

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 25 August 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 – 25 August 2022

Regulatory activity

We have been informed by Walleys Quarry Ltd that it has completed the repair work we identified was required to a small area of the Phase 1 geomembrane. We will continue to assess the construction quality of all infrastructure works. We have agreed a change to Walleys Quarry Ltd's surface water management plan, which is to be completed by the end of August 2022.

The average gas collection value for the last 4 month remains steady, with the current rate at approximately 2900 – 3000 m³/hr. There have been only small fluctuations in extraction rates as the extraction is balanced. The 3 horizontal wells installed recently in Phase 4 have now been connected to the ring main gas extraction. Landfill gas will be extracted once sufficient gas is available.

On Monday and Tuesday this week we attended the site to review implementation of Walleys Quarry Ltd's revised waste acceptance procedures. We will continue to monitor progress over the coming months to ensure that the company is delivering expected improvements.

Actions being taken should continue to lead to lower emissions of landfill gas to ambient air and reduce the negative experience of odour in the community.

Facebook Group

The Facebook Group membership continues to increase, and lots of you are asking questions and reporting what you feel are important issues to us. Thank you for taking part.

We are pleased we can now add subtitles to our Q&A sessions, to make the content more accessible. To facilitate this, we pre-record the session during the morning, for uploading to the Group later that day.

Please bear in mind that the Facebook Group is managed by our Communications Team. They are not experts in landfill regulation, so are unable to answer queries personally. It takes time for the team to source answers. That is why we have a monthly Q&A session, and you should not expect an immediate reply to your post.

If you wish to report odour, then please do this via the on-line reporting tool (see section below) not the Facebook Group.

Next month's Questions Thread opens at 9 am on Monday 5 September and remains open until 5pm on Friday 9 September. This is slightly later due to the August bank holiday.

This is the best place to post your questions concerning regulation of the Walleys Quarry Landfill Site. However, there may be some questions that we can't answer, some that fall outside of our remit as the Environment Agency and others that we group together if they are on a common theme.

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 15 August to 21 August 2022. Last week they were lower at Galingale View and the same at the other three locations.

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	0.6%	▼ 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 15 August 21 August 2022 the Environment Agency received a total of 79 odour reports from local people. This is a decrease compared to the previous week. The peak day was Monday 15 August 2022 when we received 30 reports.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency 15 – 21 August 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level 15 – 21 August 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>