

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040724

Permit being assessed: BB3697ZN.

For: New Horizon Plastics Co Ltd, held by New Horizon Plastics Co Ltd

At: Unit 27 & The Former Scrapyard, Gelicity House, Castle Park Industrial Estate, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5XA.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 17/11/2022 between 10:30 and 11:55.

Parts of permit assessed: 1.1, 3.2, 3.5

NRW Lead Officer: Amy Henderson, accompanied by Steven White.

Report sent to: Philip Thomas, Arthur Imrie, Company Director, TCM on 20/12/2022.

1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
A1 - Specified by permit	Action only (X)	
A1 - Specified by permit	C3 Minor	3.5
F3 - Amenity - Dust/fibres/particulates and litter	Assessed (A)	
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	Assessed (A)	
A1 - Specified by permit	Action only (X)	

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

Total number of non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	4

How we use the non-compliance score to calculate your annual fee is explained in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
A1	Ensure all waste operations take place within the boundary of the permit i.e area recently used for the storage of vehicles is not covered under the permit.	06/01/2023
A1	Ensure all waste is stored in compliance with Site Environment Management System & Fire Prevention and Mitigation plan. Submit a written plan detailing how the operator plans to bring this aspect of the permit back into compliance.	17/01/2023
A1	Update sites Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan with any changes following the fire on site. Submitted an updated copy to Natural Resources Wales	31/01/2023

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important information' section below.

3. What will happen next?

Any non-compliance we have identified and recorded on this form is an offence. It can result in criminal prosecution and/or suspension or revocation of your permit.

At this time, we do not intend to take any further action.

This statement does not stop us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue.

4. Details of our assessment

This was a routine site inspection carried out by Waste Regulation Officer Amy Henderson and Senior Waste Regulation Officer Steven White. On arrival at site, the nearby area was checked for evidence of plastics blowing offsite. Natural Resources Wales have previously received reports of small pieces of plastics blowing offsite. No evidence was found of this at the time of inspection. A road sweeper was leaving site as we arrived.

Officers were met onsite by Arthur Imrie and Kev Parker who accompanied us throughout the visit.

The site has recently had a fire onsite, which took place in one of the hoppers. The fire was detected quickly by the fire detection system, which in turn allowed for the staff onsite to extinguish the fire quickly. The fire service were also called and carried out checks to ensure the fire was fully extinguished. No concerns were raised by NRW in relation to the incident.

The first part of the inspection took place within the permitted area at unit 27. The site was on shutdown for the day to allow for routine maintenance to be carried out. Repairs had already been carried out to the hopper where the fire occurred. It is believed a build up of dust in a motor had caused the fire. The site is looking into how this can be prevented in future and also looking to install fire suppression equipment within the hoppers. Your Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan should be updated with any changes following the fire and an up to date version sent to Natural Resources Wales.

The site has installed new litter fencing along the perimeter with the footpath which runs alongside the site. The new fencing is more hardwearing than the previous fencing installed. They also plan to install this fencing at the Old Scrapyard site.

Officers then visited the Old Scrapyard part of the site.

New equipment for the treatment of waste was being installed in the area which had previously been used by another occupant for the storage of vehicles. Please be aware, that this area is not within the current permitted area and therefore no waste operations under the permit should be carried out in this area. Should the company wish to include this area as part of the permit, a variation application must be submitted and granted. This has been listed as an action.

During a previous site inspection on the 05/08/2022, the site was reminded that any

shredding activity should be taking place under cover. During today's site visit Officers were shown that a small covered area has been constructed around the area where shredding takes place. The purpose of this is to ensure that micro plastics do not blow offsite and impact on the nearby river Dee SSSI. You must continue to monitor any plastics blowing offsite and ensure measures are in place to prevent and mitigate this, for example, ensuring the covered area is sufficient to stop micro plastics blowing from the treatment area, ensuring regular litter picks are taking place, ensuring vehicles carrying plastics on/offsite are covered.

Work to ensure fire breaks are in place in the old scrap yard area have not been completed. Improvements have been put in place since the last site inspection on 05/08/2022, with the installation of bays separated by concrete blocks around the perimeter. However the majority of the waste was seen to be stored in one large pile in the centre of the site. Access to parts of the waste pile would be limited should a fire occur. This would hinder the Fire & Rescue Service in extinguishing any fire. This is not in line with the site's Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan and is discussed further below.



Photo showing waste pile in the centre of the site. Fire breaks were not in place in this area.

Condition 3.5; Fire 3.1.5 The operator shall manage and operate the activities in accordance with a written fire prevention plan using the current, relevant fire prevention plan guide. The site's FPMP section 4.1.3 states Fire break distances and pile locations are also shown on Drawing No. CAS/2570/03 and the surface areas and dimensions of each storage area is provided in the waste storage table in Section 4.3. All pile sizes, heights, widths, lengths, volumes and separation distances are in accordance with the NRW's FPMP guidance document. Fire breaks/walls were not seen to be in place. Should the waste ignite, this poses a risk of a significant fire. This has therefore been given a category 3 score for a potential risk to the environment. An action has been given to install the fire breaks as per the site's FPMP by 17th January 2023. Please also submit a written plan detailing how the site plans to bring this aspect of the permit back into compliance.

Thank you for your time during the site inspection.

Should you have any queries regarding this CAR form please contact amy.henderson@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Kind regards
Amy Henderson
Swyddog Rheoleiddio Gwastraff / Waste Regulation Officer
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales
Swyddfa Bwcle / Buckley Office

There has been a delay in the issuing of this CAR form due to staff absence.

“In this document ‘Natural Resources Wales’ means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012.”

If you have any queries about this report, or to discuss completion of any actions, please contact the NRW Officer named above.

Important information

Legal status of this report

Your permit is issued to you under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. You have a responsibility to comply with the conditions of your permit and prevent pollution/harm of the environment. You must also ensure that you comply with any other relevant legislation that may apply to your site's operations.

This report explains the findings of our assessment and any action you are required to take. We categorise non-compliance using our guidance for assessing non-compliance at regulated sites.

When we find potential non-compliance/s we will normally give you advice on how to maintain compliance.

To correct non-compliance, we may:

- require you to take specific actions
- issue a notice
- review the conditions of your permit.

Any advice and guidance we give will be without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.

Assessment results and non-compliance categories (used in section 1):

Assessment result	Description
Assessed (A)	Assessed or assessed in part, no evidence of non-compliance found
Action only (X)	Action only relating to the activity assessment
Ongoing (O)	Ongoing non-compliance, not scored

Non-compliance category	Description	Score
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	60
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	31
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	4
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property	0.1

How we use assessment scores

The number and severity of non-compliances recorded in a year will affect your annual subsistence fee the following year. A non-compliance factor is added to your site's Operator

Performance Risk Appraisal (OPRA) score when we calculate your fee to reflect the additional resource we use to assess permit compliance.

What are suspended scores?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend scores for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. Suspended scores will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

Full list of Industry and Waste action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

A: Permitted activities

- A1 Specified by permit

B: Infrastructure

- B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention and control of emissions
- B2 Infrastructure – Closure and decommissioning
- B3 Infrastructure – Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)
- B4 Infrastructure – Containment of stored materials
- B5 Infrastructure – Plant and equipment

C: General management

- C1 General management – Staff competency/training
- C2 General management – Management system and operating procedures
- C3 General management – Materials acceptance
- C4 General management – Storage, handling, labelling and segregation

D: Incident management

- D1 Incident management – Site security
- D2 Incident management – Accidents, emergency and incident planning

E: Emissions

- E1 Emissions – Air
- E2 Emissions – Land and groundwater
- E3 Emissions – Surface water
- E4 Emissions – Sewer
- E5 Emissions – Waste

F: Amenity

- F1 Amenity – Odour
- F2 Amenity – Noise
- F3 Amenity – Dust/fibres/particulates and litter
- F4 Amenity – Pests/birds and scavengers
- F5 Amenity – Deposits on road

G: Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting

- G1 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Monitoring of emissions and environment
- G2 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Records of activity, site diary/journal/events
- G3 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Maintenance records
- G4 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales

H: Resources efficiency

- H1 Resource efficiency – Efficient use of raw materials
- H2 Resource efficiency – Energy efficiency

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance is an offence and we may take legal action against you. Action we take can include prosecution, serving a notice on you and/or suspension or revocation of your permit. See our Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance for further information.

Data protection notice

You should make sure that anyone named in this report knows that the information it contains will be processed by Natural Resources Wales to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s).

We may also use and/or disclose the report in connection with:

- offering or providing you with our literature or services relating to environmental matters
- consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (e.g. Health and Safety Executive, local authorities) on environmental issues
- carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
- providing public register information to enquirers
- investigating possible breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving our service
- Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations requests.

We may also pass it on to our agents or representatives to do these things on our behalf.

Disclosure of information – this report will be available to view on-line

If you think this report contains commercially confidential information that should not be placed on our public register, you must contact your local Natural Resources Wales office within **fifteen working days** of receiving this report, using the contact details in the accompanying email or letter. You must give a full explanation of why it should not be added to our public register, including specifying which information is commercially confidential. We will assess your request and respond to you within 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at ask@ombudsman.wales

Welsh Language Standards

We are committed to establishing Natural Resources Wales as a naturally bilingual organisation. We will provide compliance reports in your preferred language.