

Latest news this month on our regulatory work

The purpose of this weekly update is to help keep the community of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the wider area informed about developments concerning the Environment Agency's regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill.

From next week (03 February 2022) we will begin to introduce changes to this weekly newsletter, as we act on feedback from local communities to make the information presented here more accessible to a wider audience.

We will continue to provide monitoring data relating to the emissions of hydrogen sulphide from the site, along with details of the number of odour reports and complaints submitted to us. We will also share details about our ongoing regulatory and enforcement activity at the landfill through a blend of infographics, FAQ's, timelines, community updates, data and facts to ensure you have all the information you need to monitor progress.

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 - 27 January 2022

Latest on our regulation

A new high-capacity gas destruction flare has been installed and commissioned at the landfill. This brings the total gas destruction capacity to 4,000 cubic metres per day across three flares. This is sufficient to destroy all gas being captured from the landfill in the event that the gas engines are not operational. The flares also have back up power supplies.

Following significant advice from the Environment Agency, Walleys Quarry Ltd submitted its revised capping and phasing plan in accordance with the deadline given. We are now assessing the submission to confirm that it prioritises waste tipping to final levels in the north-east part of the site, so it can be capped as soon as possible. In addition, we expect phases to be smaller to allow quicker installation of infrastructure to manage odour after each phase.

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.

Whilst our monitoring showed that concentrations of hydrogen sulphide increased during the first two weeks of the New Year, the latest data indicates that levels are falling again.

The chart below contains raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) in the period 17 to 23 January 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.

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:

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	6	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	7	▼ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	10	▼ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	41	▼ 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.

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 17 to 23 January 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 651 reports about odour from the site to our national incident hotline. This is a decrease in the number of reports compared to the previous week.

We recognise that 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.

Air Quality

The UK Health Security Agency has published its Health Risk Assessment of air quality monitoring results for December 2021. The results can be viewed online: [Walleys UKHSA health risk assessment December 2021 v01.00.pdf](#)

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, please 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>