

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 9 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 – 9 Jun 2022

#### Regulatory activity

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, is ongoing. There has been a regular officer presence at the site since 23 May 2022.

Capping work continues to progress. The average gas collection value for the last six weeks is approximately 3000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr and as the extraction is balanced, there have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates. 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

We open a designated questions thread on our Facebook group each month for you to ask us questions about how we regulate Walleys Quarry in Silverdale. Thank you to everyone who has submitted a question for this month's Facebook LIVE so far.

The designated questions thread remains open until 5pm on Friday 10 June 2022. We aim to answer as many questions as possible. However, please bear in mind that we may not be able to answer every question.

The next Facebook LIVE Q&A will take place at 4.30pm on Wednesday 29 June 2022.

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

You can join the Facebook group and watch the recording of May's event by clicking [here](#)

We have been asked about how the Environment Agency uses social media as a tool for communication. You can find more information [here](#)

#### 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 30 May – 05 June 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. They were slightly higher than levels seen at two locations last week.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H <sub>2</sub> S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.3	— on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0.0	— on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	1.2	▲ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	7.4	▲ 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.

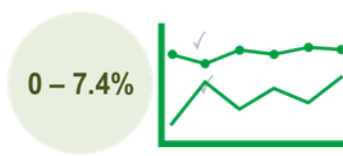
### Odour Reports

If you experience odour, the quickest way to report it is via GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

In the week 30 May to 05 June 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 169 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The peak day was on Thursday 2 June, when we received 38 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency 30 May – 5 June 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level 30 May – 5 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>