

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 25 March 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 – 25 March 2022

#### Operational update

We know that you are experiencing odour from the site, and this is also being detected at our air quality monitoring units. Over the course of March 2022, we have increased the frequency of our inspections at the site. Last week we visited the site on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday for monitoring and off-site odour assessments. This week we carried out 2 off-site odour assessments to assess impacts on the community and carried out an on-site inspection on Friday 25 March.

We are aware that data that gas capture rates have dropped and been lower for a short period of time. The reduction in gas capture may cause more fugitive emissions to escape from the ground to the atmosphere. We are reviewing all of the information available to us, including air quality monitoring data, weather data, and our observations of activities on site to further our understanding of the causes of this situation. Once we have completed our regulatory review, we can share our findings.

Last week, the Environment Agency also worked with Staffordshire Police, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Driver Vehicle Standards Agency to focus on hauliers moving waste in north Staffordshire. This is part of national efforts to ensure waste is described accurately and transported safely to the right facilities.

We continue to press the operator to resolve any gas capture issues, and to ensure that it has all necessary measures in place to reduce the emissions of landfill gases to the atmosphere whilst operational works are carried out over the coming weeks.

#### Capping preparation work begins

Walleys Quarry Ltd has recently confirmed that capping will commence in April and expects the capping material to arrive at the end of March. [Read more here](#)

As part of this work the new geomembrane that will be installed will lead to greater containment and capture of landfill gas emissions, before transfer to the gas utilisation plant where the gas is destroyed, rather than escape into the atmosphere.

## Community engagement

This week we have been holding doorstep conversations with residents in Silverdale and Galingale View. This is part of our commitment to ensuring we are having regular dialogue with affected communities about the impact of the issues you are facing.

As part of these conversations, you have been telling us that you tend to use Facebook as your 'go to' source of information about Walleys Quarry. We are currently looking to develop a Facebook page to allow us to reach more people in the local community with news and information and be able to communicate more frequently. More information on this will follow soon.

It is important you continue to report issues 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 way and quickest way to make a report is via GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

When completing the 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. You can also still call us on 0800 80 70 60.

### Get added to our mailing list

We are updating the information on this webpage regularly. To receive notifications, email your contact details to: [Engagement\\_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk) and we will add you to our mailing list.

### Latest hydrogen sulphide levels

The chart below contains a summary of the raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) in the period 14 to 20 March 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.

Levels rose above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level (7µg/m<sup>3</sup> or 5ppb) at all 4 locations during this week compared to levels during the previous 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	3.3	▲ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	8.1	▲ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	10.8	▲ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	21.2	▲ on previous week

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

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 potential odour pollution.

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 Reporting

In the week 14 to 20 March 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 1,126 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The peak day we saw reports was on 18 March 2022 where we received 357 reports.



Hydrogen Sulphide Level. 24 hour World Health Organisation guideline to protect against short term health effects



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level w/c 14 March 2022



Odour Reports/complaints w/c 14 March 2022

### Correspondence

We are not able to answer questions fully on social media, so if you have a question, please [email](#) us so we can answer fully.

### 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>