

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 17 Feb 2022

This weekly update seeks to help the community of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the wider area keep informed about developments concerning the Environment Agency's 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 - 17 February 2022

Plan to reduce hydrogen sulphide emissions

The second iteration of our plan to reduce hydrogen sulphide emission, first published on 14 October 2021, is now live on our Citizen Space page: [Plan to Reduce H2S Emissions Feb 2022](#)

This plan details the actions completed, those ongoing and future measures since October 2021, and takes into account the most recently published sets of data from December 2021.

Landfill odours

As we have previously explained in update 10 February 2022, in response to a high volume of odour complaints we undertook an inspection of the site on 14 January 2022 to review gas management data from the landfill. We believe we have identified contributing factors for the increased odour around the site in the first two weeks of January and have informed Walleys Quarry Ltd of our findings. The company has 28 days from notification to challenge these. We are unable to provide any further information before this period expires.

Walleys Quarry Ltd has continued to implement improvements required in respect of leachate, gas and surface water management as well as waste acceptance procedures and haul road maintenance. We are encouraged that odour reports have since dropped back to levels seen at the end of 2021 in line with the long-term trend.

We continue to visit the site to carry out odour monitoring, inspect the gas management system, and assess appropriate measures taken to prevent or minimise odour pollution. Following our requirement for significant changes, we met Walleys Quarry Ltd on 9 February 2022 to discuss its revised capping and phasing plan.

Alleged illegal waste activities and potential health concerns

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is responsible for public health advice and provides a public health risk assessment and corresponding advice, based on data analysis. UKHSA has responded to concerns put directly to it as follows:

"We understand that a criminal investigation is being undertaken by the EA and should any substantiated information come to light, our risk assessment will be updated."

Anyone wishing to ask health related questions should contact UKHSA via its general enquiries email address at Enquiries@ukhsa.gov.uk

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 potential odour pollution.

The chart below contains raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) in the period 7 February – 13 February 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.

Levels rose slightly above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level (7µg/m³ or 5ppb) during this week.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0	◀▶ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0	◀▶ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.9	▲ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	2.4	▲ 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 dispersion, 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.

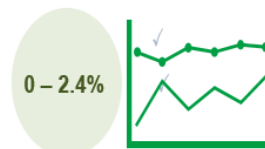
Odour Reporting

In the week 7 February – 13 February 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 120 reports about odour from the site to our national incident hotline. This is an increase in the number of reports compared to the previous week.

Landfill odour can be extremely distressing for those affected. We continue to consider whether further enforcement action is necessary should the operator fail to take steps to address this issue in an appropriate timescale.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
7 - 13 Feb 2020



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
w/c 7 February 2022



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

you can report landfill odours to the Environment Agency via GOV.UK at:

<https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

How to report odour from Walleys Quarry

If you continue to experience landfill odours at Walleys Quarry you can report them to us via GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

Using this online form is the easiest and quickest way for you to report odour from Walleys Quarry. When completing the form, you will still receive a unique reference number each time you report an incident. You will still be able to make multiple odour reports. You can also still call us on 0800 80 70 60.

Contact us with your questions

We are not able to answer questions fully on social media, so if you have a question, you can email it to us at enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk

We are updating the information on this webpage regularly. To receive notifications, email your contact details to: Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will add you to our mailing list.

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 website: <https://walleysquarry.co.uk>