

## Walleys Quarry weekly update – 17 November 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 – 17 November 2022

#### Regulatory activity

We continue to actively regulate and assess Walleys Quarry Ltd's compliance with its environmental permit by reviewing data and conducting inspections. Officers were also on site on the 16 November to assess works taking place to install seven additional pin wells for gas extraction and the ongoing covering of the geomembrane cap.

Data we have received indicates gas flow to the gas utilisation plant (GUP) is continuing to remain relatively steady. The extraction rate recorded on 10 November 2022 was 2975 m<sup>3</sup>/hr and the recorded level of hydrogen sulphide at the GUP was 1230 ppm on 10 November 2022. These results are within the normal operational fluctuations we expect.

#### Facebook Group

Thanks to everyone who submitted a question via November's designated questions thread. Due to the number of questions we received, we will be answering them in two parts on this occasion:

- The first part, which we intend to upload before the end of November; and
- The second part, which we aim to upload around 14 December 2022.

We will inform you on Facebook and here on Citizen Space, when these videos are ready to view. Transcripts will also be made available on the Citizen Space page.

New members have asked questions that have been answered before, so we are going to create a new frequently asked questions (FAQs) document for publication in December as well as the second part of the Q&A Session.

The next questions thread will open in January 2023.

#### 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 07 November to 13 November. They stayed the same at MMF1 and MMF6 and decreased at both the other two MMFs.

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	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 overnight, during periods of colder weather, and in still wind conditions with clear skies, most frequent in the winter and spring months. With less ability for the landfill gas emissions to disperse, there is greater potential for these emissions to cause an odour nuisance in the local area. By contrast, during periods of unstable meteorological conditions (warmer weather, higher wind speeds) the gases are more easily dispersed and diluted. This means improvements from measures implemented at Walleys Quarry Landfill to reduce odour could be less noticeable in the winter and spring.

However, hydrogen sulphide concentrations are greatly reduced since monitoring began, in both the source emission and ambient air measurements. Despite temporary low-level fluctuations in concentrations triggered by the weather, our ongoing regulation is ensuring the source emission of hydrogen sulphide from the landfill site continues to remain low.

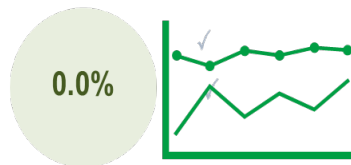
We are not focusing on the monitoring data in isolation and recognise that people may still detect odour from the site. We continue to compare daily odour incident reports with air quality data and source emissions monitoring, looking for trends and issues that will support us in challenging Walleys Quarry Ltd to improve site operations and the capture of fugitive emissions.

## Odour Reports

In the week 07 November to 13 November. The Environment Agency received a total of 82 odour reports from local members of the public. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The highest number of odour reports was on Saturday 12 November when 19 reports were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency  
7 - 13 Nov 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level  
7 – 13 Nov 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>