

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 27 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 – 27 October 2022

MMF 1 data for September

Over the last week, we have seen a number of questions about the missing hydrogen sulphide data from MMF 1 and the calibration of the MMFs. We visit the MMFs every two weeks to check and calibrate the analysers. As we stated in our Air Quality Report – September 2022, on one of these visits we discovered that MMF1 had a broken sampling line.

This is a very unusual event, which meant MMF1 was drawing its sample from inside rather than outside the MMF. We were unable to identify this error from checking the data remotely. Air inside the MMF is similar in composition to the air outside, but it would be incorrect to include this data within the ambient monitoring data set. We therefore removed the MMF1 hydrogen sulphide data between 13 September and 30 September.

Despite this interruption, overall data capture rates have remained very high for this monitoring study. This data interruption does not undermine the conclusions of the monitoring exercise.

Regulatory activity

We continue to actively regulate and assess Walleys Quarry Ltd's compliance with its environmental permit by reviewing data and conducting inspections. Our most recent announced inspection took place on 26 October 2022.

Hydrogen sulphide levels within the bulk landfill gas continue to decline, and are at 1100ppm this week. The current landfill gas collection rate is approximately 3,050 m³/hr.

Facebook Group

The October Facebook Q&A video is now available to view on Facebook. Thank you to everyone who submitted a question. We received over 20 this month.

The transcript of this Q&A will be uploaded to the Citizen Space page as soon as possible. We will inform non-Facebook users when it is ready to view.

The next designated questions thread will open on Monday 07 November 2022 at 9:00am. It will remain open until 5:00pm on Friday 11 November 2022. This is the best place to pose questions about our regulation of Walleys Quarry Ltd.

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 17 October – 23 October 2022. They stayed the same at MMF1, decreased at MMF2, and increased slightly at MMF6 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	0.6%	▼ on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.3%	▲ on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	1.5%	▲ 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.

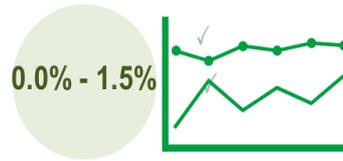
However, it is important to note that despite temporary increases, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

Odour Reports

In the week 17 October – 23 October 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 186 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports was on Tuesday 18 October when 64 complaints were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
17 Oct – 23 Oct 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
17 Oct – 23 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>