

WALLEYS QUARRY

PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 24th June 2021

Title: Q&A from weekly update

Why did you commission the report?

On 27th and 28th February and 6th and 7th March 2021, there was a sudden increase in complaints. Following our initial investigation, we found these incidents happened without any unusual operational activity at the site being the cause. At this time, we also found that hydrogen sulphide was present in the groundwater which is pumped from underneath the site as part of the environmental control measures in place. As a result of these combined events, we quickly sought the view of an independent technical expert and commissioned [MJCA](#), an environmental consultancy, to investigate the potential cause of the increase in complaints over these periods.

What are the main findings of the report?

After an intense, ongoing, technical 10-week investigation, the 153-page report ([click here to view report](#)) by MJCA finds that while hydrogen sulphide can result from landfill activity, an alternative potential source of hydrogen sulphide exists, including it being naturally present in the groundwater as the result of historical geological faults, mineral deposits and mining activity in the area. A full breakdown of the report's conclusions can be seen in Section 5.

What is hydrogen sulphide?

Hydrogen sulphide is a gas with a distinctive odour of rotten eggs at low levels. It is likely to be the cause of odour cases reported around the Walleys Quarry site.

I live close to the site what does this report mean to me?

While hydrogen sulphide can result from landfill activity, the report points to an alternative potential source of hydrogen sulphide existing, including it being naturally present in the groundwater as the result of historical geological faults, mineral deposits and mining activity in the area.

This report takes us one step further towards identifying potential sources of the issue. We also remain committed to doing everything possible on behalf of the local community to ensure the situation is remedied as soon as possible. We have shared the report with the Environment Agency and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and will continue to work with their partner agencies and keep residents up to date with developments.

How will this report impact on the residents close to the Walleys Quarry?

Investigating the current situation remains our top priority and this report gets us one step further to identifying the potential sources of hydrogen sulphide near the site. We have shared the report with the Environment Agency and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and will continue to work with their partner agencies and keep residents up to date with developments.

What happens now this report has been written?

The findings demonstrate that further investigation needs to be conducted into the source of hydrogen sulphide.

We have shared the report with the Environment Agency and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and will continue to work with their partner agencies and keep residents up to date with developments.

What will the Environmental Agency and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council do now?

We expect the Environment Agency and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council to review the report in full and discuss its comments with us and its partner agencies in the coming weeks.

When can we expect any updates on the investigation?

We have shared the report with the Environment Agency and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and will continue to work with their partner agencies and keep residents up to date with developments.

While we cannot specify a date for next steps at this point, we remain committed to doing everything possible on behalf of the local community to ensure the odour situation is remedied as soon as possible.

Who will get to see this report?

We have shared the report with the Environment Agency, its partners and key local political figures. We have also published the report in full on our website.

Who has been involved in writing the report?

[MJCA](#) are technical advisors on environmental issues offering services for the assessment of the impacts of current and historical operations on the environment across many sectors. It is highly regarded and often provides reports used in legal cases.

Is this really an independent report?

Yes – the scope of the report was to investigate the source of the rise in complaints on 27th and 28th February and 6th and 7th March 2021. The consultancy is entirely independent and is widely respected in the industry.

Could this report be doctored to make Walleys Quarry look good?

No – MJCA are an independent consultancy that we have commissioned to investigate the rise in complaints on 27th and 28th February and 6th and 7th March 2021. The findings show that while hydrogen sulphide can result from landfill activity, an alternative potential source of hydrogen sulphide exists, including it being naturally present in the groundwater as the result of historical geological faults, mineral deposits and mining activity in the area. However, we remain committed to doing everything possible on behalf of the local community to ensure the situation is remedied as soon as possible.

When you say it's an independent report, what do you mean by that?

MJCA had full control over their investigation – with access to all of our data, records and experts on site. Ultimately, they could have come to a completely different conclusion to that set out in the report.

How does Walleys Quarry feel about the report?

We have always taken steps to carefully review the current situation. This is a next step in that process and shows that further investigation needs to be conducted into the source of the hydrogen sulphide. We have shared the report with the Environment Agency and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and will continue to work with their partner agencies and keep residents up to date with developments.

ENDS

For press information please contact press@walleysquarry.co.uk

Notes to editors:

Website: <https://www.walleysquarry.co.uk>

About Walleys Quarry:

Walleys Quarry in Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire is a landfill site, offering safe disposal of waste that cannot otherwise be re-used or recycled.