

# WALLEYS QUARRY

## PRESS INFORMATION

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Independent Environmental Sampling Study Carried Out At Request of Environment Agency Shows No Evidence of Environmental Risk

An independent sampling survey of Walleys Quarry, carried out at the request of the Environment Agency (EA), and involving waste sampling and testing from boreholes drilled at the site, has concluded that from this evidence the site does not constitute an 'unacceptable risk to health'.

The study, by independent environmental consultants MJCA, was carried out in the autumn of 2021 – before the EA announced its enquiry into alleged claims that hazardous waste had been previously deposited at the site in breach of regulations.

The report is now with the Environment Agency.

MJCA carried out its work at the same time as contractors were in the process of drilling and installing new gas wells at the site at Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme. MJCA were commissioned by Walleys Quarry Ltd, the site's owners, to undertake the sampling of previously landfilled waste arising from the drilling of the boreholes as part of these works.

The costs of the MJCA sampling and testing were covered by Walleys Quarry Ltd. MJCA took samples at various locations between the 22nd and 28th October which were then taken for independent analysis.

To provide context, the results showed that all the concentrations of all of the metals recorded in the samples were below the GAC (Generic Assessment Criteria) acceptability threshold for land used as public open space (>0.05ha). (See Table 1 for a full table of results).

Additionally, and again in the interests of context, the pH values for the five samples ranged between 7.65 and 8.82. The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2016 certifies that water with a pH value of 6.5 to 9.5 is suitable drinking water.

The independent report also describes the odour associated with the waste excavated during the drilling works as 'typical of that which would be expected from partially degraded waste from a non-hazardous waste landfill site'. MJCA went on to

report that 'no unusual odours were observed'. All works were conducted in accordance with strict health and safety guidelines. MJCA personnel carrying out the waste sampling exercise wore personal hydrogen sulphide monitors at all times that did not trigger at any point or return any harmful readings.

In its summary of the findings, MJCA reported that:

'The waste arisings comprised waste which is typical of the broad range of waste types which typically are present in non-hazardous waste landfill sites'

Furthermore, whilst the waste analysed presented no danger as exposed waste, once capped, as is the practice at Walleys Quarry, the material will not be present at the surface of the completed site and thus will be inaccessible.

In reference to the capping exercise the report states that:

'The data shows that in the unlikely event that the wastes were exposed at the ground surface and if the area was used as public open space, the concentrations of metals would not present an unacceptable risk to health'.

In response to the report, a spokesperson for Walleys Quarry Ltd said:

"We welcome the findings of this independent investigation carried out by MJCA at the request of the Environment Agency.

"As we have always said, Walleys Quarry Ltd has never received or disposed of hazardous waste in contravention of any regulations. While we remain surprised at the EA investigation and the way it has been presented, we will, naturally, cooperate fully in publicly establishing the facts relating to what we believe are unsubstantiated claims.

"We hope this report reassures the community that the wastes sampled and contained within Walleys Quarry fall within the limits of those expected to be present within sites of this nature. The site's control infrastructure is therefore appropriately designed and maintained to protect the environment, the public and those working there from any associated risks."

**ENDS**

For press information please contact [press@walleysquarry.co.uk](mailto: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.