

# Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

19 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 are responsible as the operator for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from their site. As the environmental regulator we are committed to making sure the operator tackles the problems at Walleys Quarry, 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

### Work being carried out at Walleys next week

We will continue to press Walleys Quarry Ltd to deliver the significant improvements to its gas infrastructure to capture and destroy landfill gas including the hydrogen sulphide produced as waste breaks down.

As part of those improvements, Walleys Quarry Ltd has provided plans to demonstrate how they intend to minimise emissions while gas wells are connected to new pipework this week. This work will further improve the amount of landfill gas that can be processed at the landfill; further reducing the amount of gas escaping from the site.

### Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

Our monitors have recorded spikes in hydrogen sulphide levels on 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November and this is reflected in the number of odour reports received through our reporting service and mentioned on social media. We are investigating the possible cause for these levels, including the analysis of data from the Gas Utilisation Plant. Once we have established what has caused these spikes we can then consider what appropriate action can be taken.

Last week (08-14 November) all our monitoring stations recorded a decrease in hydrogen sulphide compared to the previous week and in total we received 235 reports. We remain committed to continuing to use our regulatory powers, as allowed by Government, to require Walleys Quarry Ltd to bring hydrogen sulphide emissions under control.

The levels for week 08-14 November remained below the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects but were above the WHO 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline (5ppb) between 1% at MMF6 and 10% of the week at MMF9.

- MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery = 0%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 0%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 1%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 10%

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

Our action and the improvements we've required Walleys Quarry Ltd to take since March 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.

### **Door knocking**

Earlier this week we were out in Silverdale to talk to local people about our regulation of Walleys Quarry and to hear about and understand the impact of the landfill on daily lives.

We're knocking doors randomly and are not deliberately picking some and avoiding others. If the resident is out, we'll pop a note through the letterbox to say we called. We will not ask to come in at any point, and it's ok to not want to talk to us.

We will be out in other areas in the coming weeks. We're also working with multi-agency partners to plan the next steps for community engagement, including further drop in events.

### **A new reporting form for Walleys Quarry**

We have developed a new online form to report incidents of landfill gas 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. A link to the new version of the form will be available from 24 November 2021.

Using the form will be the easiest and quickest way for you to report landfill gas odour from Walleys Quarry.

### **A note on monitoring**

The Environment Agency currently has four 'mobile monitoring facilities' (MMFs) stationed around Walley's Quarry Landfill Site. This is the largest number of mobile monitoring facilities the Environment Agency has ever used to monitor a regulated site.

These MMFs are placed in carefully selected locations where we observe landfill gas; taking account of local geography, proximity of buildings, wind directions, permissions to use land, locations of other air quality monitors, space to securely place the units and available power supplies.

It is important that we continue to monitor at the same four locations so that we can have continuity in our data sets – allowing us to observe long term trends in the data and to consider if we are seeing a reduction in hydrogen sulphide concentration over time.

The technology measures components of landfill gases, including methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), particulates (PM), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S). The monitors also have the capacity to collect weather data, which is important in determining how gases and odours travel and disperse in the environment.

We report every week on the percentage of time we record levels above the above the WHO 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline. This is a level of 5 parts per billion (5ppb). So, when we report a percentage, this is the percentage of the week the hydrogen sulphide levels go above the WHO annoyance guideline. Hydrogen sulphide below this level is still being recorded and is reported on every month. The reports can be seen below in the Air Quality Monitoring section of this website.

**Publishing recent correspondence**

If you have a question you can email us at [enquiries\\_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk).

To report odour please call us on 0800 80 70 60 or use our [online reporting form](#)

In future, we are planning to share some of the key questions people have emailed us, for everyone to access on these pages.

We are updating the information on this webpage every week. 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.

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/>