

This weekly update is intended 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.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is the operator of the landfill site and it is responsible for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from the site.

The Environment Agency is the environmental regulator and is committed to making sure that the operator tackles the problems at Walleys Quarry Landfill, to improve things for everyone as quickly as possible.

Our regulatory team continues to press the operator to take the necessary measures to resolve the hydrogen sulphide issues.

News in brief

Latest on our regulation

Walleys Quarry Ltd continue to implement the measures we have required to further reduce emissions of hydrogen sulphide from operations at the site.

Walleys Quarry Ltd submitted its new capping and phasing plan in accordance with the deadline set. We've now assessed the submission and require several additions and improvements before the plan can be accepted. In particular, we require revisions which will prioritise waste tipping to final levels in the north-east part of the site so it can be capped as soon as possible.

We visited Walleys Quarry on Friday 7 January, for a general site management inspection. We looked at waste acceptance procedures, assessed whether odours were present, considered the appropriate use of the unloading pad, new roads for site vehicles and the condition of existing roads on the site. We are meeting Walleys Quarry Ltd this week to discuss the outcome of that inspection and necessary improvements.

The most recent site gas management data from Walleys Quarry Ltd, show that rates of gas capture and destruction are being maintained at the expected rate. The gas system on site is stable and the next phase of capping is expected to further reduce hydrogen sulphide emissions from the current working area. We continue to investigate any temporary increases in hydrogen sulphide levels detected off site by the monitoring stations.

Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

Raw data from the 3 to 9 January 2022 collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) showed, levels of hydrogen sulphide during the week:

- 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:

MMF ID & Location	%	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	1.2	1.2% ▲ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0	0% - on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	2.1	2.1% ▲ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	16.2	13.8% ▲ 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 rise in the atmosphere less readily in colder weather when air temperatures tend to drop. 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.

In total we received 352 odour reports for 3 to 9 January 2022.

How to report odour from Walleys Quarry

Using the online form is the easiest and quickest way for you to report odour from Walleys Quarry. <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

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 you can email 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

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/>