

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 19 May 2022

The Environment Agency has prepared this weekly update to help the community of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the wider area keep informed about developments concerning its regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is the operator of the landfill site and it alone is responsible for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from the site.

The Environment Agency is the environmental regulator. We require Walleys Quarry Ltd to meet its environmental obligations and resolve the ongoing odour issues at the landfill as quickly as possible.

News in brief – 19 May 2022

Regulatory activity

Officers from the Environment Agency have continued to carry out regulatory work at Walleys Quarry in Newcastle Under Lyme, to ensure effective delivery of our plan to contain, capture and destroy landfill gas from the site, including site inspections.

Walleys Quarry Ltd currently has contractors on site carrying out permanent capping works. One of our landfill engineers also attended the site to monitor the works and assess implementation of the construction plan. Waste deposits have commenced in Phase 3 following agreement of a management plan to capture the gas from that phase.

All planned gas extraction boreholes have now been installed in phases 1 and 2. Gas is currently being captured at a rate of 3000 cubic metres per hour. We can expect to see small fluctuations in extraction rates as the gas wells are commissioned and extraction is balanced. The additional capture of gas should lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

Temporary monitoring interruptions at mobile monitoring facilities (MMFs)

On Tuesday 17 May we lost communications with MMF2 in Silverdale. Our officers attended the same day and confirmed that the cause was failure of the power supply. We are working with the landlord to restore the power. Inevitably there will be some monitoring data loss. We are investigating the cause of this and interruptions to monitoring earlier in May, but they appear to be unrelated. Despite recent interruptions, the data capture rates remain extremely high for this monitoring study.

Facebook live session

Many thanks to everyone who has joined, commented and posted within the new Environment Agency Walleys Quarry Landfill Site Facebook Group. The first live Facebook Q&A will be on **Wednesday, May 25th at 4.30pm**. The time has been selected following feedback from our Facebook poll. There will be a recording for those who can't make it. Join the Facebook group [here](#)

Reporting odour

It is important that you continue to report odour to us. Reports from local people, along with our regulatory visits and monitoring from our mobile monitoring facilities help to create a picture which informs our enforcement and regulatory approach.

The easiest and quickest way to make a report is via GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

If you do report odour to us via our incident hotline, please be courteous to our staff. They are working to deal with your reports as efficiently as possible.

Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

Our Ambient Air Monitoring Team continues to check air quality around Walleys Quarry landfill. It does this through a network of mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) that are positioned in communities around the site. These check for levels of hydrogen sulphide and methane, which are indicators of odour pollution.

The chart below contains a summary of the raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring facilities (MMFs) in the period 9 May – 15 May 2022.

Levels of hydrogen sulphide during this week remained below the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level (150µg/m³ or 107ppb) to protect against short-term health effects. They were lower than levels seen last week.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.9	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	1.2	▼ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0	▼ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	1.8	▼ on previous week

It is important to note that this is raw data and may change slightly as results are verified.

We do expect to see short term fluctuations in the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide leaving the site. The causes can include factors such as the temporary impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather.

Odours associated with landfill gas emissions will increase during colder weather and still wind conditions. With less ability to disperse, the potential for causing odour nuisance is greater.

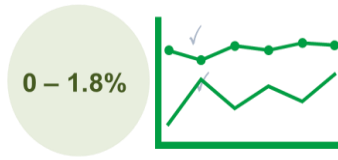
By contrast, in warmer weather the gases are naturally more diluted due to higher temperatures and rising air. This means improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour could be less noticeable around this time of year. However, it is important to note that despite short term spikes, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 9-15 May 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 160 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The peak day was on 14 May, when we received 48 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
9 May – 15 May 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
9 to 15 May 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide Level. 24 hour World Health Organisation guideline to protect against short term health effects

Correspondence

Other than by means of the Facebook Group mentioned above, we are unable to answer questions through social media. If you have a question you can [email](#) us.

Other sources of information

UK Health Security Agency public health messages and advice about the effects of odours from Walleys Quarry landfill are available online via Staffordshire County Council's website: [Frequently asked questions about the health effects of odours and emissions from Walleys Quarry: - Staffordshire County Council](#)

Walleys Quarry Ltd website: <https://walleysquarry.co.uk>