

This weekly update is intended to help keep the community of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the wider area informed about developments concerning the Environment Agency's regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is the operator of the landfill site and it is responsible for the hydrogen sulphide emissions escaping from the site.

The Environment Agency is the environmental regulator and is committed to making sure that the operator tackles the problems at Walleys Quarry Landfill, to improve things for everyone as quickly as possible.

Our regulatory team continues to press the operator to take the necessary measures to resolve the hydrogen sulphide issues.

### **News in brief**

#### **Latest on our regulation**

We last updated you in our weekly update on 23 December about our current expectations of Walleys Quarry Ltd and the measures it must take to further reduce emissions of hydrogen sulphide from its site.

Walleys Quarry Ltd has now submitted its new capping and phasing plan in accordance with the deadline set. We are reviewing the submission to make sure it is appropriate and that it will seek to further contain landfill gas effectively.

In late December Walleys Quarry Ltd informed us that limited tipping has now started in the next phase due to site conditions. This is a smaller area nearer to the site entrance. The priority remains to reach final levels in the north east sector of the site to allow for capping.

Our officers continue to undertake site inspections and have focussed on operations on site including waste acceptance, management of the unloading pad and mud on the road. We record our findings and any actions on a Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) form to the operator.

#### **Latest hydrogen sulphide levels**

Raw data from the weeks 20-26 December and 27 December- 2 January collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring stations (MMFs) showed:

- The levels 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 above the World Health Organisation’s 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level (7µg/m<sup>3</sup> or 5ppb) for the following periods of time:

#### 20 – 26 December

MMF ID & Location	%	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0	0.9 % ▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0	0 % - on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0	3 % ▼ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	3	15.5% ▼ on previous week

#### 27 December - 2 January

MMF ID & Location	%	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0	0 % - on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	0	0 % - on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0	0 % - on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	2.4	0.6 % ▼ 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 at times. The causes can include factors such as the temporary impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather. In particular in the colder seasons air temperatures may drop. Landfill gas emissions will rise in the atmosphere less readily in colder weather and with less dispersion, the potential for causing odour nuisance is greater. By contrast, in warmer weather, when the gases are naturally more diluted due to the higher temperatures and rising air.

This means the improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour, could be less noticeable around this time. 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.

In total we received 166 odour reports for 20-26 December and 147 reports for the week of 27 December- 2 January. This is current data as of publishing this update and may change as any backlog reports are added to our reporting system.

### **How to report odour from Walleys Quarry**

We have developed a new online form to report incidents of odour coming from Walleys Quarry. This replaces our old reporting form which is now no longer in use. Most of the questions remain the same, but we have made some updates to make it easier to use, and more accessible.

When completing the new 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. Using the form will be the easiest and quickest way for you to report odour from Walleys Quarry.

<https://report-walleys-quarry-smell.service.gov.uk/>

### **Contact us with your questions**

We are not able to answer questions fully on social media, so if you have a question you can email us at [enquiries\\_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk).

To report odour please call us on 0800 80 70 60 or use our [online reporting form](#)

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.

See [Staffordshire County Council website](#) for information on public health impacts of odours in the Silverdale and wider Newcastle under Lyme area.

Walleys Quarry website: <https://walleysquarry.co.uk/>