

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0046487

Permit being assessed: MP3835SV.

For: Silent Valley Landfill Site, **held by:** Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

At: Beechwood House , Ebbwvale, Blaenau Gwent, NP23 6PZ.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 31/12/2024.

Parts of permit assessed: 4.2 Reporting, 3 Emissions and Monitoring.

NRW Lead Officer: Luke Burton.

Report sent to: Technical Manager , Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, on 28/02/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR4B - Installations - Information - Reporting	Assessed (A)	
IR4B - Installations - Information - Reporting	C4 No impact	4.2.3
IR3A(1) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
IR3A(2) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	Assessed (A)	
IR3E - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Action only (X)	

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	0.1

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
IR4B	Operator to submit/report all other landfill gas monitoring parameters, required by Table S3.6 to Natural Resources	31/03/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	Wales.	
IR3E	Operator shall review topographical survey frequency, dependent on identification of changes in the landfill topography, and propose to Natural Resources Wales a new survey frequency.	30/04/2025

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.

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 Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) has been produced in response to the submission and review of annual performance and monitoring report(s) required by environmental permit conditions 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.

Not all permit conditions have been reproduced in this CAR but are available in environmental permit number: EPR/MP3835SV.

1. Leachate quality monitoring

Exceedances of the acceptable maximum concentrations (AMCs) for the following parameters and monitoring points were recorded at the following periods / quarters (Q):

LC2A	Q1: Nickel
	Q2: Nickel and mercury
	Q3: Nickel
	Q4: Nickel
LC5B	Q1: Nickel and ammoniacal nitrogen
	Q2: Nickel and mercury
	Q3: Nickel and ammoniacal nitrogen
	Q4: Nickel

There are no leachate quality emission limits within the environmental permit. Therefore, no breach of an environmental permit condition has been recorded.

All other parameters did not exceed AMCs for all other monitoring locations and periods.

Hazardous substances leachate monitoring was undertaken as required by the environmental permit every 4 years. This represents compliance with the environmental

permit.

Reporting notes 'the hazardous substances leachate monitoring indicates the leachate is compliant for hazardous substances and the majority of contaminants were recorded below the Limit of Detection (LoD)'.

The annual report 'has not identified any significant issues relating to contaminant levels recorded above the [AMCs] within the leachate and concludes there is no evidence to suggest they are having a discernible impact on the surrounding environment'.

2. Leachate level monitoring

The mean leachate head as measured in wells across site (not exceeding limit on three consecutive surveys) has not exceeded the 3.0m head limit, which represents compliance with the environmental permit.

The operator has monitored the leachate head along BSC pipe weekly, which represents compliance with the environmental permit.

The reporting concludes that 'leachate levels have remained relatively consistent indicating no rise in leachate levels therefore there is no indication of the pipe's efficacy being reduced'.

3. Upstream surface water quality monitoring

Results show all upstream surface water locations have met the freshwater Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) concentrations during 2024 with exception of unionised ammoniacal nitrogen at SW2AI in Q4.

There are no upstream surface water emission limits within the environmental permit. Therefore, no breach of permit condition has been recorded.

4. Downstream surface water quality monitoring

Results show all downstream surface water locations have met the freshwater EQS concentrations during 2024.

There are no downstream surface water emission limits within the environmental permit.

5. Upstream groundwater monitoring

Levels of manganese above the assessment level have been recorded in GW4.

There are no upstream groundwater emission limits within the permit. Therefore, no breach of permit condition has been recorded.

6. Downstream groundwater monitoring

Levels of manganese above the assessment level have been recorded in GW12, GW7, GW10 and Gw9 in various Qs.

There are no downstream groundwater emission limits for manganese within the permit.

Therefore, no breach of permit condition has been recorded.

Natural Resources Wales accepts the conclusion that assessment levels exceedances of manganese within the downstream groundwater monitoring wells can be attributed old mine workings in the area, causing elevated levels of manganese within the upstream groundwater monitoring wells.

Levels of sulphate above Control Level B have been recorded in GW12 in Q1.

The downstream groundwater emission limit for sulphate within Table S3.3 of environmental permit has not been exceeded. Therefore, no breach of permit condition has been recorded.

Levels of ammoniacal nitrogen above emission limit have been recorded within GW9 in Q1 and Q3.

The downstream groundwater emission limit for ammoniacal nitrogen within Table S3.3 of environmental permit has been exceeded.

However, GW9 ammoniacal nitrogen limits have been disapplied, at this time, following review of the Improvement Condition 1b report for pumping of groundwater and leachate conclusions, as per Natural Resources Wales CAR_NRW0033444.

The GW9 ammoniacal nitrogen Q1 and Q3 emission limit exceedances do not represent non-compliance with the environmental permit.

7. Landfill gas external borehole monitoring

Results show methane levels in landfill gas external monitoring boreholes to be below the emission limit, this represents compliance with the environmental permit.

Exceedances of control and trigger limits for carbon dioxide were recorded for the following monitoring points and periods:

GMW2	June, August and September
GMW4	January – June
GMW6	June, August – October
GMW12	March
GMW13	April – May and September – December
GMW14/14A	January, March and November

There are no carbon dioxide emission limits within the permit. Therefore, no breach of permit condition has been recorded.

All other parameters did not exceed control and trigger limits for all other monitoring locations and periods.

Suitable actions have already been undertaken in respect of these exceedances. Natural Resources Wales welcomes the operator's intentions for further investigation into the ongoing exceedances and the planned sharing of gas chromatography results.

8. Landfill gas from capped surfaces

A Landfill gas from capped surfaces monitoring report for 2024 has not been submitted.

9. Other Landfill gas monitoring Parameters

The other landfill gas monitoring parameters, required by Table S3.6, namely: in waste gas extraction wells; input to LFG compound; and, flare on gas compound, have not been submitted/reported which represents non-compliance with the environmental permit.

Condition 4.2.3 of the environmental permit has been breached.

This breach has been scored a category 4 non-compliance: A non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property.

Action: Operator to submit/report all other landfill gas monitoring parameters, required by Table S3.6 to Natural Resources Wales.

10. Topographical survey

Condition 3.5.3 of the permit is partially reproduced below:

A topographical survey of the site referenced to ordnance datum shall be carried out:

(a) Years 1 and 2 post closure - annually,

(b) Year 3 onwards – every two years, and

(c) Review of frequency after Year 7 dependent on identification of changes in the landfill topography.

7 years has now passed since closure.

Action: Operator shall review topographical survey frequency, dependent on identification of changes in the landfill topography, and propose to Natural Resources Wales a new survey frequency.

END.

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.