

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

9 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

- **Work to install new gas wells expected**

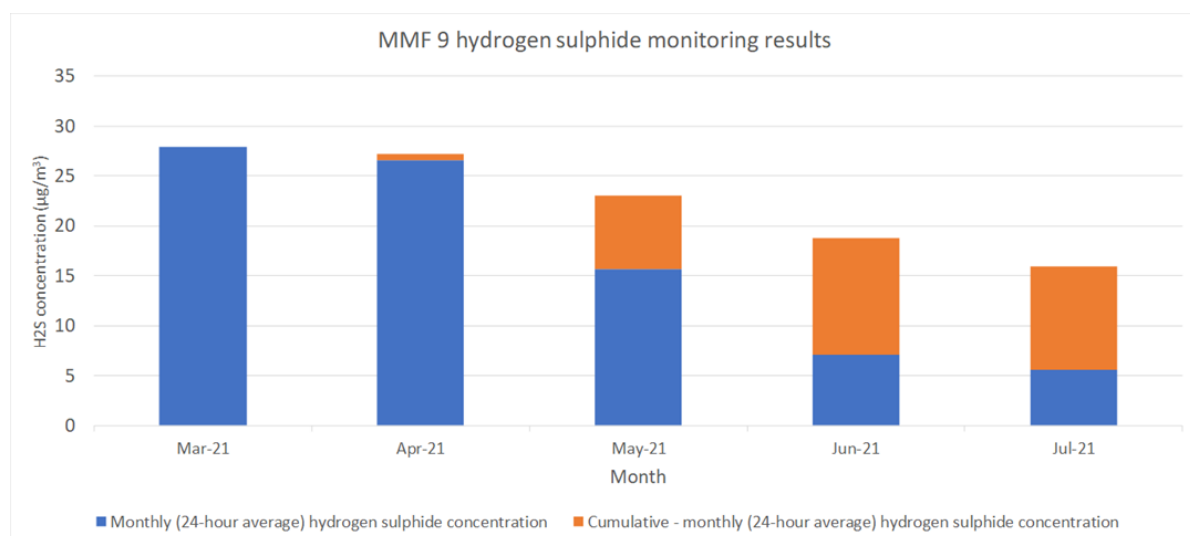
We have asked Walleys Quarry Limited to install new gas wells to increase the amount of H₂S being collected from the site. This will see the installation of up to 28 wells at site and will commence on 13 September. This is an increase on a previous plan submission of 22 wells. The works may take up to 6 weeks to complete.

The operator has also communicated that they have commenced the works to install the Posi-shell.

- **July's air quality health assessment report available**

The air quality health assessment report for March – July from Public Health England is now available on these webpages. See Section 5 on air quality monitoring.

The below chart shows the actual 'monthly' and 'cumulative – monthly' average levels of hydrogen sulphide slowly reducing over time, at the Galingale station. We've reflected the Galingale monitoring because, to date, it has measured the higher concentrations of hydrogen sulphide.



A note on reading the chart

The blue bar is the average for each month, the orange is the cumulative – monthly average since the beginning of the monitoring period. I.e. April orange is the average for March and April, the May orange is the average for March, April and May, and so on.

***Following the latest rectification of data, the May figure in the bar chart has changed from 15.1 to 15.72. This is because of an analyser swap which took 2 hours to complete.*

- **Gap in hydrogen sulphide monitoring data**

We are aware some residents are concerned about the gap in hydrogen sulphide monitoring at one of our monitoring points recently. Gaps in monitoring data can occur with all devices of this nature as they rely on electricity and a mobile phone network to ensure we collect the data. Other factors such as equipment failure and software updates can also occur.

This loss of hydrogen sulphide data occurred between Thursday 15 July and Monday 19 July. In this case it was down to an unforeseeable failure of a pump in an analyser. The pump is responsible for creating a flow of air through the hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) analyser. If this pump is not working correctly then the instrument will not be able to collect the sample correctly and not provide accurate results. The failure of the internal pump in the H₂S analyser at MMF1 resulted in the loss of H₂S data only and all the other monitoring data continued to be collected by separate analysers.

The faulty analyser was identified on Thursday 15 July and a spare analyser was swapped in on Monday 19 July. During this time the other three air quality monitoring units (MMF2, MMF6 & MMF9) were still in operation. The faulty analyser will be repaired, tested and then will become a spare for use in the future.

- **Latest hydrogen sulphide levels**

For the week 30 August to 5 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 2.1% of the week. During this week we received 69 reports from local people.

- **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.

- **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.

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 30 August to 5 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 2.1% 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 = 0.3%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 2.1%

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/>