

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 1 June 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 – 1 June 2022

#### Regulatory activity

Officers from the Environment Agency continue to carry out 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. Our officers have regularly been present on the site since 23 May 2022.

Capping work is progressing. The average gas collection value throughout May 2022 is approximately 3000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr and there have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates as the extraction is balanced. 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 group

We held our first Facebook Live event last week, on 25 May 2022. Thanks to everyone who managed to join us or who has watched via catch up. So far over 300 people have watched the Q&A video, which remains on the Facebook group page. If you aren't able to watch the video, you can see the transcript [here](#)

The next designated questions thread will open at 9am on 06 June and remain open until 5pm on 10 June 2022. This is the only place on Facebook to post your questions for the EA. The next Facebook Live Q&A will take place at 4.30pm on 29 June 2022. You can join the group [here](#)

Please note: the Facebook group will not be monitored between 5pm on 01 June to 9am on 06 June 2022, due to the Jubilee bank holiday weekend.

#### 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 23 May – 29 May 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 lower than levels seen 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	0.0	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	0.89	▼ 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

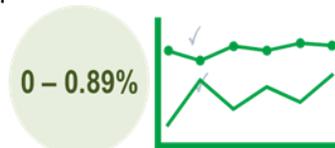
If you experience odour, you can report it via GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

In the week 23-29 May 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 94 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The peak day was on Monday 23 May, when we received 26 reports.



94

Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency  
23 May – 29 May 2022



0 – 0.89%

Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level  
23 to 29 May 2022



Below

H<sub>2</sub>S

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>