

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 3 March 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.

### News in brief – 3 March 2022

#### **A reminder about using the bespoke online form to report odour**

You can report your experience of landfill odours to us via GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

We encourage residents to use this method of reporting (rather than e-mail) as it means we are able to generate the reports we share with you more efficiently.

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.

#### **Walleys Quarry permit consultation**

The consultation continues on the Environment Agency's draft decision to vary two environmental permitting conditions for Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Variations to environmental permits are not unusual during the operational lifespan of a landfill site and the specific variations within this permit are standard for such a regulated site. In most cases, permit variations are introduced to allow for the implementation of improved operational technologies and techniques, or to add additional conditions to improve regulation.

Applications of this kind do not require public consultation. However, given the level of interest from the neighbouring community, the Environment Agency has decided to carry out a consultation before it reaches its final decision. The consultation will allow local residents and interested groups to submit any new relevant information related to the proposed changes.

Further information, including details on how to take part in the consultation, is available online at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/st5-6dh-walleys-quarry-landfill-site-epr-dp3734dc/>.

The consultation documents can also be viewed in the following local libraries:

- Newcastle Library, Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 1BL
- Knutton Library, Church Lane, Knutton, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 6EB
- Silverdale Library, High Street, Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 6LY

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposals is invited to read the documentation online or at the local libraries detailed above before responding electronically on the website or by email to [PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk).

### **Ambient air quality monitoring**

The Environment Agency published its Study of Ambient Air Quality at Silverdale, Interim Report for March to September 2021 on 24 February 2022. The report presents ambient air monitoring results for the 211 days between 04 March 2021 and 30 September 2021. The overall objective of the study was to identify the local sources of hydrogen sulphide and to quantify the environmental impact of the emissions from these sources on the surrounding area and the local community.

A copy of the report is available here: [environment-agency---study-of-ambient-air-quality-at-silverdale--interim-report-1---4-march-to-30-september-2021.pdf](#)

Further reports will be prepared during 2022 as more data is collected.

### **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 potential odour pollution.

The chart below contains raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) in the period 21 February –27 February 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.

Levels rose slightly above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level (7µg/m<sup>3</sup> or 5ppb) at three locations during this week compared to levels during the previous week.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H2S above the WHO annoyance guideline level	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.0	◀▶ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	4.8	▲ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.6	▲ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	8.0	▲ 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.

Odours associated with 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 21 February – 27 February 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 264 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.

Landfill odour can be extremely 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.



Hydrogen Sulphide Level. 24 hour World Health Organisation guideline to protect against short term health effects



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level w/c 21 February 2022



Odour Reports/complaints w/c 21 February 2022

### Correspondence update

We are not able to answer questions fully on social media, so if you have a question, you can email it to us at [enquiries\\_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Every month we endeavour to present a summary of the most frequently asked questions received by our correspondence team in the previous month, together with our responses to those questions. This complements a more detailed FAQ document that covers a wider range of queries from the local community about the site.

You can find the documents on this Citizen Space webpage here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-sliverdale/#section2>

If you have a question concerning our ongoing regulation of Walleys Quarry you can email 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 Ltd website: <https://walleysquarry.co.uk>