

Slido Responses from Community Engagement Meeting (09/06/2021)

- 1) If Walleys incurs a breach on 31st December 2021 does this mean that any grading points scored are nullified on 1st January 2022 and they revert to being an A grade operator for the 2022-2023 season? Is this fair? Surely they should retain their 'points' until all non-compliances are addressed?

Any permit breaches incurred in 2021 will be reflected in the operator performance banding for the following year. This will significantly increase the cost of their Permit and recover some cost for our regulatory effort at this site.

The Permit charging (based on performance banding) is separate to our enforcement response. This takes into account new Permit breaches and also relevant historic compliance records. The compliance history is not "nullified" even when permit breaches have been resolved. The FAQs on Citizen Space provide more detail on our enforcement guidance documents.

- 2) What happens to the waste that is rejected from the site? Are you dumping a problem on another unsuspecting community? I would hate that someone suffers as we are now.

The Permit requires the Holder to have a management system which includes waste acceptance procedures. This intends to ensure that only wastes types allowed by the Permit enter this landfill.

The waste producer is responsible for their waste rejected from Walleys landfill. They must transfer it to an alternative suitably Permitted site for treatment and / or disposal.

Where waste has been rejected, we have been doing checks to ensure these producers are correctly disposing of their waste. More detail has been provided in our community updates which can be accessed on [Citizen Space page](#).

- 3) When will we see the FAQ document (with answers to all our questions) on your website?

The FAQ document was uploaded to the Citizen Space website on 21 June 2021 and be found here <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-sliverdale/#section2>

- 4) Does the EA model the expected gas production and compare this with the models produced by Walleys Quarry LTD? If there is a discrepancy what does the EA do about it? If you do not model then why not? How can you trust their model if you do not have your own?

The Environment Agency evaluated the Landfill Gas Risk Assessment, including the gas generation model (Gassim), in detail as part of the permit application, and associated determination process, and the 2020 Permit Variation.

The "Gassim Model" was developed by the Environment Agency - operators can use this assessment tool when undertaking their Landfill Gas Risk Assessments.

5) Nothing yet has explained why the gases and odours are generally worse 'out of hours'. Can there be monitoring on site during 'out of hours'?

Odour can fluctuate depending on a number of factors. Please see our FAQs for more information.

We have previously visited the area at times outside of operating hours when odours have been reported to us, although we have not identified any operational reasons at the landfill site for why odours may be worse 'out of hours'. We are not currently undertaking any additional monitoring on site.

The four air quality monitoring units are operational 24 hours per day, 7 days a week and the data collected can be used to help us identify any trends and correlate the findings

6) Why are there no monitoring stations in Silverdale village? As its name implies, Silverdale lies in a valley. Hydrogen Sulphide is a dense gas. Surely it would give you useful data and help you to understand the issues in the community if you install a monitor here as well as the other 4 locations.

Hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) is often one trace component of landfill gas and a little more dense than air. If accumulations do occur it's most likely to happen on site near the source. Zero wind days and other specific weather conditions can make it harder for odours to disperse from site and make the odour more noticeable even at very low concentrations.

The monitoring locations were selected to take account of the local topography, the prevailing wind direction and where possible the local receptors. We also had to consider the availability of power supplies and suitable secure site.

The locations selected are a compromise of all of these factors and the monitors are providing good data to support our regulatory work and partners such as Public Health England. We recognise the odour problem and taking action to require the site operator to make improvements. Additional monitoring stations at Silverdale Village are unlikely to change this approach.

7) What is the estimated time that you believe it will take to resolve the issue of the smell? It's been now a few months and we're seeing no improvement, if anything- it's got worse. How long until we see an improvement, what is your commitment?

The operator is making improvements but there will be a lag before we see the benefit, for example, from more extensive capping work and additional gas collection wells which have been installed.

Capping work continues to progress and additional gas wells are to be installed. Whilst capping works are underway the nearby gas collection pipework may be temporarily moved, or disconnected for short periods of time, to enable critical works to be completed. The operator will need to keep monitoring the situation, and make further improvements to pursue problematic sources of odour, as far as reasonably practicable.

Every landfill is unique and responds differently so it's difficult to say with confidence how long or how often excessive odour may occur. We are working hard and pushing the operator to improve the situation in the shortest time possible.