

## **Latest news 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.

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 – 3 February 2022**

#### **Our action following high hydrogen sulphide levels**

In response to a high volume of odour complaints to our national incident hotline, 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 to challenge these. We are unable to provide any further information until this period expires.

#### **Latest inspection**

We were due to undertake a routine inspection and meet Walleys Quarry Ltd onsite to discuss the capping and phasing plan on 2 February 2022. The Environment Agency recognises the right to peaceful protest. However due to protestors blocking the site the planned meeting and inspection could not take place. The meeting and inspection will be rescheduled, but this will result in a delay to the plan being finalised and implemented.

#### **Latest hydrogen sulphide levels**

Our 'Ambient Air' monitoring team continues to check air quality around Walleys Quarry landfill through a network of mobile monitoring stations (MMFs). These are positioned in communities around the site and check for levels of hydrogen sulphide and methane, which are indicators of potential odour pollution.

Whilst our monitoring showed that concentrations of hydrogen sulphide ("H<sub>2</sub>S") 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 24-30 January 2022.

Levels of hydrogen sulphide during this week remained below the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level (150µg/m<sup>3</sup> 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/m<sup>3</sup> or 5ppb) for the following periods of time:

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded above annoyance guideline level	Change
<b>MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery</b>	0	▼ on previous week
<b>MMF2 Silverdale PS</b>	0	▼ on previous week
<b>MMF6 Fire Station</b>	0	▼ on previous week
<b>MMF9 Galingale View</b>	5.1	▼ 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 24 to 30 January 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 139 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 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.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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>