

Walley's Quarry Landfill Site

25 November 2021

We have developed this weekly update to help keep the community of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and wider area, up-to-date with developments around our regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is responsible as the operator for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from its site. As the environmental regulator we are committed to making sure the operator tackles the problems at Walley's Quarry Landfill, to improve things for everyone, as quickly as possible. Our regulatory team continues to put pressure on the operator to take the necessary measures to resolve the hydrogen sulphide issues.

News in brief

Drop-in sessions planned for December

The next multi-agency public drop-in session is planned to take place on 1 December 2021 at Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, Garden & Astley Rooms, Castle House, Barracks Rd, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 1BL from 4-7pm.

This event is for residents, business owners and community members who are affected by the landfill site. Attendees can speak directly to senior officers from the Environment Agency, Staffordshire County Council, the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England), Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Staffordshire Police.

There will be no fixed presentation or speeches, and attendees can drop-in at any time during the opening hours and speak directly to representatives of the councils and agencies at different tables. Numbers in the hall will be monitored to avoid over-crowding and other Covid-related measures will be in place to ensure the health and well-being of all those attending.

Doorstep conversations in Silverdale and surrounding areas

Last week our officers were out on Tuesday and Friday to talk to local people about our regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Our Chief Executive, Sir James Bevan heard first-hand the impacts that the landfill is having on peoples' lives. He talked to residents about issues like odour and reporting as well as hearing from some residents who said the landfill gas odour had improved in their area.

Following his visit, Sir James also met Aaron Bell MP to discuss current regulatory issues and future plans for our regulation of the site.

We recognise that impacts from the Walleys Quarry Landfill site are experienced by communities beyond those directly adjacent to the site. We are currently door knocking in areas where we have received the largest number of odour reports. We expect to do this on 2-3 more occasions before Christmas, with the locations yet to be finalised.

Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

Last week (15-21 November) raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) showed:

- The levels remained below the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level (150µg/m³ or 107ppb) to protect against short-term health effects.
- They were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level (7µg/m³ or 5ppb) for the following periods of time:

MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery = 0%
MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 0%
MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 0%
MMF9 - Galingale View = 1.2%

It is important to note that this is raw data. This means the data is indicative. We do not rely upon raw data for our regulatory work, but instead rely on the Monthly Air Quality Monitoring reports, which is based on rectified data. They can be viewed [here](#).

We do expect to see short term fluctuations in the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide leaving the site at times. The causes can include factors such as the temporary impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather. In particular as we approach the colder seasons air temperatures start to drop. Landfill gas emissions will rise in the atmosphere less readily in colder weather and with less dispersion, the potential for causing odour nuisance is greater. By contrast, in warmer weather, when the gases are naturally more diluted due to the higher temperatures and rising air.

This means the improvements that have been carried out at Walley's Quarry Landfill, to reduce odour, could be less noticeable as we move towards the end of the 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.

The amount of landfill gas captured and processed on site remains at a very high rate with CLP, the gas contractor running both engines on full power, generating around 2000 KWh electricity, with two enclosed landfill gas flares operational on a 24/7 basis.

Our action and the improvements we've required Walleys Quarry Ltd to take since March 2021 has seen a significant reduction in hydrogen sulphide escaping the site, but there is still more for Walleys Quarry Ltd to do in reducing hydrogen sulphide levels to those assessed to be safe by the UK Health Security Agency.

In total we received 148 odour reports this week (15 –21 November).

We remain committed to continuing to use our regulatory powers to require Walleys Quarry Ltd to further control hydrogen sulphide emissions.

Latest monthly air quality monitoring report and rectified data

The latest monthly air quality monitoring report produced by the Environment Agency is available [here](#) and rectified data is [here](#).

Latest public health risk assessment

The latest public health risk assessment produced by the UK Health Security Agency is available [here](#)

A new odour pollution reporting form for Walleys Quarry

We have developed a new online form to report incidents of odour coming from Walleys Quarry. Most of the questions on the form will remain the same, but we have made some updates to make it easier to use, and more accessible.

When completing the new 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. Using the form will be the easiest and quickest way for you to report odour from Walleys Quarry. [Report a smell at Walleys Quarry - GOV.UK \(report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-walleys-quarry-smell)

Publishing recent correspondence

If you have a question you can email us at enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk.

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

See [Staffordshire County Council website](#) for information on public health impacts of odours in the Silverdale and wider Newcastle under Lyme area.

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