

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 26 May 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 – 26 May 2022

Regulatory activity

Our officers have been on site every day this week as part of regulatory work to ensure effective delivery of our plan to ‘contain, capture and destroy’ landfill gas from the site, including site inspections.

Walleys Quarry Ltd has contractors on site carrying out permanent capping works. So far 6,000m² of the planned 26,000m² has been capped, approximately 23% of the total. We continue to monitor the works and assess implementation of the construction plan. Waste deposits have commenced in Phase 3 following agreement of a management plan to capture the gas from that phase.

The average gas collection value for the last 4 weeks is 3020 m³/hr. As the extraction is balanced, only small fluctuations in extraction rates have occurred. The additional capture of gas should lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

Facebook live session

We held our first live Facebook Q&A at 4.30pm on Wednesday 25 May 2022. Many thanks to everyone who sent in questions for the session. If we didn't get to your question, we will endeavour to cover it in a future Q&A. You can join the Facebook group and watch the recording [here](#)

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 16 May – 22 May 2022.

Levels of hydrogen sulphide during this week remained below the World Health Organisation’s 24-hour average health guideline level (150µg/m³ or 107ppb) to protect against short-term health effects. They were slightly higher than levels seen last week at two locations.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery	0.6	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale PS	2.1	▲ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	2.7	▲ 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. The causes can include factors such as the temporary impact of improvement works being carried out on site and changes in the weather. Odours associated with landfill gas emissions will increase during colder weather and still wind conditions. With less ability to disperse, the potential for causing odour nuisance is greater.

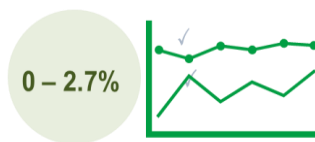
By contrast, in warmer weather the gases are naturally more diluted due to higher temperatures and rising air. This means improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour could be less noticeable around this time of year. However, it is important to note that despite short term spikes, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 16-22 May 2022, the Environment Agency received a total of 134 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The peak day was on 19 May, when we received 31 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency 16 May – 22 May 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level 16 to 22 May 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>