as individual, confidential counselling, support groups for residents affected by the odours are also being offered, alongside coping strategies and self-help materials to help improve wellbeing.

People can access this support through the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Wellbeing Service by calling 0300 303 0923 or visiting www.staffsandstokewellbeing.nhs.uk, where an online self-referral can be made.

- **Plans for face to face meetings next month**

We are working with multi agency partners to schedule face to face drop in sessions in the community in October. We're working on logistics to make sure these are safe and have Covid control measures in place. We'll let you know as soon as we have sourced a suitable venue and ensure you have adequate notice.

- **Improvements in the management of landfill gas, to stop it escaping from the site**

We are pressing Walleys Quarry Limited hard to plan and deliver significant improvements to its gas infrastructure that captures and destroys the landfill gas (and hydrogen sulphide) produced as waste breaks down.

This includes drilling a further 22 gas collection wells across the site over the coming months bringing the total to 77 gas wells. Walleys Quarry Limited are expected to start drilling these additional gas wells from next week. This will see further gas from across the site captured for processing at the gas utilisation plant, reducing the amount of gas escaping from the site.

- **Online reporting form available**

Many of you asked for an online form to make it easier to report landfill gas odour from Walleys Quarry Landfill. An [online reporting form](#) is now available (see also 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.

- **Latest hydrogen sulphide levels**

For the week 23 to 29 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 0% and 17% of the week. During this week we received 446 reports from local people.

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 23 to 29 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 0% 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 = 0%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 0%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 1.5%
- 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/>