

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 12 May 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 – 12 May 2022

Regulatory activity

On 6 May 2022 our officers carried out a site inspection, including observation of waste being received. One load was rejected, and plasterboard identified in another incoming load was removed.

Permanent capping works continue. One of our landfill engineers attended the site to monitor the works and assess implementation of the construction plan.

All planned gas extraction boreholes have now been installed in phases 1 and 2. Gas capture from the newly installed boreholes has led to a further increase in gas capture. Gas is now being captured at a rate of 3100 cubic metres per hour. This is an increase from 2100 cubic meters in mid-March. 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.

On 10 May 2022 we served a Regulation 36 Enforcement Notice requiring Walleys Quarry Ltd to improve its waste acceptance procedures, part of its written management system, by 10 June 2022. Enforcement Notices are subject to a right of appeal.

Temporary monitoring interruptions at mobile monitoring facilities (MMFs)

We detected an electrical fault at our air quality mobile monitoring facility MMF9 (at Galingale View) on Friday 6 May. We were unable to access the landowner's electrical supply board until the following day, when power was restored ensuring all the equipment restarted.

A power interruption at MMF6 (at the fire station) was detected in the early hours of Saturday 7 May. Power was restored on Monday 09 May, when we were able to check all equipment was operating correctly. Despite this loss of some data the data capture dates remain extremely high for this monitoring study.

The causes have not been established, but there has been no reoccurrence. Our officers did not identify odour when attending the MMFs. This is confirmed by the low number of odour pollution reports from the public during that time.

Facebook LIVE session

Many thanks to everyone who has joined, commented, and posted in the new Environment Agency Walleys Quarry Landfill Site Facebook Group. The first Facebook LIVE Q&A will be on Wednesday 25 May at 4.30pm. The time has been selected following feedback from our Facebook poll. There will be a recording for those who can't make it. Join the Facebook group [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 2 May – 8 May 2022. We are only able to provide monitoring data for MMF1 and MMF2 for this week.

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 lower than levels seen last week at one location, but slightly higher at the other.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	2.7	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	4.8	▲ 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.

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 2-8 May 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 176 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The peak day was on 2 May, when we received 39 reports.



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



Odour Reports/complaints w/c 2 May 2022

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>