

# Walley's Quarry Landfill Site, Silverdale- Community Update March and April 2020

## Introduction

These updates will provide residents with the latest information about our regulation of the Walleys Quarry landfill site in Newcastle under Lyme.

Keeping you up to date on our progress is very important to us and we hope our updates and frequently asked questions (FAQ) document will answer many of your questions. Our FAQ document can be accessed via our online information page the link to which is included in this newsletter.

## Coronavirus: The Environment Agency response

We are working hard with Government and other emergency responders on protecting the public and the environment from the effects of Coronavirus. The Environment Agency remains fully operational, with the majority of our staff working from home. We continue to carry out regulatory visits to sites that could cause serious environmental harm where required. However, we are reducing regulatory visits to other sites and review how best to regulate them in accordance with the government guidance.

## Latest news

During a visit in early March 2020 officers determined the level of odour off site was in breach of the conditions of the sites permit. The odour was described as "fresh waste" and attributed to the active tipping area. The site operator was required to review the material being used to cover recently deposited waste and increase the use of soils for this purpose. Revised procedures were received and implemented as required. Mains gas odour was also detected at two locations on local footpaths off site during the visit and reported to the relevant authority.

The site must be engineered to ensure that the waste is contained in a low permeability liner to protect groundwater. We must approve the construction details before any works commence. All of the engineering measures are rigorously tested and inspected to ensure their integrity. Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) validation reports are required for each new waste cell. No waste can be deposited until we have confirmed that we are satisfied with the CQA validation report. Further information can be found in the FAQ's in our online information page

The landfill site is open and receiving waste and we continue to be in regular contact with the site operator. Engineering works to construct the sidewall for the next phases are on-going this involved laying approved source clay against the side wall of the quarry. The recent dry weather has enabled this work to progress well, as illustrated to the photo to the right. A CQA validation report will be required on completion of the works.



## What you have told us?

Residents have raised concerns about the landfill operating hours. The operating hours are considered by the County Council (Stafford County Council) as part of the planning permissions for the sites. Please email any concerns to: [regulation@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@staffordshire.gov.uk). They do not form part of our Environmental Permit conditions.

We have continued to contact the site regularly & ensure details of complaints (although we never release personal data so they cannot identify complainants) are provided to them. In accordance with their Odour & Noise Management Plan the site operator must investigate and advise of the outcome of their investigations. We have received some complaints of noise, some referring to a generator type noise. These have been investigated and no source out of hour's noise at the facility have been identified.

## Keeping local residents updated

During this period of restriction due to Coronavirus we will only update you if there are any significant changes we need to make you aware of.

Our online information page has been updated in line with this:

[https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-sliverdale/user\\_uploads/generic-landfill-faqs-1.pdf](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-sliverdale/user_uploads/generic-landfill-faqs-1.pdf)

## Environmental concerns

To report an environmental incident or concern, please call our free 24 hour incident hotline on: **0800 80 70 60**

Please do not try to contact our officers directly - we cannot guarantee that your call will be logged and dealt with in a timely manner unless it is made through the incident hotline.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this update.**