

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 14 July 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 – 14 July 2022

#### Regulatory activity

Officers have continued to carry out regulatory work at Walleys Quarry to ensure effective delivery of our plan to contain, capture, and destroy landfill gas from the site. The average gas collection value for the last eleven weeks remains steady at approximately 3000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. There have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates as the extraction is balanced.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is undertaking changes to its waste acceptance process and we require these changes to be implemented by 1 August 2022. We will continue to robustly regulate and monitor progress in the coming weeks to ensure that it remains on track to deliver the specified improvements.

Walleys Quarry Ltd has indicated that following completion of temporary (clay) capping work on Phase 2, permanent capping work in Phase 1 should be completed in early August 2022.

The actions Walleys Quarry Ltd are taking should continue to lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

#### Facebook live session

We are now working through your questions submitted in the July questions thread. The live event will be at 4.30pm on Wednesday 27 July 2022.

In the meantime, we are keen to get your thoughts on how we use video content and the Facebook Live platform in the future so it is as helpful for you as we can make it. On Facebook there is currently a poll running asking you to indicate:

- A) I'm happy with the Facebook Live, keep it as it is
- B) Keep the Facebook Live, but add additional explainer videos as and when
- C) Shorter videos are better for me

The poll will remain open until Monday 18 July 2022 to give you the chance to vote. If you don't use Facebook don't forget that we provide transcripts of our videos here on the Citizen Space page.

You can read more about how we as the Environment Agency, use social media as a tool for communication [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 4 July to 10 July 2022. Levels showing no exceedances were the same as last week at all four locations.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H <sub>2</sub> S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.0	— on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0.0	— on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	0.0	— on previous week

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

It's important to note that there will be short-term fluctuations in the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide leaving the site. The causes can include factors such as the impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather. Concentrations of landfill gas emissions generally increase during colder weather and still wind conditions. With less ability for the landfill gas emissions to disperse, there is a greater potential for these emissions to cause an odour nuisance on the local community.

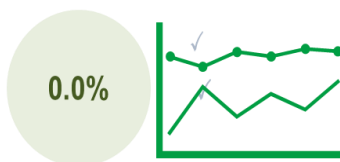
By contrast, in warmer weather the gases are naturally more diluted due to higher temperatures and rising air. This means improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour could be less noticeable around this time of year. However, it is important to note that despite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

## Odour Reports

In the week 4 July to 10 July 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 34 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The peak days were on Monday and Wednesday, (4 & 6 July 2022) when we received 9 reports for both.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency  
4 – 10 July 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level  
4 - 10 July 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>