

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049873

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: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 21/10/2025 between 10:30 and 13:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Compliance assessment report below .

NRW Lead Officer: Elliot Jones.

Report sent to: Senior Environmental Engineer, National Gas , on 11/11/2025.

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)	
IR1D - Installations - Management - Efficient use of raw materials	Assessed (A)	
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	Action only (X)	
IR3B - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR1A	Operator to submit inspection report for the diesel tank.	05/12/2025

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

Introduction

NRW undertook an announced site inspection of the National Gas compressor station Felindre on the 21st October 2025. NRW regulating officer notified the operator of a preset agenda prior to the site visit.

- Noise Assessment – VSD update and plans.
- LDAR surveys performed on site. Findings and improvements.
- Operators discharge point.
- Discuss the sites recent critical works.

Site update

The compressor station has operated for very few hours during 2025. Review of monitoring returns following the visit highlighted that Turbine B and C have operated for a combined total of 1,146 hours and solely during Quarter 1 of 2025. Minimal gas inputs from the Milford Haven terminals has led to a reduction in operating hours.

The reduced operating hours has allowed the operator to undertake a series of critical repairs on pipework infrastructure on site during the summer months. In order to undertake the engineering work, the operator and contractor was required to dewater an excavation pit on site for access to underground pipework.

Engineering work was performed over a 4–5-week period, during this period of engineering works, the operator's contractor provided NRW with weekly updates containing daily records on the progression of the work. The updates provided via email were excellent and thorough. The report included daily discharge rates along with photographic evidence of the clarity of the discharge. During the site inspection officer noted the absence of any disturbance or signs contamination beyond the permitted boundary following the works.

On the 17th September 2025, NRW received a noise complaint for the Felindre area, siting a “constant loud humming noise” Operator confirmed the site was not operating on the date in question and therefore has been ruled out as a potential source of the noise.

Operator confirmed that the site has at times been venting the pipework for maintenance reasons, operator acknowledges that venting is a noisy process, but only for a short duration 40-50 seconds. Operator contacts local residents prior to venting to notify when venting is planned.

Variable Speed drive

The sites electric variable speed drive (VSD) turbine has remained inactive since NRW previous visit in November 2024. The VSD has remained idle for a number of years. Having initially been installed , the VSD has yet to be fully commissioned and therefore has not officially been brought online.

The VSD requires a significantly higher gas pressure to function in comparison to the sites more frequently used gas powered turbines. Reduced gas inputs along the South Wales pipeline has made VSD redundant over recent years.

Although during the site inspection the operator suggested that there is a possibility that gas demand will require the VSD to be utilised in the coming weeks.

Previous commissioning work on the VSD identified the asset to be a potential noise concern. The VSD pipework has since been cladded with attenuation material to reduce the noise created from the turbulent air traveling through the duct work.

Operator is aware of their requirement to perform a noise impact assessment when the VSD becomes operational. The noise assessment findings will then be reviewed by NRW and comment provided.

Permitted Discharge Point

NRW officer attended the sites sole authorised discharge point (W1). The discharge is accessed by exiting the site compound and walking along the boundary fence and down a gravel path. Discharge point is partially fenced, although the fence is beginning to weaken and should be monitored closely for further deterioration.

Discharge point was actively discharging. Water was visibly clean with no evidence of contamination leaving site.



Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) Survey

The operator performed fugitive emission tests at the Felindre compressor station and associated above ground installations (AGI) on the 11th and 12th March 2025. The tests were performed by the operators internal NGT environmental technician and emission officer.

The tests procedure includes an initial screening, using an analyser to identify a leak before a more thorough investigation to calculate the mass emission rate of the methane being emitted.

The survey multiple components of site including valves, flanges, compression fittings, door seals, cabinets, drains and vents. Observations of elevated pipework/vents and component in pits are undertaken using an OGI camera.

Once a leak is identified, having been quantified, the leak is recorded on a log sheet and clearly labelled with a “leak aware” tag. Discussions on site revealed the operator is in the process of implementing a colour coded tagging system, differing colour tags indicate the severity of the leak and the urgency for a repair.

The operator screened approximately 1,989 components on site and identified 13 quantifiable leaks. A quantifiable leak is defined as having a leak rate greater than 36.9Kg/year.

A further 14 leaks were identified during the survey, although these were not quantified due to being below the limit of detection of the analyser and therefore determine as insignificant.

The findings from the survey estimated that 3.2tonne/year of Methane fugitive emission were emitted from leaking components at the compressor station during 2025. A leak rate from the facility of 3.2tonne/year demonstrates a dramatic reduction in fugitive emissions from the Felindre site, having calculated near 31tonne/year during 2024.

Site Observation

The VSD (Turbine A) was non-operational, and therefore access to the turbine house was possible. Housekeeping in the turbine house was of a good standard and items within the turbine house are clearly kept to a minimum. The VSD like the gas turbines is mounted on the turbines oil lubricating tank. The Oil tank is fully self-contained despite this the turbine house has a sealed drainage system, any contaminant is drained to a holding pit before being removed from site via a tanker.

Secondary Containment measures in place across site, absorbent mats located beneath site plant, fork truck, telehandler. Waste oil, solvent and anti-freeze containers all stored on bunded pallets and in an area of sealed drainage system. Bunded pallets did not have a rain guard and therefore have the potential to fill with rainwater, operator should consider installing rain guard to prevent excessive water ingress. Despite this officer did note the absence of any liquid or contaminants in the bunds.

Site engineer informed officer that the diesel storage tank had recently undergone an integrity survey. Officer visually inspected the diesel tank and had no concerns regarding its condition.

During the site inspection the operator was unable to locate the integrity report, and it was therefore requested it be submitted via email following the visit.

Action: Operator to submit inspection report for the diesel tank.

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.