

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

28 October 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 are responsible for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from their site. As regulator we are committed to making sure the operator tackles the problems at Walleys Quarry, to improve things for everyone, as quickly as possible. Our team of regulators continues to put pressure on the operator to take the necessary measures to resolve the hydrogen sulphide issues.

News in brief

Door knocking in the Community

Last week we visited members of the community as part of our engagement programme. Our officers provided residents with the latest information about our regulation activity and heard first-hand how the site is impacting individuals, families and businesses. As well as speaking to residents who were in at the time, we posted information leaflets through the doors of those who weren't at home. It's really important that we hear directly from residents in all parts of the community about their experiences, including where things have improved and where there is still work to do. We are planning similar sessions in the coming weeks and will use the feedback from what we receive to inform our future engagement

If you have a question you can e mail us on Enquiries.WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk. To report odour please call us on 0800 80 70 60 or use our [online reporting form](#)

Meeting with Community Action Groups

On 21 October, our Project Management Team met virtually with the leaders of the 'Stop the Stink...Cap it Off' Community Action Group. This meeting gave the group an opportunity to engage with us directly on a number of issues of concern. They submitted 27 questions to us prior to the event, which ensured that we could work with our partners on the Strategic Coordination Group to prepare a multi-agency response where required.

A recording of that meeting is available online: [Meeting between Stop the Stink... Cap it Off and Environment Agency 21 October 2021](#)

Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

For the week from 18 to 24 October, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects. In the same period the hydrogen sulphide levels were above the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level to protect against short-term odour annoyance between 0% and 1.5% of the week. During this week we received 181 reports from local people.

- o MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery = 0%
- o MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 0%
- o MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 0%

- o MMF9 - Galingale View = 1.5%

Since our monitoring began we are continuing to see an overall reduction in the levels of hydrogen sulphide monitoring in ambient air around the site.

We do expect to see some short term increases in the levels of hydrogen sulphide at times and this is due to a number of reasons such as improvement works on site, changes in the weather and as the seasons change. In particular as we approach autumn air temperatures start to drop so fugitive landfill gas emissions will rise in the atmosphere less readily. With less dispersion, the potential for causing odour nuisance is greater than in the summer, when the gas is naturally more diluted due to the higher temperatures and rising air. This means the benefits of some of the improvements that have been carried out at Walleys Landfill, with regards to a reduction in offsite odour nuisance, could be less noticeable in these conditions. However it is important to note that overall despite short term spikes, the overall trend in the concentration levels of hydrogen sulphide in the ambient air is clearly reducing.

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/>