

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 18 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 – 18 August 2022

Regulatory activity

On 05 and 10 August 2022 we assessed the geomembrane used to cap Phase 1. We are expecting Walleys Quarry Ltd to complete improvements we have required to a small area by 19 August 2022. A site inspection took place on Wednesday 17 August as part of our follow-up work in relation to waste acceptance procedures.

The temporary site access haulage road across Phase 2 area has been removed, temporarily capped and this road is in process of being re-instated above the capping.

Tipping continues in Phase 4, where 3 additional horizontal wells are being installed. A fourth well will be installed when the waste is at the necessary height. As and when there is enough gas to extract, the wells will be connected to the gas extraction ring main.

These actions should continue to lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

The average gas collection value for the last 16 weeks remains steady, with the current rate at approximately 2900 – 3000 m³/hr. There have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates as the extraction is balanced and as additional wells come on stream.

Facebook Group

Welcome to new members of our Facebook Group.

With people joining all the time, it's worth a quick reminder that we hold monthly Q&A sessions. A designated Questions Thread opens in the first full week of the month and remains open for 5 days.

Our next Facebook Q&A event is on 25 August 2022. The next Questions Thread will open on Monday 5 September 2022.

We aim to answer as many of your questions as we can during the session. However, there may be some that we can't address for legal reasons. Some may fall outside our remit, for example traffic flow on Cemetery Road, and sometimes we may group questions with a common theme together and provide a single answer.

The communications team run this element of our engagement, so it will take time for them to obtain answers from our regulatory officers.

As you may have seen, we also upload additional explainer videos to the Group, if there is a specific need. Last week several members were talking about experiencing odour. As a result, a 60 second video was posted to explain why we need you to make reports.

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 8 August to 14 August 2022. Last week they were slightly higher at Galingale View, but lower than levels seen at the Fire Station 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	1.8%	▲ 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.

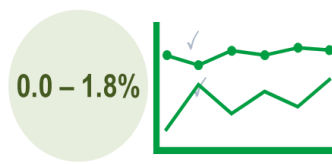
However, it is important to note that despite temporary increases, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 8 August 14 August 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 133 odour reports from local people. This is a small increase compared to the previous week. The peak day was Friday 12 August 2022 when we received 40 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
8 – 14 August 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
8 – 14 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>