

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 1 September 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 September 2022

Regulatory activity

We attended the site on Tuesday 30 August 2022 to monitor progress on the installation of new gas collection infrastructure. A gas 'ring main' is being laid which will encircle the site. These upgrade works, when completed, will increase gas collection capacity.

Gas extraction from the operational phase of the site (Phase 4) has begun, following the installation of new horizontal gas wells in recent months. We are now seeing an uplift in gas collection, with a gas collection rate of approximately 3100 m³/hr.

Facebook Group

The next questions thread will open on Monday 5 September 2022 at 9:00 am. It will remain open for 5 days, closing at 5:00 pm on Friday 9 September 2022.

As we have explained, this group is managed by our Communications team. They have to source answers and are not able to respond to questions immediately.

We will try to answer as many of your questions as possible. The September Q&A session will be pre-recorded before the end of the month, to enable subtitles to be added. We will let you know when it is available.

Please note there may be some questions we can't answer for legal reasons, some may fall outside our remit and some we may group together if they are on a common theme.

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 22 August to 28 August 2022. Last week they were slightly higher at Silverdale Pumping Station, but lower at Galingale View, and the same at the other two locations.

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	0.3	▲ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	0.0	▼ 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 22 August to 28 August 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 89 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The peak day was Friday 28 August 2022, when we received 28 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency 22 – 28 August 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level 22 – 28 August 2022



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>