

# Risk Assessment

## Risk assessment for proposed land-spreading activity - Noyadd Farm, Dderw & Glan-Elan - Rhayader, Powys

Risk assessment carried out by: R Tucker Date: November 2025

Data				Judgement				Action	
<i>Receptor</i> What is at risk? What do I wish to protect?	<i>Source</i> The agent or process with potential to cause harm	<i>Harm</i> The harmful consequences if things go wrong	<i>Pathway</i> How the receptor might come into contact with the source	<i>Probability of exposure</i> How likely is this contact?	<i>Consequence</i> Severity of the consequences if this occurs	<i>Magnitude of risk</i> The overall magnitude of the risk	<i>Justification for magnitude</i> Basis of my judgement	<i>Risk management</i> How I can best manage the risk to reduce the magnitude	<i>Residual risk</i> Magnitude of the risk after management
Surface water – ditches, watercourses and ponds	Nutrients, organic matter and solids	Surface water pollution	Direct application to surface water, underdrainage and run off from spreading or stockpiles	Low	High	Medium	No spread areas and buffer zones in place. 20m no spread zone to River Wye SAC & Wye Tributaries SSSI in field 30E. 30m no spread zone against east boundaries of fields 02 TM DF & 05 TM DF. 10m no spread zone to watercourses in fields 05 TM NGE, 06 TM NGE, 10 TM NGE, 7788, 9291 & 8978. 50m no spread zone to issues between fields 05 TM NGE & 06 TM NGE. 10m no spread zone to south boundary of field 01 TM DF.  Stockpiles sited at distance from watercourses.	Comply with COGAP, Sludge Regs and EPR. Spreading to be only undertaken when conditions are suitable. No spreading areas enforced as per plans attached to application.  Site stockpile locations in suitable locations and not near watercourses and not where there is a field gradient directly towards nearby watercourses.	Low
Soils	Physical damage to soil structure	Damage to soil structure and poor subsequent crop yields	Delivery and spreading activity	Low	High	Medium	Delivery and spreading to be undertaken under appropriate ground conditions using low ground pressure equipment.	Comply with COGAP and Cross Compliance Criteria. Apply only in suitable conditions.	Low

## Risk Assessment continued

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Groundwater /Soils	Nutrients and PTES	Groundwater pollution and excessive nutrient build up	Over-application to land	Low	Medium	Low	PTEs: The supplied concentrations at the proposed application rates are lower than the maximum permissible levels detailed in the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations for biosolids applied to agriculture, which is believed to be a suitable comparison for wastes applied to agricultural land. The sludge is low in available nitrogen and phosphate applied is less than either crop requirement or crop use (offtake).	Appropriate rate and timing of application. Comply with COGAP, EPR and Sludge Regs. Carry out soil analysis of all fields regularly.	Low
Humans and animals	Spreading activities – physical, Access to stockpile areas	Harm to humans or animals	Trespass, accidental contact  Spreading - footpaths in fields 10 TM NGE, 6481 + 6895 & 8978	Low	Medium	Low	Agricultural areas with limited public access. Grazing animals prevented from accessing stockpiles. Material is low risk.	Application during appropriate conditions and awareness of access issues. 2m no spread buffers to footpaths. No spreading in field when footpath is in use. No fields to be spread with stock in field and no stock to graze fields spread for 3 weeks following application. Stockpiles sited in fields with no public rights of way. Stockpiles to be fenced off if animals grazing in field to prevent animals coming into contact with stockpiles, climbing on stockpiles or getting stuck in stockpiles.	Low

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Soils	PTE addition	Build-up of PTEs.	Spreading activity , stockpiling	Low	Medium to high	Low	PTEs additions lower than the permitted maximum annual addition rates.  Stockpiles not to be located on the same footprint as previous stockpile locations within the last 2 years.	Comply with COGAP, Cross Compliance and Sludge Regs. Apply at specified rates. Fields to be regularly soil sampled.	Low
Soils	Nutrient build up	Reduced yield quality and quantity of subsequent crops, nutrient leaching, runoff to sensitive receptors and surface water	Stockpiling, spreading activity, over application	Low	Medium	Low	Waste applied at specified rates provide equal or less nutrients than either crop requirements or crop use (offtake). Nutrients analysed in field soil samples regularly. No spread areas to River Wye SAC and Upper Wye tributaries SSSI for field 30E and to slopes in fields 02 TM DF 2 and 05 TM DF & 03 TM DF in direction of River Wye (Upper Wye) SSSI & River Wye SAC. No spread areas to watercourses in other fields.  Stockpiles not to be located on the same footprint as previous stockpile locations within the last 2 years to avoid nutrient build up.	Apply according to RB209 recommendations and COGAP. Application rates in agricultural benefit statement not to be exceeded. Carry out soil analysis of all fields regularly.  Ensure stockpile locations are fully cleared during loading for spreading. Stockpiles not to be located on the same footprint as previous stockpile locations within the last 2 years to avoid nutrient build up.	Low
Air	Odour during spreading activity, odour during stockpiling	Odour issues and complaints	Airborne compounds	Low	Medium	Low	Water clarification sludge cake has no noticeable odour.	Comply with COGAP.	Low

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Air	Dust during spreading, dust blowing from stockpiles	Dust complaints	Dust during windy conditions	Low	Low	Low	Material is stackable at 28% dry solids and fresh material has very low potential for dust.  During temporary storage in a field heap the exposed surface layer of the stockpile is likely to dry out in dry, warm conditions. As a result there is a low risk of dust during loading and spreading in warm, dry conditions.	Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling and spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors especially if the exposed surface layer of the stockpile has become dry and has potential for dust during loading and spreading. Spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and not in the direction of sensitive receptors. No spread areas enforced in fields close to SSSIs / SACs / other sensitive receptors.  The fields will be spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.	Low
Air/People	Noise	Noise complaints	Noise from delivery, and spreading	Low	Low to Medium	Low	Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas.	Avoid sensitive spreading periods e.g. bank holidays and weekends. Delivery during daylight hours	Low
Hedgerows and trees	Physical damage from spreading equipment	Ecological + landscape	Physical damage from spreading equipment	Low	Low	Low	Professional, experienced operators employed instructed to take care around trees	Leave a 2.0m minimum buffer zone adjacent to trees, shrubs and hedges.	Low

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New House Meadow SSSI  (This site comprises a single field and adjacent roadside bank lying on gently sloping ground above the flood plain of the River Wye at Rhayader. It is an excellent example of a type of herb-rich grassland that is characteristic of the upland fringe of mid-Wales).	Dust during spreading, stockpiling	Nutrients & PTEs enrichment	Dust during windy conditions reaching SSSI, watercourses from spreading activity	Low	Medium	Low	Fresh material has low potential for dust.  Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.  Distance of fields from SSSI.  Proximity – New House Meadow SSSI is 370m from field 05 TM NGE, 214m from 10 TM NGE & 240m from 06 TM NGE at the nearest points, and over 500m from other fields.	Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling & spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading mentioned fields. Stockpile & spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SSSI.  Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.	Low
Coetiroedd Cwm Elan / Elan Valley Woodlands SAC  (European dry heaths for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Forests of slopes, screes and ravines for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.)	Dust during spreading, stockpiling, noise	Nutrients & PTEs enrichment, habitat loss, disturbance	Dust during windy conditions reaching SAC from spreading activity. Noise from machinery during stockpiling and spreading impacting wildlife.	Low	Medium	Low	Fresh material has low potential for dust.  Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.  Proximity – field 8978 is 395m, field 7788 is 460m & field 6481 + 6895 is 410m at the nearest points from, Coetiroedd Cwm Elan SAC. Field 01 TM DF is 370m at the nearest point.  The other fields are over 500m.  Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas at distance from site.	Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling & spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading mentioned fields. Stockpile & spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SAC.  Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.	Low

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<p>Rhagnentydd Gwy Uchaf / Upper Wye Tributaries SSSI</p> <p>(The site is of interest for its internationally important populations of otter and atlantic salmon, as well as bullhead. The tributaries support both oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) and more mesotrophic (relatively nutrient-poor) aquatic communities and extensive areas of semi-natural riparian habitats can still be found along their banks. These include semi-natural woodland, dry and marshy grassland, stands of tall fen and marsh vegetation and gravel banks. The site also includes back channels and oxbows that support otters and waterfowl and provide valuable refuges for small fish and invertebrates.)</p>	Nutrient enrichment, leaching, smothering, contamination, dust, disturbance	Enrichment of land & water with nutrients & PTEs, habitat loss	Dust during windy conditions reaching SSSI from stockpiling or spreading activity, run off or leaching from stockpiles or spread fields. Noise from machinery during stockpiling and spreading impacting site.	Low	Medium	Low	<p>Fresh material has low potential for dust.</p> <p>Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.</p> <p>No spread areas to SSSI in field 30E. No spread areas to watercourses in other fields.</p> <p>Distance of stockpiles from SSSI, material is very stackable and low risk of slumping or runoff from stockpiles.</p> <p>Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas at distance from site and working for limited time periods.</p>	<p>Assess wind speed and direction before spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading fields 30E, 9291, 788, 8978 &amp; 6481 + 6895 within 500m of SSSI.</p> <p>Spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SSSI.</p> <p>No spread areas enforced to watercourses, SSSI.</p> <p>Stockpiles sited in suitable locations and proximity from SSSI. Stockpiles to be monitored.</p> <p>Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.</p>	Low

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What is at risk? What do I wish to protect?	The agent or process with potential to cause harm	The harmful consequences if things go wrong	How the receptor might come into contact with the source	How likely is this contact?	Severity of the consequences if this occurs	The overall magnitude of the risk	Basis of my judgement	How I can best manage the risk to reduce the magnitude	Magnitude of the risk after management
Coed Y Cefn SSSI  (A sessile oakwood comprising rather stunted oak trees, and occasional birch. Notable for the occurrence of extremely high densities of wood ant. Worker ants are so abundant that their presence is audible to the human ear. This abundance is all the more remarkable in that this is the most southerly site in Britain where this species of ant has been recorded. The chrysolmelid beetle, whose larvae feed on ant pellets, has also been recorded from this site.)	Dust during spreading, stockpiling, noise	Nutrients & PTEs enrichment, habitat loss, disturbance	Dust during windy conditions reaching SSSI from spreading activity. Noise from machinery during stockpiling and spreading impacting site.	Low	Medium	Low	Fresh material has low potential for dust.  Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.  Distance of fields from SSSI. Proximity – Coed Y Cefn SSSI is 412m from field 01 TM DF at the nearest point and over 500m from other fields.  Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas at distance from site.	Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling & spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading mentioned fields. Stockpile & spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SSSI.  Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.	Low
Cwm Gwynllyn SSSI  (This site has a number of features of biological and geomorphological interest. Its geomorphology provides evidence of past glaciation.)	Dust during spreading, stockpiling, noise	Nutrients & PTEs enrichment, habitat loss, disturbance	Dust during windy conditions reaching SSSI from spreading activity. Noise from machinery during stockpiling and spreading impacting site.	Low	Medium	Low	Fresh material has low potential for dust.  Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.  Distance of fields from SSSI. Proximity - Cwm Gwynllyn SSSI is 370m from field 01 TM DF at the nearest point.  Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas at distance from site.	Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling & spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading mentioned fields. Stockpile & spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SSSI.  Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.	Low

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Local human population and local environment	Flooding of site	If waste is washed off site it may contaminate buildings / gardens / natural habitats downstream.	Flood waters	Low	Medium	Low to Medium	Spreading undertaken only on fields at appropriate timings. Stockpiles sited in suitable locations reducing risk.  Apart from field 30E the fields have no or low flood risk.	Comply with COGAP, Sludge Regs. No spreading in periods where heavy rain is forecast or if land is waterlogged. Spreading operator to employ no spreading areas as per attached plans to watercourses, River Wye SSSI / SAC and 50m no spread zones to springs, boreholes and wells.  Field 30E has areas of the field that fall under low, medium and high flood risk from the River Wye.  Spreading of this field will only occur between April and July to reduce risk of flooding and nutrients/ material being washed off the field. The high flood risk area of field is buffered with a no spread area.	Low
Ancient Woodland	Physical damage from spreading equipment, nutrient run off / leaching.	Harm to ancient woodland, habitat and species through contamination, nutrient enrichment, disturbance, physical damage.	Spreading activity, nutrient run off or leaching, soil erosion and soil run off.	Low	Medium	Medium	Spreading undertaken only on fields at appropriate timings.  No spread buffers zones to ancient woodland.  Stockpiles sited in suitable locations in fields away from ancient woodland.	No spreading in periods where heavy rain is forecast or if land is waterlogged.  Application rates in deployment not to exceeded.  No spread buffers enforced to ancient woodland as per maps.	Low

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<p>Elenydd – Mallaen SPA</p> <p>(Elenydd-Mallaen SPA is a large upland site of hill land in Wales for nature conservation. Breeding birds of importance include the red kite, peregrine falcon and merlin.)</p>	Dust during spreading, stockpiling, noise	Nutrients & PTEs enrichment, habitat loss, disturbance	Dust during windy conditions reaching SPA from spreading activity. Noise from machinery during stockpiling and spreading impacting wildlife.	Low	Medium	Low	<p>Fresh material has low potential for dust.</p> <p>Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.</p> <p>Proximity – field 8978 is 395m, field 7788 is 460m &amp; field 6481 + 6895 is 410m at the nearest points from Elenydd Mallaen SPA.</p> <p>Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas at distance from site.</p>	<p>Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling &amp; spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading mentioned fields. Stockpile &amp; spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SPA.</p> <p>Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.</p>	Low
<p>Carn Gafallt SSSI</p> <p>(Carn Gafallt is an excellent example of a predominantly upland site supporting a diverse range of habitat types. These include nationally important examples of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, above which is situated one of the largest expanses of heather moorland in Brecknock. The area is not only important for its plant communities, but also supports notable populations of birds, invertebrates and lower plants.)</p>	Dust during spreading, stockpiling, noise	Nutrients & PTEs enrichment, habitat loss, disturbance	Dust during windy conditions reaching SSSI from spreading activity. Noise from machinery during stockpiling and spreading impacting wildlife.	Low	Medium	Low	<p>Fresh material has low potential for dust.</p> <p>Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.</p> <p>Proximity – field 8978 is 395m, field 7788 is 460m &amp; field 6481 + 6895 is 410m at the nearest points from Carn Gafallt SSSI. The other fields are over 500m.</p> <p>Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas at distance from site.</p>	<p>Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling &amp; spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading mentioned fields. Stockpile &amp; spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SSSI.</p> <p>Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.</p>	Low

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<p>River Wye (Upper Wye) / Afon Gwy (Gwy Uchaf) SSSI</p> <p>(A key breeding area for many important species. The Wye is of special interest for its associated plant and animal communities. The River Wye (Upper Wye) is a fine example of an upland river typified by steep gradients, rock and coarse river beds. The river is of special interest for five main aquatic plant community types.)</p>	Nutrient enrichment, leaching, smothering, contamination, dust	Enrichment of land & water with nutrients & PTEs, habitat loss	Dust during windy conditions reaching SSSI from stockpiling or spreading activity, run off or leaching from stockpiles or spread fields	Low	Medium	Low	<p>Fresh material has low potential for dust.</p> <p>Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.</p> <p>No spread areas in fields 02 TM DF 2, 05 TM DF &amp; 03 TM DF where fields slope in the direction of River Wye (Upper Wye) SSSI. No spread areas to watercourses in other fields. Proximity of SSSI from other fields.</p> <p>Distance of stockpiles from SSSI, material is very stackable and low risk of slumping or runoff from stockpiles.</p>	<p>Assess wind speed and direction before spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading mentioned fields. Spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SSSI. No spread areas enforced to watercourses, SSSI.</p> <p>Stockpiles sited in suitable locations and proximity from SSSI. Stockpiles to be monitored.</p> <p>Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.</p>	Low
<p>River Wye / Afon Gwy (Wales) SAC</p> <p>(A key habitat for white clawed crayfish, sea lamprey, brook lamprey, twaite shad, Atlantic salmon, bullhead, otter and many other species. The River Wye also has important aquatic plant communities and vegetation.)</p>	Nutrient enrichment, leaching, smothering, contamination, dust	Enrichment of land & water with nutrients & PTEs, habitat loss	Dust during windy conditions reaching SAC from stockpiling or spreading activity, run off or leaching from stockpiles or spread fields	Low	Medium	Low	<p>Fresh material has low potential for dust.</p> <p>Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.</p> <p>No spread areas in fields 02 TM DF 2, 05 TM DF &amp; 03 TM DF where fields slope in the direction of River Wye SAC. No spread areas to SAC in field 30E. Proximity of SAC from other fields.</p> <p>Distance of stockpiles from SAC, material is very stackable and low risk of slumping or runoff from stockpiles.</p>	<p>Assess wind speed and direction before spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading mentioned fields. Spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the SAC. No spread areas enforced to watercourses and SAC.</p> <p>Stockpiles sited in suitable locations and proximity from SAC. Stockpiles to be monitored.</p> <p>Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.</p>	Low

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Scheduled Monument – Rhayader Castle  (The monument consists of the remains of a castle, dating to the medieval period)	Dust from spreading, stockpiling	Deterioration to scheduled monument via dust from spreading, stockpiling	Dust during windy conditions reaching scheduled monument from spreading activity. Noise from machinery during stockpiling and spreading impacting site.	Low	Medium	Low	Fresh material has low potential for dust.  Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.  Distance of fields from scheduled monument. The nearest field - 06 TM DF is approx. 305m away at the nearest point.  Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas at distance from site.	Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling & spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading closest fields. Stockpile & spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the scheduled monument if there is dust.  Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.	Low
Scheduled Monument – Tomen Llansantffraid  (The monument comprises the remains of a motte, dating to the medieval period)	Dust from spreading, stockpiling	Deterioration to scheduled monument via dust from spreading, stockpiling	Dust during windy conditions reaching scheduled monument from spreading activity. Noise from machinery during stockpiling and spreading impacting site.	Low	Medium	Low	Fresh material has low potential for dust.  Low dust risk during loading and spreading if exposed surface layer of the material in stockpile has dried in warm, dry conditions over a period of time.  Distance of fields from scheduled monument. The nearest field - 06 TM DF is approx. 485m away at the nearest point.  Agricultural machinery in agricultural areas at distance from site.	Assess wind speed and direction before stockpiling & spreading and proximity to surrounding receptors, particularly when spreading closest fields. Stockpile & spread when conditions are suitable with no or little wind and when the potential of any gusts is not in the direction of the scheduled monument if there is dust.  Fields spread with low trajectory rear discharge muck spreaders.	Low