

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048501

Permit being assessed: RP3232LD.

For: Felindre, Gas Compressor Station, **held by:** National Grid Gas PLC

At: Gas compressor station Heol Llangyfelach , Felindre, Swansea, SA5 7LX, West Glamorgan, SA5 7LX.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 24/03/2025 - 17/06/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: Improvement Condition Status.

NRW Lead Officer: Elliot Jones.

Report sent to: Senior Environmental Engineer, National Gas, on 17/06/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR2E - Installations - Operations - Improvement programme	Action only (X)	
IR2E - Installations - Operations - Improvement programme	Action only (X)	
IR2E - Installations - Operations - Improvement programme	Action only (X)	

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
0	0

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
IR2E	IC1: Noise assessment must be performed to assess the VSD impact. Findings of the assessment to be issued to NRW for review in conjunction with the original noise assessment (Gas Turbines).	30/11/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR2E	IC3: Following conclusion and findings of the VSD noise assessment, noise management and monitoring procedures must be updated and implemented into the operator's environmental management systems.	30/11/2025
IR2E	IC5: Operator to evaluate electric VSD associated waste production, storage and disposal once VSD is regularly operational.	31/12/2025

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

National Gas Felindre Improvement Conditions (ICs)

During a site inspection on the 20th November 2024, regulating officer inquired the status of improvement conditions stated in the operator's environmental permit (RP3232LD). Changes in NRW filling system has led to uncertainty with which ICs have been completed and whether, if any still remained outstanding.

During the visit officer issued an Action for operator to submit all appropriate documentation and any previous dialogue (emails) considered relevant to the ICs. Operator submitted multiple documents and email threads on the 3rd December 2024.

Purpose of Compliance Assessment Report

- Environmental Permit Improvement condition, status review and associated future actions.

Text highlighted in **Red**, states the requirement of the improvement condition as listed in the Environmental Permit.

IC1 – Noise Assessment

"IC1: A written report shall be submitted to the agency detailing the results of a noise assessment. The assessment shall examine noise levels at all nearby sensitive receptors during various operating scenarios. The notification requirements of condition 2.5.2 shall be deemed to have been complied with on submission of the summary."

AECOM report, previously submitted to NRW 20/04/2016, see Compliance Assessment

form reference 6114 and Compliance Assessment Report NRW0032190.

Improvement condition has been complied with and considered **Completed**.

Despite the improvement condition being completed. National Gas must perform a Noise assessment on site when electric Variable Speed drive (VSD) is brought online. VSD has remained idle on site for a number of years and has not been assessed when operational, therefore its noise impact remains unknown.

During previous dialogue, the operator stated that they predict that the VSD will be functional during 2025.

Action: Noise assessment must be performed to assess the VSD impact. Findings of the assessment to be issued to NRW for review in conjunction with the original noise assessment (Gas Turbines).

IC2 – Vented Fugitive Emissions

“IC2 The Operator shall undertake a review of vented and fugitive gas emission from the installation. The review shall address the following issues:

- Identify each potential source of such emission, quantify and assess the impact on the environment.*
- Consider the options to minimise such emissions, giving consideration (but not limited) to the following:*
 - Current vent delay philosophy*
 - Emissions of odourised gas (if any)*
 - the number of compressor system vents*
 - the natural gas venting philosophy*
 - discharge sequencing to prevent inappropriate pressure loads on vent systems*
 - the use of gas recycling or recompression*
 - use of vented gas as a fuel*
 - gas storage, flaring or other alternative venting techniques*

Where improvements are identified propose a timetable to implement such improvements. A summary of the review shall be submitted in writing to the Agency. The notification requirements of condition 2.5.2 shall be deemed to have been complied with on submission of the summary.

The improvements identified shall be implemented by the operator from the date of approval by the Agency

Operator submitted the following document:

- Felindre_Compressor_fugative_Emissions_Report(1).pdf*
- Final Report Felindre 2018reduced(1).pdf*

Surveys have been performed on site to determine leakage from the site's gas line infrastructure or any other potential vented sources. Survey utilised appropriate gas analyser equipment, monitoring upwind (checking external sources) and downwind around the boundary of the site. Survey in 2018 identifies locations where leaks were detected.

Leaks detected were minor and were generally detected in flanges, valves and nipple ports.

Documents have been reviewed; Improvement condition has been complied with and **Completed**.

The operator has implemented a companywide Methane emission reduction strategy, active from March 2023. With a focus on vent reduction and fugitive emissions. On site equipment trials and fugitive emissions survey frequency has been increased. Improving the detection of fugitive emissions and allowing for improved remediation of any identified leaks.

IC3 Noise Management and Monitoring Procedure

“IC3: The Operator shall update the documented system of environmental management for the installation with a procedure for the monitoring and management of noise emissions. Upon completion of the procedure a summary of the document shall be submitted to the Agency in writing. The notification requirements of condition 2.5.2 shall be deemed to have been complied with on submission of the summary.

The procedure shall be implemented by the operator from the date of approval in writing by the Agency.”

Improvement condition has been complied with and **Completed**. Summary document was submitted to NRW on the 25th April 2016. See comments made on Compliance Assessment report NRW0032190.

Action: Following conclusion and findings of the VSD noise assessment, noise management and monitoring procedures must be updated and implemented into the operator’s environmental management systems.

IC4 – Site Closure Plan

“IC4: The Operator shall develop a written Site Closure Plan with regard to the requirements set out in Section 2.11 of the Agency Combustion Technical Guidance Note. Upon completion of the plan, a summary of the document shall be submitted to the Agency in writing.”

Following request for the latest documentation, operator submitted the following updated and final site closure plan, 2014.

- *Felindre SCP_Updated_14 01 14_final.pdf*

Improvement condition has been complied with and **Completed**. See comments made on Compliance Assessment report ID 02975 following a site audit in 2009.

IC5 – Waste Minimisation Audit and findings.

“IC5: The Operator shall carry out a waste minimisation audit of the installation that would be considered as part of the National Grid Gas network wide audit. The assessment shall have regard to the Agency Combustion Technical Guidance Note, Section 2.4.2. The audit report shall provide information on any lines and operations identified as causing a process

loss, specifying for each, the amount lost (tonnes/year) and the percentage recovered in process or recycled. A summary of the audit shall be sent to the Agency in writing together with a timetable to implement any necessary changes identified. The notification requirements of condition 2.5.2 shall be deemed to have been complied with on submission of the summary. The changes identified shall be implemented by the operator from the date of approval by the Agency."

Operator submitted the documents listed below to NRW.

- *Felindre – Waste Minimisation Audit Report 2014 V1 CHECKED.pdf*
- *Felindre – Waste Management Review Report 2022.pdf*

Following review officer is satisfied that this Improvement condition had been complied with and can be considered **Complete**.

The above waste minimisation audit have been performed prior to the electric VSD function and therefore waste generated by the VSD has not been evaluated.

Action: Operator to evaluate electric VSD associated waste production, storage and disposal once VSD is regularly operational.

Permit condition 1.5 of the Environmental Permit (RP3232LD) requires the operator to regularly review (4-year cycle) the sites waste usage, implementing appropriate measures to improve and minimise impact where possible.

IC6- Energy efficiency Plan

"IC6 The Operator shall produce an Energy Efficiency Plan for the installation that would be considered as part of the National Grid Gas network wide plan. The plan shall have regard to the Agency Combustion Technical Guidance Note, Section 2.7.2."

Following discussion and submission of the documents listed below to NRW,

- *Energy Efficiency Survey Felindre 2014.pdf*
- *Energy Efficiency Review 2022_ISSUE_Rev0*

Officer is satisfied that this Improvement condition had been complied with and can be considered **Complete**.

Permit condition 1.3 of the Environmental Permit (RP3232LD) requires the operator to regularly review (4-year cycle) the sites energy efficiency, and implement appropriate measures to improve where possible.

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.