

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 04 August 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 – 4 August 2022

Regulatory activity

Walleys Quarry Ltd advised us that last week's rain had caused a slight delay to completion of the capping works in Phase 1. Work restarted on Friday and Saturday of last week and continued from Monday this week. The size of the remaining area to be capped means it is likely that the membrane capping on Phase 1 will be completed this week.

Four new gas wells were fully installed by Wednesday 27 July 2022. Three new horizontal wells were embedded in the waste in (the active) Phase 4 on 01 August 2022. Once these additional wells are all brought online, they will contribute to the effective capture of landfill gas emissions. Due to the recent hot weather, chiller units have been installed in the buildings in the gas compound to protect equipment from similar high temperatures in the future.

The average gas collection value for the last 14 weeks remains steady, with the current rate at approximately 2900 m³/hr. There have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates as the extraction is balanced.

Walleys Quarry Ltd needed four weeks to make the practical changes necessary to give effect to its revised waste acceptance procedures. That period ended on 1 August 2022. We will monitor progress with implementation of the procedures over the coming months to ensure that Walleys Quarry Ltd delivers the specified improvements.

Together, all the actions Walleys Quarry Ltd is 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

Thanks to everyone who asked questions or watched July's Facebook Q&A recording so far.

For non-Facebook users the transcript is now available on Citizen Space [here](#).

The August Questions Thread remains open until 5pm on Friday 5 August 2022.

The next Facebook Q&A event takes place on Thursday 25 August 2022, time to be advised.

Anyone with an interest in our regulation of Walleys Quarry, but who isn't already a member, is welcome to join the Facebook Group using this link - www.facebook.com/groups/2093150937533046/

We are now adding additional, shorter 'explainer' videos to the Facebook page. This is as a direct result of your feedback. This week, project executive Marc Liddeth has explained how we use data from the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and how our Mobile Monitoring Facilities (MMFs) have been capturing air quality data from around Walleys Quarry.

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 25 July to 31 July 2022. They were slightly lower than levels seen at one location last week, and the same at the other three.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ 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	0.3%	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	1.2%	▼ on previous week

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

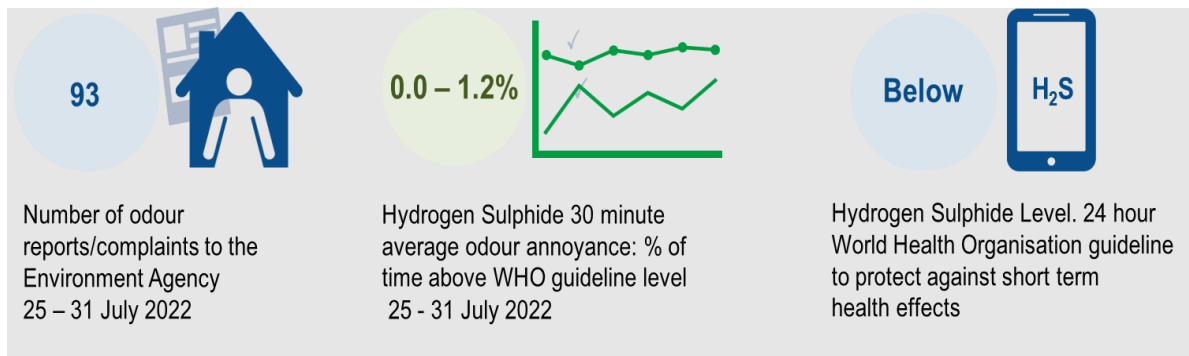
It's important to note that there will always be short-term fluctuations in the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide leaving the site especially given the low concentrations we are monitoring. The causes can include factors such as the impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather.

Concentrations of landfill gas emissions generally increase during periods of 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 in the local area. By contrast, during periods of 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 in the Winter and Spring.

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 25 July to 31 July 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 93 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The peak day was Wednesday 27 July 2022 when we received 34 reports.



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>