

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 15 December 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 – 15 December 2022

#### Regulatory activity

We continue to actively regulate and assess Walleys Quarry Ltd's compliance with its environmental permit.

The gas extraction rate recorded on 9 December 2022 was 2950 m<sup>3</sup>/hr, with hydrogen sulphide levels at 1600 ppm. These results are within the normal operational fluctuations we expect. The slight increase in hydrogen sulphide levels seen at the Gas Utilisation Plant is not unexpected following the recent installation of the additional 7 pin wells into a zone of elevated hydrogen sulphide. In addition, more gas is being extracted from the north-east quarter of the site to alleviate gas migration, which is also in an area of elevated hydrogen sulphide concentrations. These actions capture additional hydrogen sulphide and reduce fugitive sources.

#### Facebook Group

The video of the second part of the November Q&A session has now been uploaded to the Facebook group. We are working on a transcript, which will be uploaded on Citizen Space when it's available. We are also currently working to refresh the FAQs section here on Citizen Space.

The next Questions Thread will open at 9 am on 2 January 2023. This will be your next opportunity to pose questions to us as the environmental regulator of Walleys Quarry Ltd.

Anyone can join the Facebook group, once they have accepted the rules. Search 'Environment Agency Walleys Quarry Landfill Site' on Facebook to find us.

#### 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 5 December to 11 December. They increased at MMF1 MMF2 and MMF9 and stayed the same at MMF6.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H <sub>2</sub> S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Cemetery	1.5%	▲ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale Pumping Station	5.1%	▲ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	14.3%	▲ 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. We saw these conditions occur during the last week particularly between Wednesday 7 December and Friday 10 December where temperatures were generally below freezing and fell as low as -5C, the lowest recorded during the monitoring study to date. Despite these unfavourable conditions and the higher percentage exceedance of odour thresholds the maximum level of hydrogen sulphide recorded did not exceed 20ug/m<sup>3</sup> (as a 30min average). This compares with levels in the 100's and 1000's of ug/m<sup>3</sup> monitored in the past.

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 5 December to 11 December the Environment Agency received a total of 163 odour reports from local members of the public. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports was on Wednesday 7 December when 42 reports were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency  
5 Dec - 11 Dec 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level  
5 Dec - 11 Dec 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>