

Walleys Quarry weekly update – 8 December 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 – 8 December 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.

Our officers carried out an unannounced site inspection on 5 December 2022 to assess the compliance with permit conditions and the restoration cover.

The extraction rate recorded on 25 November 2022 was 3100 m³/hr and the recorded level of hydrogen sulphide at the gas utilisation plant was 1220 ppm. These results are within the normal operational fluctuations we expect.

In our weekly update of 24 November 2022, we stated that officers had carried out an on-site inspection that week. That was incorrect. Our regulatory activity instead involved an offsite review of 7 recently installed Pin wells along the western edge of the site, including the calculation sheet and installation drawings, which was carried out remotely. We have amended the archived 24 November 2022 update to reflect this.

Facebook Group

As highlighted in our update on 17 November 2022, due to the response to the designated November questions thread, we have split the content into two parts.

Thank you to everyone who has watched the video on Facebook of the first part of the Q&A session. There is now a transcript available to part one [here](#).

We are currently working to produce the second part of our Q&A session, which will be uploaded on or around 14 December 2022. In the meantime, you may be interested in watching an explainer video around our Mobile Monitoring Facilities (MMFs), which has been uploaded to the group.

A reminder that there will be no questions thread in December, as we are channelling our resources into refreshing the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) section here on Citizen Space. This is following feedback from Facebook group members.

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 28 November to 4 December. They stayed the same at MMF2 and MMF6, decreased at MMF1 and increased slightly at MMF9.

MMF ID & Location	% of time the monitoring location recorded H ₂ S above the WHO annoyance guideline level %	Change
MMF1 Cemetery	0.0%	▼ on previous week
MMF2 Silverdale Pumping Station	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 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.

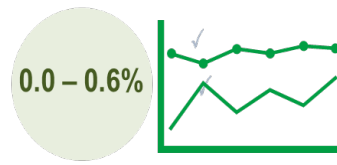
We are not focusing on the monitoring data in isolation and recognise that people may still detect odour from the site. We continue to compare daily odour incident reports with air quality data and source emissions monitoring, looking for trends and issues that will support us in challenging Walleys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

Odour Reports

In the week 28 November to 4 December the Environment Agency received a total of 47 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 Friday 2 December when 11 reports were received.



Number of odour reports/complaints to the Environment Agency
28 Nov - 4 Dec 2022



Hydrogen Sulphide 30 minute average odour annoyance: % of time above WHO guideline level
28 Nov - 4 Dec 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>