

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 29 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 – 29 September 2022

Regulatory activity

Major infrastructure works continue, and installation of the new 315 mm gas collection line is nearing completion. We have been on site this week to inspect the engineering around this enhanced capacity ring main.

We met Walleys Quarry Ltd last week to discuss our waste acceptance audit. We will be carrying out our audit of implementation of the waste acceptance procedures in the next two weeks, before completing a written report.

The current landfill gas collection rate is approximately 3100 m³/hr. Hydrogen sulphide levels within the landfill gas continue to decline with a level of 1350 ppm this week. Last week it was 1400ppm.

Our latest review of the public facing plan has been published today and can be found using the following link: [Plan to Reduce Hydrogen Sulphide Emissions Second Review](#)

Facebook Group

The Facebook Q&A video for September is now available for members to view. If you are not a member of the Facebook Group, you will be able to view a transcript of the event on the Citizen Space webpage; we will upload this as soon as possible.

Thank you if you posed a question. We answer as many as possible in the session. However, on each occasion there may be some that we can't address for legal reasons, some that fall outside our remit as the Environment Agency, and some that we group together if they are on a common theme.

The October designated questions thread will open at 9:00 am on Monday 03 October 2022. It will remain open until 5:00 pm on Friday 07 October 2022. Please post your questions concerning our regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill Site here. We focus our communications resources into these monthly events because you told us you find it easier to access information 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 19 September to 25 September 2022. They were the same at two locations with reductions at MMF2 and MMF9.

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	0.0%	▼ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	1.8%	▼ 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 19 September to 25 September 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 79 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports received was on Sunday 25 September, when we received 24 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency 19 – 25 Sept 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level 19 – 25 Sept 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>