Groundwater at Walleys Quarry

The Environment Agency (EA) has instructed an environmental consultant to review both the site-specific hydrogeological and environmental risk assessments. This will help inform options for groundwater management in the short to medium term. We also anticipate commissioning, later this year, a full hydrogeological conceptual model of the site which informs the long-term options for the site. The findings from these reviews will be used within the Recovery Coordination Group (RCG) to reach consensus on the longer-term strategy for the site.

There is no active pumping groundwater from the site. Groundwater levels appear stable and have not adversely impacted steps being taken onsite. Groundwater level and quality are monitored quarterly at perimeter boreholes and have shown levels comparable with previous reports between 2017-2024.

In March 2025 we identified that groundwater stored in the onsite lagoon had elevated levels of ammoniacal nitrogen. We took action to remove this risk by disposing of the water to sewer, under a trade effluent discharge consent.

Capping and waste settlement

We are continuing to monitor settlement of waste beneath the capping, including where it may cause stress to the temporary capping or related infrastructure. There is an ongoing programme of monitoring and remedial works to address any gas or leachate egress that could pose a risk of serious pollution. Broader issues relating to site stability will be considered in the consultant's environmental risk assessment report outlined above.

Third-party gas contractor CLP remains onsite and continues to manage the gas utilisation plant and to balance the gas field.

Note

The EA is exercising its discretionary powers under Regulation 57(1) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 to arrange for steps to be taken to remove a risk of serious pollution from Walleys Quarry. The EA does not own, operate, or assume responsibility for the site.