

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 6 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 – 6 October 2022

#### Regulatory activity

Officers carried out a site inspection on 28 September 2022, which focussed on waste disposal operations, installation of the cap, and development of the landfill gas control infrastructure.

Restoration soils continue to be deposited to cover the geomembrane capped areas on the north and eastern flanks of Phase 1. Officers have assessed the quality of the material being used, which is satisfactory.

The current landfill gas collection rate remains steady. We anticipate the upgraded gas extraction system will be completed by the end of this week (7 October 2022).

In our update last week, we told you we had published our latest review of the public facing plan. We have since corrected some formatting issues. The slightly revised document can be found using the following link [Plan to Reduce Hydrogen Sulphide Emissions Second Review](#)

#### Facebook Group

The Facebook Q&A video for September is now available to be viewed by members of the group. If you are not a Facebook user, you can access the transcript of the session on Citizen Space using the following link [28 September 2022 transcript](#)

The designated questions thread for October has opened. It will remain open until 5pm on Friday 7 October 2022. This is the best place to post questions relating to our regulation of the Walleys Quarry landfill. Please remember 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 may be grouped together if they are on a common theme.

Our communications team manage this element of our engagement. Responses to questions posed will be made available when the Q&A session is uploaded at the end of October. We will let you know the specific date nearer the time.

## 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 26 September to 2 October 2022. They were the same at three locations, with an increase at MMF9.

| MMF ID & Location        | % of time the monitoring location recorded H <sub>2</sub> S above the WHO annoyance guideline level % | Change             |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| MMF1 Silverdale Cemetery | 0.0%  | — on previous week |
| MMF2 Silverdale PS       | 0.0%  | — on previous week |
| MMF6 Fire Station        | 0.0%  | — on previous week |
| MMF9 Galingale View      | 4.2%  | ▲ 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.

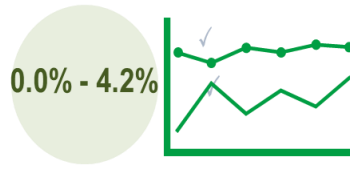
However, it is important to note that despite temporary increases, the overall trend in the levels of hydrogen sulphide concentrations in the ambient air continues to reduce.

## Odour Reports

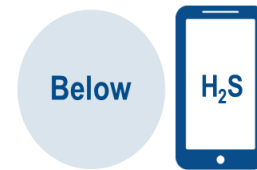
In the week 26 September to 2 October 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 58 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports was on Friday 30 September, when we received 16 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency  
26 Sept – 02 Oct 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level  
26 Sept – 02 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>