 Environment Agency	<b>EPR Compliance Assessment Report</b>	Report ID:	
<b>This form will report compliance with your permit as determined by an Environment Agency officer</b>			
Site	Hugmore House	Permit Ref	FB3606GC
Operator/ Permit holder	Agrispread LTD		
Date	24/02/2025	Time in	/ Out /
What parts of the permit were assessed	2.1.1, 2.1.5, 2.1.6		
Assessment	EPR Activity:	Installation	Waste Op x Water Discharge
Recipient's name/position	Rob Piggott		
Officer's name	Amy Henderson	Date issued	11/04/2025

<b>Section 1 - Compliance Assessment Summary</b>			
<p>This is based on the requirements of the permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. A detailed explanation and any action you may need to take are given in the "Detailed Assessment of Compliance" (section 3). This summary details where we believe any non-compliance with the permit has occurred, the relevant condition and how the non-compliance has been categorised using our <a href="#">Compliance Classification Scheme</a> (CCS). CCS scores can be consolidated or suspended, where appropriate, to reflect the impact of some non-compliances more accurately. For more details of our CCS scheme, contact your <a href="#">local office</a>.</p>			
<b>Permit Conditions and Compliance Summary</b>			<b>Condition(s) breached</b>
<b>a) Permitted activities</b>	1. Specified by permit		
<b>b) Infrastructure</b>	1. Engineering for prevention & control of pollution		
	2. Closure & decommissioning		
	3. Site drainage engineering (clean & foul)		
	4. Containment of stored materials		
	5. Plant and equipment		
<b>c) General management</b>	1. Staff competency/ training		
	2. Management system & operating procedures	C2	2.1.1, 2.1.5
	3. Materials acceptance		
	4. Storage handling, labelling, segregation		
<b>d) Incident management</b>	1. Site security		
	2. Accident, emergency & incident planning		
<b>e) Emissions</b>	1. Air		
	2. Land & Groundwater		
	3. Surface water		
	4. Sewer		
	5. Waste		
<b>f) Amenity</b>	1. Odour		
	2. Noise		
	3. Dust/fibres/particulates		
	4. Pests, birds & scavengers		
	5. Deposits on road		
<b>g) Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting</b>	1. Monitoring of emissions & environment		
	2. Records of activity, site diary, journal & events	C2	2.1.6
	3. Maintenance records		
	4. Reporting & notification		
<b>h) Resource efficiency</b>	1. Efficient use of raw materials		
	2. Energy		
<b>KEY: C1, C2, C3, C4 = CCS breach category ( * suspended scores are marked with an asterisk), A = Assessed (no evidence of non-compliance), N = Not assessed, NA = Not Applicable</b>			

<b>Number of breaches recorded</b>	2	<b>Total compliance score</b> (see section 5 for scoring scheme)	62
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**If the Total No Breaches is greater than zero, then please see Section 3 for details of our proposed enforcement response**

## Section 2 – Compliance Assessment Report Detail

This section contains a report of our findings and will usually include information on:

- the part(s) of the permit that were assessed (e.g. maintenance, training, combustion plant, etc)
- where the type of assessment was 'Data Review' details of the report/results triggering the assessment
- any non-compliances identified
- any non-compliances with directly applicable legislation
- details of any multiple non-compliances
- information on the compliance score accrued inc. details of suspended or consolidated scores.
- details of advice given
- any other areas of concern
- all actions requested
- any examples of good practice.
- a reference to photos taken

This report should be clear, comprehensive, unambiguous and completed within 5 days of an assessment.

This CAR form follows on from CAR form issued on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in relation to deployment PAN-026421 at Hugmore House, Wrexham.

Within the above CAR form an action was given to ensure that spreading records were checked for accuracy and any necessary changes submitted to NRW by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025. On the 24<sup>th</sup> February it was confirmed via email that spreading records were accurate. It was stated that ENCIRC waste shown as being spread on the 13<sup>th</sup> October was stored within the lagoon initially on the 13<sup>th</sup> October and spread on the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> October.

During the inspection officers identified that waste material had been spread to field 6 also, as shown in the photograph below. There was no record of any spreading activity taking place within field 6 on the spreading records provided by the company. It is therefore deemed that accurate spreading records have not been kept/provided.



Photograph showing waste within field 6.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 the operator confirmed that ENCIRC waste was spread to fields 4&5 on the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> October 2024, however the updated agricultural benefit statement, which was submitted by Agrispread on the 13/09/2024 in response to a RFI, stated the following;

*'The pH of the majority of the sludges is above 5 and no negative impacts from the application of both rates are expected. The Encirc Waste has a pH of 3.85, which is relatively low. Where the pH of the soil is below 6 the Encirc waste will not be spread. **The Encirc waste will not be spread on fields 4, 5, 6 and 7** and the total tonnage has been reduced to reflect the reduced spreading area. **The Huntington waste will only be spread on field 1,2 and 3.**'*

Spreading records provided state that the only waste accepted at the deployment was Huntington WTW sludge and ENCIRC waste, under the agricultural benefit statement neither of these waste streams were permitted to be spread to fields 4, 5, 6 & 7, where spreading was confirmed to have taken place by officers.

As a result of this the following permit breaches have been identified;

**Permit condition 2.1.1 states The operator is only authorised to carry out the activities specified in table 2.1 below ("the activities"). Namely R10: Land treatment resulting in benefit to agriculture or ecological improvement**

Also;

**2.1.5 The activities shall only be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the agreed deployment form unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales.**

As stated under the above permit condition 2.1.1, landspreading of waste can only be carried out where there is an agreed agricultural benefit. You were advised by email during the determination of the deployment that spreading of both ENCIRC and Huntington WTW waste to fields 4, 5, 6 & 7 would not provide an agricultural benefit due to the pH of the receiving soils. You were advised by our Permitting Team that these waste types must not be spread to the above fields and as a result an updated agricultural benefit statement was submitted by Agrispread LTD confirming you would not spread either of these waste types on these fields. Despite this it has been confirmed by the company that ENCIRC waste was spread to fields 4&5. Spreading waste where there is no agricultural benefit is deemed a disposal activity, which is not permitted under the permit. This activity is also not in compliance with the agreed deployment. This is therefore a breach of permit conditions 2.1.1 & 2.1.5.

Spreading waste where there is no agricultural benefit poses a risk to the environment. In this case the pH of the soils were not suitable for this waste type. With regard to the WTW waste TGN 8.01 How to Comply with your Landspreading permit, states 'aluminium becomes mobile in the soil at low soil pH values (pH 5.0). Aluminium can stunt root growth and cause induced phosphate deficiency in crops. As a precautionary measure, sludge from alum water treatment should only be applied to soils of pH 6 and above.' It also states 'Where aluminium content is high, operators should take care to prevent the waste entering a watercourse because aluminium can harm aquatic life.'

The ENCIRC waste has a low pH of 3.85, spreading this waste type on soils that are already low pH risks lowering the soil pH further. The soil pH has a significant influence on nutrient availability and the mobility of metals. Maintaining soil pH at or close to optimum levels is important in preventing the leaching of PTE'S in the soil.

A category 2 non compliance score has been issued under EA – C2 General management for this permit breach (NRW compliance criteria W1A General management).

### **2.1.6 Records demonstrating compliance with rules 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 shall be maintained.**

Spreading records provided by the operator did not detail any spreading which had taken place on field 6. Officers carrying out the inspection identified waste had been spread to field 6, as shown in the photo included within this CAR form. It is therefore deemed the records provided to be inaccurate. The company have not confirmed what waste type/quantity was spread to this field. Accurate records are required to ensure compliance with the permit. It is also important accurate records are kept and provided to the farmer/landowner so they can ensure compliance under the The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021. These records help to ensure nutrients are not over applied and activities are carried out in compliance with the agreed deployment and agricultural regulations. If no records are kept there is the potential for over application of nutrients, which in turn poses a risk to the receiving soils and nearby watercourses through nutrient leaching. A category 2 non-compliance score has

therefore been issued under G4 Records of activity, site diary, journal & events (NRW compliance criteria W4A – Records)

This location has had a previous deployment withdrawn in March 2023 due to non-compliance under permit KP3594VE. Further non-compliances at the location raises concerns over the risk to the environment. Spreading has not taken place in line with the agreed deployment form and therefore the activity is no longer in line with the agricultural benefit agreed.

As waste has been spread to fields 4&5, not in compliance with the permit and it is unclear what waste has been spread to field 6, no further spreading of waste should take place on these fields under the deployment.


**As a result of the non-compliances at the above deployment, Natural Resources Wales are considering withdrawing the deployment. As part of the withdrawal process you are given the opportunity to provide justification why you believe the deployment should not be withdrawn. Should you wish to provide justification please submit this in writing within 7 days of the issue of this CAR form.**

Should you have any queries regarding this CAR form please contact [amy.henderson@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto: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

*“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.”*

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Operator/ Permit		Agrispread Ltd		Date	
				FB3606GC	

Section 3- Enforcement Response		Only one of the boxes below should be ticked	
You must take immediate action to rectify any non-compliance and prevent repetition. Non-compliance with your permit conditions constitutes an offence and can result in criminal prosecutions and/or suspension or revocation of a permit. Please read the detailed assessment in Section 2 and the steps you need to take in Section 4 below.			
Other than the provision of advice and guidance, at present we do not intend to take further enforcement action in respect of the non-compliance identified above. This does not preclude us from taking enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or advice isn't followed.			
In respect of the above non-compliance you have been issued with a warning. At present we do not intend to take further enforcement action. This does not preclude us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue.			
We will now consider what enforcement action is appropriate and notify you, referencing this form.			X

Section 4- Action(s)			
Where non-compliance has been detected and an enforcement response has been selected above, this section summarises the steps you need to take to return to compliance and also provides timescales for this to be done.			
Criteria Ref.	CCS Category	Action Required/Advised	Due Date
See Section 1 above			
C2		Spreading to only take place in compliance with registered deployment/permit	Immediate effect
G2		Accurate spreading records to be kept for all spreading activity	Immediate effect
C2 & G2		No further spreading under the deployment to take place on fields 4,5,6	Immediate effect



## Section 5 - Compliance notes for the Operator

To ensure you correct actual or potential non-compliance we may

- advise on corrective actions verbally or in writing
- require you to take specific actions in writing
- issue a notice
- require you to review your procedures or management system
- change some of the conditions of your permit
- decide to undertake a full review of your permit

Any breach of a permit condition is an offence and we may take legal action against you.

● We will normally provide advice and guidance to assist you to come back into compliance either after an offence is committed or where we consider that an offence is likely to be committed. This is without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.

● Enforcement action can include the issue of a formal caution, prosecution, the service of a notice and or suspension or revocation of the permit.

**See our Enforcement and Civil Sanctions guidance for further information**

This report does not relieve the site operator of the responsibility to

- ensure you comply with the conditions of the permit at all times and prevent pollution of the environment
- ensure you comply with other legislative provisions which may apply.

### Non-compliance scores and categories

CCS category	Description	Score
C1	A non-compliance which could have a <b>major</b> environmental effect	60
C2	A non-compliance which could have a <b>significant</b> environmental effect	31
C3	A non-compliance which could have a <b>minor</b> environmental effect	4
C4	A non-compliance which has <b>no</b> potential environmental effect	0.1

**Operational Risk Appraisal (Opra)** - Compliance assessment findings may affect your Opra score and/or your charges. This score influences the resource we use to assess permit compliance.

## Section 6 – General Information

### Data protection notice

The information on this form will be processed by the Environment Agency to fulfill its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s). The Environment Agency may also use and/or disclose it in connection with:

- offering/providing you with its literature/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 and taking any resulting action
- preventing breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving its service
- Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Information Regulations request.

The Environment Agency may pass it on to its agents/representatives to do these things on its behalf. You should ensure that any persons named on this form are informed of the contents of this data protection notice.

### Disclosure of information

The Environment Agency will provide a copy of this report to the public register(s). However, if you consider that any information contained in this report should not be released to the public register(s) on the grounds of commercial confidentiality, you must write to your local area office within twenty working days of receipt of this form indicating which information it concerns and why it should not be released, giving your reasons in full.

### Customer charter

#### What can I do if I disagree with this compliance assessment report?

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your site officer, you should firstly discuss the matter with the officer's line managers. If you wish to raise your dispute further through our official Complaints and Commendations procedure, phone our general enquiry number 03708 506 506 (Mon to Fri 08.00–18.00) and ask for the Customer Contact team or send an email to [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk). If you are still dissatisfied, you can make a complaint to the Ombudsman. For advice on how to complain to the [Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman](#) phone their helpline on 0345 015 4033.