

1. 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 the beginning of February, we will begin to introduce changes to this weekly newsletter, as we seek to make the information we're presenting 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, 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

Latest on our regulation

Environment Agency officers inspected the landfill site on Friday 14 January. The purpose of the inspection was to assess measures put in place to reduce emissions of hydrogen sulphide from operations at the site.

Officers also visited the site on Wednesday 19 January, focussing on waste sampling of incoming waste.

We met Walleys Quarry Ltd this week to review progress with its action plan and permit compliance.

Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

Walleys Quarry landfill continues to present an unacceptable level of landfill odours for neighbouring communities. We have installed a network of ambient air quality monitors around the site and we are monitoring for hydrogen sulphide and methane as surrogates for odour pollution.

Raw data from the 10 to 16 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	% of time above WHO 30 min average odour annoyance guideline level (7µg/m ³)
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	14.9
MMF2 Silverdale PS	11.9
MMF6 Fire Station	21.4
MMF9 Galingale View	53.3

It is important to note that this is raw data and may change slightly as results are verified.

Our ambient monitoring data shows that the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide during the first two weeks of the New Year have risen.

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 10 to 16 January 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 1,045 reports about odour from the site to our national incident hotline. This is an increase in the number of reports compared to the previous week.

We recognise that these odours continue to be extremely distressing for residents in the area and we have reminded the operator that it must take the necessary steps to address this issue as an absolute priority. We continue to keep consideration of further enforcement action under review.

As a reminder, 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/>

Hydrogen Sulphide: Information & advice

The UK Health Security Agency (formerly known as Public Health England), has published public health messages and advice about the effects of odours from Walleys Quarry landfill. This includes UKHSA's assessment of risks to public health along with useful information and advice.

Details 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](#)

Correspondence update

Every month we endeavour to present a summary of the five most frequently asked questions put to our correspondence team in the previous month, together with our response to those questions. This complements a more detailed FAQ that covers a widespread range of queries put to us by the local community about the site. Full details are available to view on this Citizen Space webpage. You can view details here:

If you have a question concerning our ongoing regulation of Walleys Quarry you can email us at.enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Walleys Quarry Judicial Review appeal judgement

The Court of Appeal has published its reasoned judgement following a ruling in December 2021 to allow the Environment Agency to appeal a High Court decision relating to the appropriate role of the Court when considering judicial review and remedies involving regulatory decisions.

The reasoned Judgment of the Court of Appeal was made available on Monday 17 January and a copy is available online here: <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2022/26.html>

Whilst we welcome the reasoned judgement and the clarity it provides on the role of the Court in judicial review cases, we remain determined to tackle the problems at Walleys Quarry, as we have been all along. We will continue our work with the operator, and our partners to bring emissions of hydrogen sulphide under control and ensure they remain so.

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. [Report a smell at Walleys Quarry - GOV.UK \(report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/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/>