

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 15 September 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 – 15 September 2022

Following the sad announcement of the passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the Environment Agency is now observing an official period of national mourning until the end of the day of the state funeral. In line with government guidance, we are not carrying out any proactive engagement during this period therefore we will not be sending the weekly update by email this week.

For more information please see online at [National Mourning Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/national-mourning-guidance)

Regulatory activity

Officers attended the site on 08 and 12 September. Currently covering soils are being placed on top of the permanent geomembrane cap on Phase 1. Following the assessment of the Phase 2 temporary clay cap last week, we are satisfied with the quality of construction.

Two additional horizontal gas wells are being installed this week. The work to install a new higher capacity gas ring main around the site perimeter continues and is now ahead of schedule. All of these measures will enable more gas to be contained, captured and destroyed.

The average gas collection value has continued to increase steadily, with the current rate now at approximately 3500 m³/hr.

Facebook Group

Thank you to everyone who submitted a question via our designated Questions Thread for September. We are now working through submissions and our communications team are sourcing answers to them from the appropriate Environment Agency officers.

Please note that there may be some we can't answer for legal reasons, some that fall outside the Environment Agency's remit and some that we group together if they are on a common theme.

As you may know we are now recording our Facebook Q&A sessions, so that we can add subtitles to them. This is part of our ongoing commitment to make engagement accessible to all.

We will advise the date that the September Q&A will be uploaded to Facebook in due course, and before the end of the month.

For non-Facebook users a transcript will be provided here on Citizen Space.

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 05 September to 11 September 2022. They were the same at three locations and there was an increase in one location.

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	4.2	▲ 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.

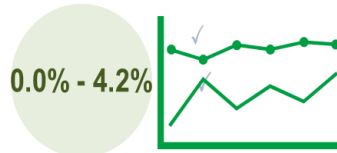
However, it is important to note that despite temporary increases, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 05 September to 11 September 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 64 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. It was only on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday that the number of reports exceeded 10.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
5 – 12 Sept 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
5 – 12 Sept 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>