

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 23 Jun 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 – 23 Jun 2022

We are aware of a small number of odour reports submitted by email recently have not received reference numbers. We have resolved this issue and reference numbers have now been sent out.

The easiest and quickest way to report odour remains the online reporting tool on GOV.UK at: <https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

### Regulatory activity

Officers have continued 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. This includes site inspections, waste sampling, and transfer note checks.

Capping work on both Phases 1 and 2 continues to progress. The average gas collection value for the last eight weeks remains steady at approximately 3000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. There have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates as the extraction is balanced.

Eight horizontal gas wells in the operating area (Phase 3) have been installed. Three of these are now operational, extracting landfill gas. Four new deep wells are planned for installation in July 2022. This additional capacity to capture gas (both current and planned) should lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

### Facebook live session

June's Facebook LIVE session will be taking place next Wednesday, 29 June at 4.30pm. Thanks to everyone who has submitted a question. If you missed out this month, or are new to the group, you will have a chance to post when the dedicated questions thread opens again in July.

We aim to answer as many of your questions as possible. We may group several themed questions together, for example about hydrogen sulphide levels, and reports of a 'fog-like' substance.

For those who can't watch live, we will be making a recording of the session available on the Facebook Group.

You can join the Facebook group and watch the recording from the first Facebook LIVE session [here](#)

We have been asked about how, we as the Environment Agency, use social media as a tool for communication. You can read more [here](#)

## 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 13 - 19 June 2022. They were higher than levels seen at one location last week, and the same or lower at the three others.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H <sub>2</sub> S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.0	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0.6	— on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.6	▼ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	11.0	▲ 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.

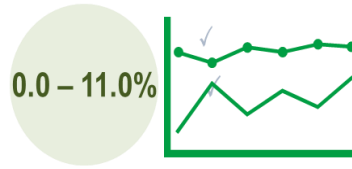
## Odour Reports

In our 16 June update we reported 215 odour reports for the week 6-12 June. We have revised this to 234 to take account of retrospective reporting.

In the week 13 to 19 June 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 263 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The peak day was on Wednesday 15 June, when we received 95 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency  
13 – 19 June 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level  
13 - 19 June 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>