

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 05 January 2023

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

Regulatory activity

We continue to actively regulate and assess Walleys Quarry Ltd's compliance with its environmental permit. Officers carried out an unannounced site inspection on 20 December to assess general compliance with permit conditions.

The gas extraction rate recorded on 28 December 2022 was 3288 m³/hr and hydrogen sulphide levels were recorded on 29 December 2022 as 1490ppm. These figures from the gas utilisation plant were as expected and within normal operational parameters.

We also reviewed the Quarter 3 monitoring data relating to Walleys Quarry and issued a further Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) on 22 December 2022. Assuming this is not challenged by the company, the CAR will become public register on 20 January 2023.

Facebook Group

The January Facebook Q&A thread is now open. This is the best place to post questions you may have relating to our regulation of Walleys Quarry Landfill. Group members can post questions on the designated questions thread, which remains open until 5pm on Friday, 6 January 2023.

Non-Facebook users can email enquiries_westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk stating 'Facebook Q&A' in the subject line. This email option will also close at 5pm on 6 January 2023.

Please note that there may be some questions we can't answer for legal reasons, some may fall outside our remit as the environmental regulator and some we may group together if they are on a common theme.

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 charts below contain a summary of the raw data collected from our ambient air mobile monitoring facilities (MMFs) for the two weeks across Christmas and the New Year. In the period 19 December to 25 December 2022, they decreased at MMF1, MMF2 and MMF9, and stayed the same at MMF6.

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

It is important to note that this is raw data and may change slightly as results are verified.

In the period 26 December 2022 to 1 January 2023, they decreased at MMF1 and remained the same at MMF2, MMF9 and MMF6.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Cemetery	0.0%	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale Pumping Station	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	0.0%	— 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 overnight, during periods of colder weather, and in still wind conditions with clear skies.

Hydrogen sulphide concentrations continue to be greatly reduced compared to when monitoring began, in both the source emission and ambient air measurements. Air quality monitoring data provides additional confidence that our ongoing regulation is ensuring the source emission of hydrogen sulphide from the landfill site continues to remain low.

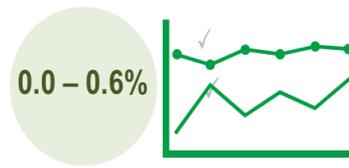
We are not focusing on the monitoring data in isolation and recognise that people may still detect odour from the site. We continue to compare daily odour incident reports with air quality data and source emissions monitoring, looking for trends and issues which may require challenging Walleys Quarry Ltd to further improve site operations and the capture of fugitive emissions.

Odour Reports

In the week 19 December to 25 December 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 45 odour reports from local members of the public. The highest number of odour reports was on Friday 23 December when 11 reports were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
19 Dec - 25 Dec 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
19 Dec - 25 Dec 2022

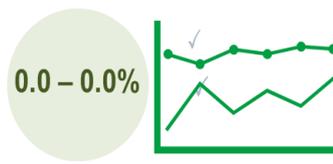


Hydrogen Sulphide Level. 24 hour World Health Organisation guideline to protect against short term health effects

In the week 26 December 2022 to 1 January 2023 the Environment Agency received a total of 39 odour reports from local members of the public. The highest number of odour reports was on Saturday 31 December when 12 reports were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
26 Dec 2022 - 1 Jan 2023



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
26 Dec 2022 - 1 Jan 2023



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>