

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0046530

Permit being assessed: ZB3197TJ.

For: Aberfan Household Waste And Recycling Centre, **held by:** Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

At: Aberfan Road, Aberfan, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4QE.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 27/02/2025 between 15:10 and 15:45.

Parts of permit assessed: All.

NRW Lead Officer: Daniel Hopkin, accompanied by Gareth Morris, Craig Coleman.

Report sent to: Site Operator , Site Operator , on 05/03/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	C3 Minor	1.1.1
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	C3 Minor	1.1.2
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	C3 Minor	3.1.1
W2F - Waste - Operations - Technical requirements	C3 Minor	2.4.2

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
4	16

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
W1A	Please keep a copy of your permit and environmental management system on site and familiarise yourself with the content. These documents should always be available on	19/03/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	site.	
W1A	Please keep a copy of your permit and environmental management system on site and familiarise yourself with the content. These documents should always be available on site.	19/03/2025
W1A	Please ensure that all waste is stored securely. Please install netting in the area that the polystyrene is kept or alternatively store the polystyrene in a container with a lid to avoid litter leaving the site. Please update your environmental management system (EMS) to include a litter picking schedule to ensure any litter that does escape or leaves site is collected regularly.	19/03/2025
W2F	Please have this disposed of correctly and ensure that no water can enter the battery storage container. Please provide us with the consignment note from the removal of this hazardous waste.	19/03/2025

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

Aberfan Household Waste and Recycling Centre Site Inspection, Merthyr Tydfil (EPR/ZB3197TJ) – 27/02/2025

Apprentice Daniel Hopkin, Waste Regulation Officer Gareth Morris and Senior Waste Regulation Officer Craig Coleman attended the permitted facility of, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Aberfan Household Waste and Recycling Centre, Aberfan Road, Aberfan, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4QE on the 27th of February 2025 to undertake a routine site inspection.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council hold a tier 3 bespoke permit for a household waste recycling centre, taking hazardous and non-hazardous waste, with treatment operations for non-hazardous waste limited to manual sorting, and compaction only and no treatment of hazardous waste other than bulking up.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess the sites compliance with the conditions of the environmental permit EPR/ZB3197TJ.

The weather was clear, dry with little wind.

We were met by the site operator, who showed us around and answered our questions.

Breaches Recorded**W1A – General Management****Root Cause Breach 1.1.1**

Permit Condition 1.1.1: ***The operator shall manage and operate the activities:***

- a. ***In accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, closure and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints.***

Permit Condition 1.1.2: ***Records demonstrating compliance with condition 1.1.1 shall be maintained.***

During the site inspection I asked the operator for a copy of their permit, environmental management system (EMS) and other paperwork relating to the permitted site. I was told that these documents were kept at another site and inaccessible at the time. As this was not on site when I was present the operator was informed that they would receive a Category Three (3) breach.

Action: Please keep a copy of your permit and environmental management system on site and familiarise yourself with the content. These documents should always be available on site.

Permit Condition 3.1.1: ***Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits (excluding odour) shall not cause pollution. The operator shall not be taken to have breached this condition if appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved emissions management plan, have been taken to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, those emissions.***

During the site inspection I could see litter had been leaving the site over the boundary fence. The site operator explained that when the weather is bad some litter does blow off site. I was also informed that the site had recently started putting the polystyrene separately in storage sacks and this would sometimes escape from the bags and blow off site. I advised the operator this was a breach of their permit, and they would receive a Category Three (3) breach.

Action: Please ensure that all waste is stored securely. Please install netting in the area that the polystyrene is kept or alternatively store the polystyrene in a container with a lid to avoid litter leaving the site. Please update your environmental management system (EMS) to include a litter picking schedule to ensure any litter that does escape or leaves site is collected regularly.



W2F – Technical Requirements

Permit Condition 2.4.2: ***Hazardous waste shall not be mixed, either with a different category of hazardous waste or with other waste, substances or materials, unless it is authorised by schedule 1 table S1.1 and appropriate measures are taken.***

During the inspection I could see that significant amounts of water had entered the battery storage container and become contaminated from mixing with the batteries. This water will now be classed as hazardous waste. The operator was advised that this will be a Category Three (3) breach.

Action: Please have this disposed of correctly and ensure that no water can enter the battery storage container. Please provide us with the consignment note from the removal of this hazardous waste.



Summary

Overall, the site is well run and organised.

All waste(s) were well designated and easily identifiable. Waste was clearly and correctly separated into their own storage containers with clear signage on each container. There were no overlapping bays.

At the time of the inspection the surface of the site was in good condition with no visible damage present to the impermeable surface or sealed drainage. The site has an interceptor, this was not inspected as part of the visit.

Spill kits were available on site ready for use.

If you have any queries regarding this Compliance Assessment Report, please contact me on the details below.

Daniel Hopkin

07811 794 976

Daniel.Hopkin@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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 Waste compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

1. Management

- W1A – General management
- W1B – Energy Efficiency (MCP/SG facilities only)
- W1C – Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

2. Operations

- W2A – Permitted activities
- W2B – Waste recovery plan
- W2C – Operating techniques
- W2D – The site
- W2E – Waste acceptance
- W2F – Technical requirements
- W2G – Improvement programme
- W2H – Pre-operational conditions

3. Emission and Monitoring

- W3A – Emissions to water, air or land
- W3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- W3C – Odour
- W3D – Noise and vibration
- W3E – Monitoring
- W3F – Pests
- W3G – Fire

4. Information

- W4A – Records
- W4B – Reporting
- W4C – 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.