

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048588

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: 19/06/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions: 3.1.6, 3.5.3 and, 3.5.1 .

NRW Lead Officer: Luke Burton.

Report sent to: Noel Chard, Technical Manager, on 19/06/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3A(1) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
IR3E - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Assessed (A)	

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?

No action required.

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 following the Operator submitting to Natural Resources Wales a review of the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA), the Operator requesting to change the frequency of topographical surveys and, the Operator requesting to change the frequency of monitoring or landfill gas emissions from capped surfaces (hereinafter referred to as “flux box testing”).

HRA

Condition 3.1.6 of the environmental permit states:

The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a review of the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment:

- a. between nine and six months prior to the sixth anniversary of the granting of the permit, and
- b. between nine and six months prior to every subsequent six years after the sixth anniversary of the granting of the permit.

The review of the HRA was submitted to Natural Resources Wales on 30/01/2024.

The submission was made within the submission window which represents compliance with the environmental permit.

The review contained a written review of the HRA included in the Application, together with any other parts of the Application that addressed the requirements of The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (hereinafter referred to as “The EP Regulations”).

The review contained the required information which represents compliance with the environmental permit.

The review assessed whether the activities of disposal or tipping for the purpose of disposal of waste authorised by the permit continue to meet the requirements of the EP Regulations^[1].

The review contained the required assessment which represents compliance with the environmental permit.

Topographical Surveys

Condition 3.5.3 of the environmental permit states:

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.

The topographical survey shall be used to produce a plan of a scale adequate to show the surveyed features of the site.

The Operator has reviewed and proposed, to Natural Resources Wales, carrying out topographical surveys at a frequency of every 5 years.

Natural Resources Wales accepts this proposal.

Flux box testing

Condition 3.5.1 of the environmental permit states:

The operator shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales, undertake the monitoring specified in the following tables in schedule 3 to this permit:

- (a) Leachate specified in tables S3.1 and S3.7;
- (b) Point source emissions specified in tables S3.2, S3.3 and S3.4;
- (c) Groundwater specified in tables S3.3 and S3.9;
- (d) Landfill gas specified in tables S3.4, S3.5 and S3.6; and
- (e) Surface water specified in table S3.8.

Table S3.5 is reproduced below:

Table S3.5 Landfill gas from capped surfaces – limits and monitoring requirements				
Monitoring point Ref. /description	Parameter	Limit (including unit)	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring Standard or method
Permanently capped zone	Average methane flux and total methane emission	Average zone emission rate of 0.001 mg/m ² /second	Annually	As per LFTGN 07 version 2, March 2011 'Guidance on monitoring landfill gas surface emissions', or as otherwise agreed with Natural Resources Wales

The Operator has proposed, to Natural Resources Wales, carrying out flux box testing at a frequency of every 5 years.

Natural Resources Wales accepts this proposal.

[1] Notwithstanding the comments made in Natural Resources Wales 19/06/2025 email: '20250619 NRW comments on HRA 2023 review'

END

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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.