

Walleys Quarry Landfill Site

1 July 2021

We have developed this weekly update to help us keep the community of Newcastle under Lyme up to date with developments around our regulation of Walleys Quarry.

We are sorry the community is continuing to live with the distress that odour causes, and we are challenging Walleys Quarry Ltd (formerly Red Industries RM Ltd) every step of the way to act on the odour levels produced from their operations and the impact these are having on local people.

News in brief

- Walleys Quarry Limited is currently working to deliver the actions we've instructed them to carry out to manage the odour and landfill gas originating from the site. This includes:
 - An action plan to improve the gas management and gas collection. This will see a further 22 gas collection wells drilled across the site over the coming months bringing the total to 77 gas wells.
 - Activity to cap the steep flanks of the landfill. This means nearly 70% of the site will be permanently or temporarily capped. Capping is important as landfill gas from the site needs to be better 'contained' on the site, rather than escaping off the site. Once contained, it can be processed and destroyed through the gas management system.
- Walleys Quarry Limited raised concerns about a potential other source of hydrogen sulphide on the 25 March. Following that, the Environment Agency, along with the Coal Authority and Severn Trent Water investigated the issue and found no evidence of another source. On the 22 June we received a further, more detailed report from the operator on other potential sources of hydrogen sulphide in the vicinity of the landfill. We welcome this report from Walleys Quarry Limited and will now consider its findings.
- In March, we instructed the operator to permanently cap cell one and temporarily cap cell two, install further gas wells and better seal existing gas wells. This work now means an additional 500 cubic metres per hour of landfill gas is collected and managed, on top of the levels already being managed on the site. Previously this landfill gas may have been escaping off the site.
- The Environment Agency has deployed significant resources to monitor emissions in the air around Walleys Quarry. Our 4 mobile monitoring facilities (MMFs) monitor for hydrogen sulphide and other chemicals including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX). These are some of the most commonly produced chemicals in the world and are seen at low levels almost everywhere in the country. Our raw monitoring data has so far shown **low levels** of BTEX, in the vicinity of the Walleys Quarry. We have agreed with our partners

to produce the full BTEX data set in the final report at the end of the monitoring exercise.

- If you would like to talk to someone about any mental wellbeing issues, there are several sources of help on [Staffordshire Council's website](#). Anyone experiencing significant mental health issues should see their GP for a referral to primary care mental health services.
- For the week 21 to 27 June, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects but were above the WHO 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level between 1% and 12% of the week. During this week we received 765 odour reports from local people.
- Last week, we held our third engagement session for residents impacted by the operations at Walleys Quarry. A written [transcript and recording](#) are now available.
- Our public health partners are asking people to complete a daily survey detailing health impacts. This is so they can assess health impacts from Walleys Quarry and build further evidence to support our regulation. Please fill in the survey [here](#).
- Where possible, we ask residents to report odours in the local area surrounding Walleys Quarry via email. To report an odour issue related to Walleys Quarry, please [Click Here](#). This will open a template email for you to complete and send to our Incident Communications Service (ICS).
- If you are not able to email us, please report your odour issues via 0800 807060. We have reduced the number of questions we need to ask you, but your complaint will still be logged and you will be provided with an incident number.

Air Quality in the last week

We are committed to sharing with you the outcome of our monthly monitoring. However, we realise local people want to see more frequent information about recorded hydrogen sulphide levels. We will seek to bring you indicative information every week in this update.

This data will be compared against the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level. Should the World Health Organisation's 24-hour average health guideline level be exceeded, Public Health England will be immediately informed as short-term health effects may be experienced by the public such as irritation to the eyes, nose and throat. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions may be more susceptible to these effects.

The data will also be compared to the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level, i.e. above which there are likely to be complaints about odour annoyance.

The Environment Agency conducts its monitoring and data handling using approved standards and methodologies. As a result, this weekly data is based on raw data that has not yet been subjected to quality assurance checking or calibration. As a result, this data

may change significantly once the quality assurance check and calibration has been carried out.

For the week 21 - 27 June, hydrogen sulphide levels were below the WHO 24-hour average health guideline level to protect against short-term health effects but were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level for between 1% and 12% of the week (although final information is still being collated).

Data from our monitoring stations for the percentage of the week hydrogen sulphide levels were above the World Health Organisation's 30-minute average odour annoyance guideline level:

- MMF1 - Silverdale Cemetery = 2%
- MMF2 - Silverdale Road = 1%
- MMF6 - Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station = 4%
- MMF9 - Galingale View = 12%

We are updating the information on this webpage every week. To receive notifications, email your contact details to: Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will add you to our mailing list.

See [Staffordshire County Council website](#) for information on public health impacts of odours in the Silverdale and wider Newcastle under Lyme area.

Walleys Quarry website: <https://walleysquarry.co.uk/>

Multi-agency roles and responsibilities

- The Environment Agency regulates the two environmental permits held by the operator for the landfill. The permit covers on-site activities with the aim of minimising the impact on the local environment in terms of air quality, noise, odour, dust, leachate and impacts to groundwater. We enforce that permit through monitoring and undertaking site visits (both announced and unannounced) and where needed we take enforcement action to address compliance issues.
- Staffordshire County Council is responsible for determining planning permission across the area. The Environment Agency comments on planning applications. The Council also has responsibilities for traffic movement. This is part of planning permission for the site and is not included in the Environment Agency permit conditions.
- Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council is responsible for regularly monitoring air quality across the area, to ensure that it does not impact human health.
- Public Health England is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct organisation with operational autonomy. They provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific expertise and support. They have no statutory powers in relation to odorous sites and therefore work with multi-agency partners to ensure public health is protected.