

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 20 October 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 – 20 October 2022

Regulatory activity

We continue to actively regulate and assess Walleys Quarry Ltd's compliance with its environmental permit, including announced and unannounced inspections and remote audits. We have this week carried out 2 offsite odour assessments and issued a CAR form on 17 October related to a review of the Construction Quality Assurance and the temporary clay capping in Phase 2 undertaken in the summer of this year. Also following a review of Walleys Quarry Ltd's Capping and Phasing Plan, we have requested some further details and amendments, as part of our plan to contain, capture and destroy landfill gas from the site.

Data we have received indicates gas flow to the gas utilisation plant (GUP) is continuing to remain relatively steady. The average extraction rate recorded on between 10 and 14 October 2022 was 3940 m³/hr and the average recorded level of hydrogen sulphide at the GUP was 1250 ppm. These results are within the normal operational fluctuations we expect.

Facebook Group

We are currently working through your questions, submitted in the October designated questions thread on Facebook.

We will be uploading our video response before the end of the month and will inform you when it is ready to view, on Facebook and here on Citizen Space. There will be a transcript made available for non-Facebook users.

Anyone can join the Facebook group [here](#). At the time of asking to join, you must click the 'accept rules' option, after reading them.

As a reminder, we open a new questions thread in the first full week of the month. This stays open for 5 days and is the best place to ask us anything relating to our regulation of Walleys Quarry Limited.

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 10 October – 16 October 2022. They were the same at two locations, with an increase at MMF2 and a decrease at 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	1.9%	▲ 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 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.

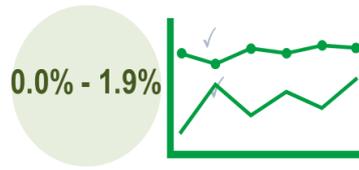
However, it is important to note that despite temporary increases, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 10 October – 16 October 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 165 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports was on Thursday 13 October when 45 complaints were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
10 - 16 Oct 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
10 – 16 Oct 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>