

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 28 April 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 – 28 April 2022

#### Capping update

You are likely to see significant activity on the site over the coming weeks as part of the permanent capping works. Soil and clay are being brought on, which are used in construction of the formation layer. The formation layer acts as the foundation for the layers of industrial strength geotextile membrane, which are placed on top. These layers act as a permanent cap, preventing the escape of landfill gas and allowing the gases to be directed to the gas utilisation plan for destruction and conversion into electricity.

Gas wells continue to be installed on phases 1 and 2. Walleys Quarry Ltd has informed us that these are scheduled to be completed by the end of next week (06 May 2022). The installation of these gas wells further increases capacity to extract gas and direct it for destruction.

#### Permit Variation

Following recent consultation, we have issued the permit variation to Walley's Quarry Ltd. This variation raises the standards required of the permanent capping material to provide additional assurance of its integrity.

#### Facebook update

Welcome to everyone who has joined the new Environment Agency Walleys Quarry Landfill Facebook Group. We reinstated this on Monday and over 200 members have been accepted so far. Please encourage anyone you know is interested to join the group. A few points to note:

- You are required to accept the group rules when you join under Facebook stipulations. We are unable to admit anyone who has not accepted the rules of the group.
- We have received a lot of pictures and requests to post community related intelligence regarding Walleys Quarry and related activity. We are unable to publish such information within this space. However, we do pass information on to the appropriate teams within the Environment Agency, so thank you for taking the time to contact us.
- A questions thread will open on Tuesday 3 May until Friday 6 May 2022. This is the place to post your questions and they will be answered, where possible at our planned 'Facebook Live' event later in May. We'll publish the date of the event after pre-election restrictions end (see below).

- The Facebook Group is an official Environment Agency approved platform. It is linked to our national Environment Agency page and social media channels.
- Any material you post is visible to all members. The Environment Agency does not share details from within this group with Red Industries, or any other body. We are unable to say whether any employees of Red Industries have joined the group. Anyone who accepts the rules can join.

### Pre-election period 14 April – 5 May 2022

There are local elections in Newcastle-under-Lyme on 5 May 2022. In the pre-election period public bodies must limit engagement activities. This period runs from 14 April until shortly after 5 May 2022. More information about these restrictions can be found [here](#). We must follow the guidance and this will have an impact on some of our communications, including what we are able to share on Facebook.

### 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 18-24 April 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 lower than levels seen last week at all locations.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H <sub>2</sub> S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	7.1	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	1.8	▼ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	2.7	▼ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	10.4	▼ 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.

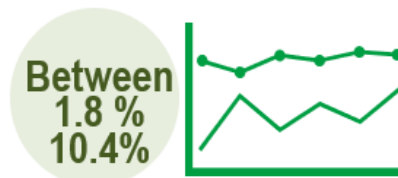
By contrast, in warmer weather the gases are naturally more diluted due to higher temperatures and rising air. This means improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour could be less noticeable around this time of year. However, it is important to note that despite short term spikes, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

### Odour Reporting

In the week 18-24 April 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 310 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The peak day we saw reports was on 19 April where we received 127 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 18 April 2022



Odour Reports/complaints w/c 18 April 2022

### Correspondence

We are not able to answer questions fully on social media. If you have a question you can [email](#) us. We may be able to answer your query in more detail.

### 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>