

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 11 August 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 – 11 August 2022

Regulatory activity

Permanent capping of Phase 1 is complete. We are now assessing the geomembrane that has been installed.

The 4 gas wells installed in the southern flank of Phase 3 last week have been connected into the collection pipes which run to the gas utilisation plant.

The current gas extraction rate is between 2900 – 3000 m³/hr. The average value for the last 15 weeks has remained steady, with only small fluctuations in rates as extraction is balanced.

Tipping continues in Phase 4. This week an additional 4 horizontal gas wells are being installed in this area to aid gas collection. These wells complement the 3 wells installed last week. It is possible that the drilling may lead to a temporary increase in emissions of hydrogen sulphide.

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week we attended the site to review implementation of Walleys Quarry Ltd's revised waste acceptance procedures. We will continue to monitor progress over the coming months to ensure that the company is delivering expected improvements. The actions being taken should continue to lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

Facebook Group

Thanks to everyone who has posted a question via the August Questions Thread. We are currently working through your submissions and will answer as many as we can in our next Facebook Q&A session on 25 August 2022.

We have had quite a few new members to the Group, so welcome if you've just joined us. As a reminder, anyone with an interest in our regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill can join.

A couple of people have asked, on behalf of others, why some people haven't been admitted to the Group. At the time of requesting to join, you must click the 'accept rules' option (after reading them). If you do not accept the rules at this time, you will not be able to join the Group. The rules are there to protect everyone and ensure on-line safety and courtesy for all.

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 1 August to 7 August 2022. Last week they were slightly higher at Galingale View, but lower than levels seen at one location and the same at the other two.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0%	▼ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	1.5%	▲ on previous week

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

It's important to note that there will always be short-term fluctuations in the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide leaving the site especially given the low concentrations we are monitoring. The causes can include factors such as the impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather.

Concentrations of landfill gas emissions generally increase during periods of colder weather and still wind conditions. With less ability for the landfill gas emissions to disperse, there is a greater potential for these emissions to cause an odour nuisance in the local area. By contrast, during periods of 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 in the Winter and Spring.

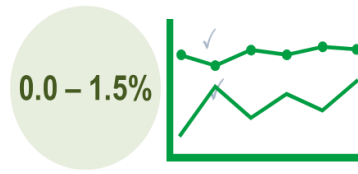
However, it is important to note that despite temporary increases, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 1 August 7 August 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 124 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The peak day was Monday 1 August 2022 when we received 45 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
1 – 7 August 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
1 – 7 August 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>