

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 8 September 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.

Update – 6 September 2022

Environment Agency commences investigation into WQ Ltd history of compliance with its environmental permit

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said:

“The Environment Agency has commenced an investigation into Walleys Quarry Ltd regarding the company’s history of compliance with its Environmental Permit from 1 December 2020 until 21 July 2022. As this is an active investigation we will not be able to comment further on matters which could form part of any future legal proceedings.”

News in brief – 8 September 2022

Regulatory activity

We attended the site on Friday 2 September 2022 to review implementation of Walleys Quarry Ltd’s revised waste acceptance procedures. We will continue to monitor progress over the coming months.

Officers also attended the site on Tuesday 6 September 2022 to inspect the completed capping works. Soil is being placed on top of the permanent geomembrane cap on Phase 1. We also assessed the temporary clay cap that has been placed on Phase 2. The work to install a new higher capacity gas ring main around the site perimeter continues. All of these measures will enable more gas to be contained, captured and destroyed.

The average gas collection value has increased steadily, with the current rate now at approximately 3200 m³/hr.

Facebook Group

For members who have asked about the use of non-compliance scores in how we regulate, there is now a new explainer video on the Facebook group. We have uploaded a transcript of the video to the Citizen Space page so non-Facebook users can also access this information.

The September Questions Thread is open until 5.00 pm tomorrow, Friday 9 September 2022. For those of you who are new to the group, and as a reminder to existing members, this is the best place to post your questions about our regulation of Walleys Quarry Ltd.

The Facebook group is managed by the Environment Agency's communications team, who are not part of the regulatory team. This means they are unable to answer questions directly. Please do not expect an immediate response to your questions, as this process takes time.

There may be some questions that we cannot answer for legal reasons, some which fall outside of our remit, and some we may group together if they are on a common theme.

The recorded September Q&A session will be uploaded to the group at the end of the month.

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 29 August to 4 September 2022. They were the same or lower than last week at all four locations.

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	0.0	— 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.

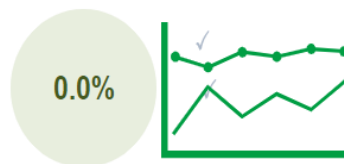
However, it is important to note that despite temporary increases, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 29 August to 4 September 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 30 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The reports were evenly spread across the week.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
29 Aug – 4 Sept 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
29 Aug – 4 Sept 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>