

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 21 July 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 – 21 July 2022

Regulatory activity

Permanent capping work in Phase 1 is ongoing and on 20 July 2022 during a site inspection, Walleys Quarry Ltd indicated it expected to complete the work by the end of July 2022.

Four additional vertical gas wells are being drilled to provide additional capacity in the southern flank, filling a gap in coverage. This work is planned for next week. It is possible that the drilling may lead to a temporary increase in emissions of hydrogen sulphide. Once these wells are commissioned, they will facilitate an increase the gas extraction from the site.

Officers have continued to carry out regulatory work at Walleys Quarry to ensure effective delivery of our plan to contain, capture, and destroy landfill gas from the site. The average gas collection value for the last 12 weeks remains steady at approximately 3000 m³/hr. There have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates as the extraction is balanced.

Walleys Quarry Ltd is currently undertaking changes to its waste acceptance process and we require these changes to be implemented by 1 August 2022. We continue to robustly regulate and monitor progress in the coming weeks to ensure that it remains on track to deliver the specified improvements.

The action Walleys Quarry Ltd is taking should continue to lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

Facebook live session

Thanks to everyone who took part in our poll on our Facebook Group. We wanted to know how you see the group working in the future. The results show that videos are the most popular way of engaging with you on Facebook. 96% of people taking part in the poll voted to keep the monthly Facebook live event as it is, but for us to add extra explainer videos as and when possible.

We are currently working with our experts to provide answers to your posts in the July Questions Thread. The Facebook Live event is next Wednesday, 27 July at 4.30pm. Do join us if you can. The recording will be made available following the event and a transcript for non-Facebook users will be uploaded to Citizen Space.

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 11 July to 17 July 2022. They were slightly higher than levels seen at one location last week, and the same at the other three.

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	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF6 Fire Station	0.0%	— on previous week
MMF9 Galingale View	0.9%	▲ 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 be short-term fluctuations in the concentrations of hydrogen sulphide leaving the site. 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 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 community.

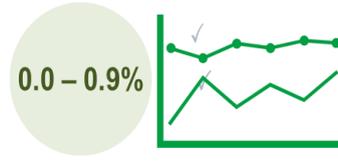
By contrast, in warmer weather the gases are naturally more diluted due to higher temperatures and rising air. This means improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour could be less noticeable around this time of year. However, it is important to note that despite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

Odour Reports

In the week 11 July to 17 July 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 72 odour reports from local people. This is an increase compared to the previous week. The peak day was Tuesday 12 July 2022 when we received 16 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
11 – 17 July 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
11 - 17 July 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>