

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043660

Permit being assessed: PP3338CQ.

For: Nant-y-caws Landfill Site (Phase 1 Effluent Treatment Plant), **held by:** Carmarthenshire County Council

At: Nant-y-caws Landfill Site (Phase 1 Effluent Treatment Plant) Llanddarog Road , CARMARTHEN, Dyfed, SA32 8BG.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 31/12/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: Please see details.

NRW Lead Officer: Michael Launder.

Report sent to: Diane Thomas, Waste Strategy & Policy Officer, on 29/02/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3A - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	C3 Minor	3.1.2
IR3E - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Assessed (A)	
IR4B - Information - Reporting	C3 Minor	4.2.2 & 4.2.3

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
2	8

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
IR3A	Operator to submit a report detailing proposed measures to be taken to reduce incidences of permit exceedances at W1 under similar conditions. This should specifically examine the sizing and capacity of treatment equipment and effluent retention ponds, in relation to storm events, increased surface	31/03/2024

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	water run-off and leachate generation.	
IR4B	Operator to submit missing annual and six-monthly reporting data to the deadline specified.	15/03/2024

Compliance 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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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 is an assessment of the 2023 annual returns and compliance reporting for the Nantycaws Landfill Phase I Effluent Treatment Plant, operated by Carmarthenshire County Council.

Annual Reporting

Condition 4.2.2 of the permit requires the submission of an annual report, to include a review of the monitoring and assessment undertaken over the past year, the annual figures for water treatment and to report on performance parameters set out in the permit.

The annual returns were due on 31 January 2024 and have not been received by Natural Resources Wales on the date of issuing this report.

Six Monthly Reporting

Condition 4.2.2 of the permit requires the submission of a six monthly return of monitoring data relating to the parameters and emission points specified in the permit.

The six monthly returns for July to December 2023 were due on January 28 2024 and have not been received by Natural Resources Wales on the date of issuing this report.

Compliance: The failure to submit the annual and six monthly reporting data is a breach of conditions 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of the permit. Each of these breaches have been assigned a non-compliance category of C3 under sub-criteria IR4B Reporting.

Action: Operator to submit missing annual and six-monthly reporting data to the deadline specified.

Schedule 5 Notifications

The operator submitted Schedule 5 notifications (summarised below) relating to exceedances during 2023 of the permitted emission limit of 4.0 mg/l for ammonium at the W1 discharge point.

Date	Measured Value (mg/l)
19/10/2023	6.3
20/10/2023	6.3
23/10/2023	5.7
2/11/2023	4.5
3/11/2023	4.5
6/11/2023	4.6
8/11/2023	6.3
10/11/2023	4.8
13/11/2023	6.1
15/11/2023	4.5
17/11/2023	4.1
27/11/2023	4.6

The Operator has indicated the likely root cause of these breaches was high rainfall, followed by a period of very cold weather. This increased the volume of water required to be treated by the plant and decreased the capacity of the biological treatment element of the plant. This is confirmed by a letter report submitted by the Operator on 7 March 2023, outlining issues with the retention time of the plant, especially during periods of high rainfall.

The monitoring frequency as required by the permit is twice per week for on-site testing - the exceedances reported between 6 and 10 November 2023, and 13 and 17 November represent two breaches of the limits presented in Table S3.1 of the permit, and a total of five breaches over the period shown in the table above.

Compliance: The above results are in exceedance of the emission limits set in the permit for W1 and in breach of condition 3.1.2. Non-compliance categories of C3 against criteria IR3A Emissions to water, air or land have been allocated to each of these breaches, and the compliance scores have been consolidated over the Q4 2023 October to December reporting period.

Action: Operator to submit a report detailing proposed measures to be taken to reduce incidences of permit exceedances at W1 under similar conditions. This should specifically examine the sizing and capacity of treatment equipment and effluent retention ponds, in relation to storm events, increased surface water run-off and leachate generation.

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.

If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

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 compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

1. Management

- IR1A – General management
- IR1B – Finance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR1C – Energy efficiency
- IR1D - Efficient use of raw materials
- IR1E - Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities
- IR1F - Multiple operator installations

2. Operations

- IR2A – Permitted activities
- IR2B – The site
- IR2C – Operating techniques
- IR2D – Technical requirements
- IR2E – Improvement programme
- IR2F – Pre-operational conditions
- IR2G – Landfill engineering (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2H – Waste acceptance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2I – Leachate levels (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2J – Closure and aftercare (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2K – Landfill gas management (only applicable to Landfill)

3. Emission and Monitoring

- IR3A – Emissions to water, air or land
- IR3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- IR3C – Odour
- IR3D – Noise and vibration
- IR3E – Monitoring
- IR3F – Pests
- IR3G – Air quality management plans
- IR3H – Monitoring for the purposes of the Industrial Emissions Directive (this heading includes Large Combustion Plants)
- IR3I – Fire

4. Information

- IR4A – Records
- IR4B – Reporting
- IR4C – Notification

Enforcement response

Any non-compliance with a permit condition 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 twenty 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 to 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.