

Transcript of Facebook Group video.

Uploaded 21/12/22

Hi, I'm Andrew Hitchings, Project Executive at the Environment Agency with responsibility for leading our regulatory work on Walleys Quarry Landfill.

I decided it would be helpful to make this short video to provide you with more information following our Citizen Space update, which included higher hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) readings from our Mobile Monitoring Facilities (or MMFs) for the week commencing 5 December.

MMF 9 (Galingale) recorded that it was above the WHO odour nuisance threshold for just over 14% of the week. We recognise this is the highest figure we have seen since June 2022. We provided some information to put the weeks reading in context.

We shared information about the weather, which was very cold and still, because weather conditions have a significant influence on dispersion of any fugitive emissions. I talk more about weather impacts at the end of our FB Q&A post in December.

Our explanation for the readings was not given to make apologies for Walleys Quarry Ltd (WQL) or to suggest that we are satisfied with these figures. We know from our own inspections, the MMF data, and complaints we received that there was a noticeable odour that week.

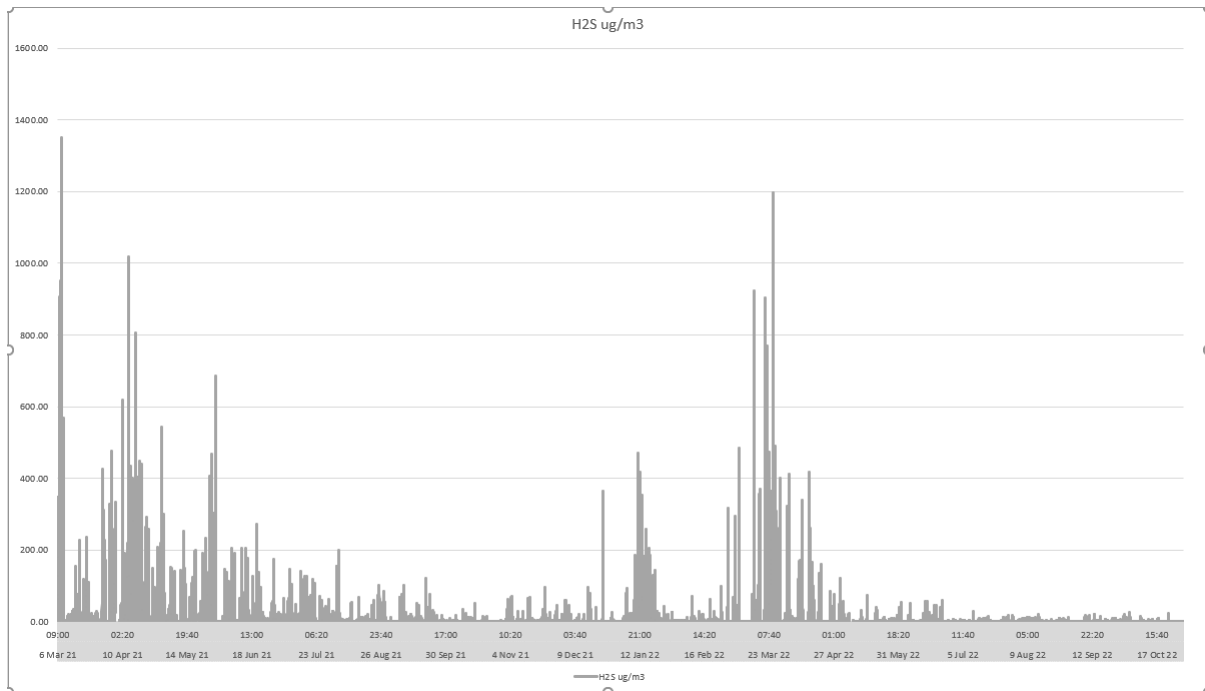
We felt it was important to explain that the % exceedance readings should not be viewed in isolation, as this would not take account of the improvements secured following implementation of the measures, we have required WQL to take. We have provided a graph below this video containing the full record of H₂S data from MMF9 so you can see how the maximum of 20ug/m³ recorded in w/c 5 December compares to previous levels.

We remain committed to improving the experience of residents. As the graph and the recent UK Health Security Agency Air Quality Health Risk Assessments demonstrate, we are making good progress. We believe WQL has not yet exhausted all the ways to reduce odour and continue to require the company to make further improvements as described in our plan to reduce hydrogen sulphide emissions. That plan is underpinned by our contain, capture, and destroy strategy. You can find a link below this video if you would like to read the plan.

The readings for the w/c 5 December, have not altered our conclusions about closing the site. Taking account of the current impact of activities, including the UKHSA risk assessment, we do not believe revoking the permit is an appropriate step.

I know that many of you feel improvements are taking too long and I sympathise with any frustration. The issues at Walleys Quarry are complex and the practical solutions we have required WQL to put in place whilst taking time are proving effective. The most recent data should not be taken as evidence to suggest otherwise.

I hope you have found this video useful. And if you have any follow up questions then please post them in the January Q&A thread.



MMF9 from March 2021 to November 2022 as published in the file MMF9 (Galingale View Pumping Station) Silverdale Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Data from MMF9 from March 21 to October 22:

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-silverdale/user_uploads/silverdale-ambient-air-monitoring-data---mmf9---mar-21-to-nov-22.xlsx

Link to detail on Contain, Capture and Destroy:

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/walleys-quarry-landfill-silverdale/user_uploads/2022-09-30-plan-to-reduce-h2s-emissions-sept-2022-1.pdf