

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

02 December 2021

We have developed this weekly update to help keep the community of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and wider area, up-to-date with developments around our regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is responsible as the operator for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from its site. As the environmental regulator we are committed to making sure the operator tackles the problems at Walley's Quarry Landfill, to improve things for everyone, as quickly as possible. Our regulatory team continues to put pressure on the operator to take the necessary measures to resolve the hydrogen sulphide issues.

News in brief

Minister Churchill visits Walleys Quarry

Minister Jo Churchill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defra visited Newcastle under Lyme on Thursday 2 December to discuss the regulation of Walleys Quarry and understand the issues facing the community.

During the visit, the Minister had a tour of the landfill and met with local school children to discuss the impact of the site on their school and home lives. She also met with the Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and the local MP – as well as taking part in an engagement group with local residents to discuss issues and understand their concerns.

Drop-in sessions

Our multi-agency drop in session took place on Thursday 1 December at the council offices in Newcastle Under Lyme. Some local residents who have been impacted by the landfill site turned out to speak to us – many thanks to those who attended for your comments and feedback.

The Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) which is made up of the UK Health Security Agency, Newcastle under Lyme Council, Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire County Council will be reviewing our plans for 2022, and we'll keep you informed of any future events.

Elected members meeting

Environment Agency officers met with Newcastle under Lyme elected members to discuss our regulation of Walleys Quarry on Monday 29 November. A video of the meeting was recorded by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and will shortly be available on their YouTube channel.

Doorstep conversations

We are continuing our doorstep conversations with residents in the areas that most frequently report odour. We expect to do this on 2-3 more occasions before Christmas, with the locations yet to be finalised, based on some suggestions from the elected members meeting.

Following the reintroduction of Covid measures, we want to reassure you that we will remain socially distanced at all times and will never ask to come into your home.

Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

Last week (22-28 November) raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) showed:

- The levels remained below the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level ($150\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or 107ppb) to protect against short-term health effects.
- They were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level ($7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or 5ppb) for the following periods of time:

MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery = 0%

MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 0%

MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 0%

MMF9 - Galingale View = 11%

It is important to note that this is raw data. This means the data is indicative. We do not rely upon raw data for our regulatory work, but instead rely on the Monthly Air Quality Monitoring reports, which is based on rectified data.

We do expect to see short term fluctuations in the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide leaving the site at times. The causes can include factors such as the temporary impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather. In particular as we approach the colder seasons air temperatures start to drop. Landfill gas emissions will rise in the atmosphere less readily in colder weather and with less dispersion, the potential for causing odour nuisance is greater. By contrast, in warmer weather, when the gases are naturally more diluted due to the higher temperatures and rising air.

This means the improvements that have been carried out at Walley's Quarry Landfill, to reduce odour, could be less noticeable as we move towards the end of the 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.

The amount of landfill gas captured and processed on site remains at a very high rate with CLP, the gas contractor running both engines on full power, generating around 2000 KWh electricity, with two enclosed landfill gas flares operational on a 24/7 basis.

Our action and the improvements we've required Walleys Quarry Ltd to take since March 2021 has seen a significant reduction in hydrogen sulphide escaping the site, but there is still more for Walleys Quarry Ltd to do in reducing hydrogen sulphide levels to those assessed to be safe by the UK Health Security Agency.

In total we received 183 odour reports this week (22 –28 November).

We remain committed to continuing to use our regulatory powers to require Walleys Quarry Ltd to further control hydrogen sulphide emissions.

A new odour pollution reporting form for Walleys Quarry

We have developed a new online form to report incidents of odour coming from Walleys Quarry. Most of the questions on the form will remain the same, but we have made some updates to make it easier to use, and more accessible.

When completing the new form, you will still receive a unique reference number each time you report an incident. You will still be able to make multiple odour reports. Using the form will be the easiest and quickest way for you to report odour from Walleys Quarry. [Click here to report odour via the form.](#)

Publishing recent correspondence

If you have a question you can email us at enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk.

To report odour please call us on 0800 80 70 60 or use our [online reporting form](#)

In future, we are planning to share some of the key questions people have emailed us, for everyone to access on these pages.

We are updating the information on this webpage every week. To receive notifications, email your contact details to: Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will add you to our mailing list.

See [Staffordshire County Council website](#) for information on public health impacts of odours in the Silverdale and wider Newcastle under Lyme area.

Walleys Quarry website: <https://walleysquarry.co.uk/>