

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 17 March 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 – 17 March 2022

Odour 15 March 2022

We saw an increase in odour complaints on the 15 March 2022 and visited the area to assess. We now require Walleys Quarry Ltd to investigate this.

It is important people continue to report issues to us. Reports from local people, along with our regulatory visits and monitoring from our mobile monitoring facilities collectively form a picture to inform our enforcement and regulatory approach.

Report issues with the landfill to us via GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

This online form is the easiest and quickest way for you to report odour from Walleys Quarry.

We encourage residents to use this method of reporting (rather than e-mail) as it means we can generate the reports we share with you more efficiently.

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.

Approved capping and phasing plan

We have approved a capping and phasing plan from Walleys Quarry Ltd which outlines its intentions for filling and capping areas of the landfill.

We expect permanent capping to begin once the final height levels for existing waste, as specified in planning permission, are reached. For phase one, final height levels are due to be reached at the end of this month, with permanent capping expected to be carried out within six – eight weeks, so complete by the end of May 2022.

By carrying out this capping work, Walleys Quarry Ltd further implements our 'contain, capture and destroy' strategy. By containing more landfill gas, it can be processed and destroyed by the on-site gas utilisation plant and flares for destruction. This means less gas can escape and impact local people.

Agencies work together in Day of Action in Newcastle-under-Lyme

This week, the Environment Agency has also worked with Staffordshire Police, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Driver Vehicle Standards Agency to target hauliers moving waste in north Staffordshire. This is part of national efforts to ensure waste is described accurately and transported safely to the right facilities.

Read our [press release](#) for more information.

Water Quality Monitoring

Since June 2021, we've had continuous water quality monitors on the Lyme Brook near Walleys Quarry, to monitor for any water pollution from the site.

No pollution events have been detected. Foam, which may be visible from time to time, is normal, and usually due to naturally forming algae in the water.

Community Engagement

We're planning to be in the local area in the coming weeks to hold further doorstep conversations with residents.

We will choose houses at random, as we did before. Our officers will carry identification and will never ask to come into your house or ask for personal details. If we do come to your door and you would prefer not to speak to us, please just let us know.

Get added to our mailing list

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

Walleys Quarry permit consultation

The consultation on our draft decision to vary two environmental permitting conditions for Walleys Quarry Landfill ends soon. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposals has until Monday 21 March 2022.

Variations to environmental permits are not unusual during the operational lifespan of a landfill site and the specific variations within this permit are standard for such a regulated site. In most cases, permit variations are introduced to allow for the implementation of improved operational technologies and techniques, or to add additional conditions to improve regulation.

Further information, including details on how to take part in the consultation, is available [online](#).

You can also see the consultation documents in three local libraries:

- Newcastle Library, Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 1BL
- Knutton Library, Church Lane, Knutton, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 6EB
- Silverdale Library, High Street, Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 6LY

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposals is invited to read the documentation online or at the local libraries detailed above before responding electronically on the website or by email to PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

The chart below contains raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) in the period 7 to 13 March 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 above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level (7µg/m³ or 5ppb) at 2 locations during this week compared to levels during the previous week and fell at the other 2 locations.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.3	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	3.3	▲ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	4.2	▲ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	6.0	▼ on previous week

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

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.

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 ability to disperse, 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.

In the week 7 to 13 March 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 285 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week.

Report it



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



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



Odour Reports/complaints w/c 7 March 2022

Correspondence

We are not able to answer questions fully on social media, so if you have a question, please [email](#) us so we can answer fully.

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>