

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 16 Jun 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 – 16 Jun 2022

Regulatory activity

Since 23 May officers from the Environment Agency are continuing to carry out regulatory work at Walleys Quarry in Newcastle Under Lyme, to ensure effective delivery of our plan to contain, capture and destroy landfill gas from the site, including site inspections.

Capping work on both Phases 1 and 2 is progressing. The average gas collection value for the last seven weeks is approximately 3000 m³/hr. There have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates as the extraction is balanced.

Eight horizontal gas wells in the operating area (Phase 3) have been installed, which will be commissioned. The additional capture of gas should lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air, and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

Facebook live session

The next Facebook LIVE session will be on Wednesday 29 June at 4.30pm.

We've had over 40 questions submitted this month. Thanks to all who have taken part. We will aim to answer as many as possible. However, please bear in mind that we may not be able to answer every question. We may group several themed questions together. There may be some questions that we answer at a future event.

For those who can't watch live, we will be making a recording of the session available on the Facebook Group.

You can join the Facebook group and watch the recording from the first Facebook LIVE session [here](#)

We have been asked about how, we as the Environment Agency, use social media as a tool for communication. You can read more [here](#)

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 6 - 12 June 2022.

Levels of hydrogen sulphide during this week 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 slightly higher than levels seen at two locations last week, and the same or lower at the others.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.3	— on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0.6	▲ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	2.1	▲ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	3.6	▼ 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 ability to disperse, the potential for causing odour nuisance is greater.

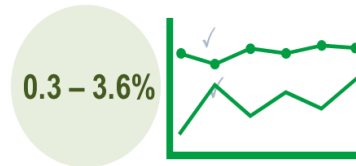
By contrast, in warmer weather the gases are naturally more diluted due to higher temperatures and rising air. This means improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour could be less noticeable around this time of year. However, it is important to note that despite short term spikes, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

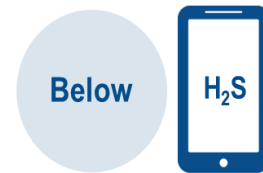
In the week 6 to 12 June 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 215 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The peak day was on Tuesday 7 June, when we received 82 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
6 – 12 June 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
6 - 12 June 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>