

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050895

Permit being assessed: VP3095FS.

For: Soil and Aggregates Treatment Plant, **held by:** Neal Soil Suppliers Ltd

At: Atlantic Ecopark, Newton Road, Rumney, Cardiff, CF3 2EJ.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 31/12/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: 4.2.2 and 1.2 and 1.3.

NRW Lead Officer: Geraint Harris.

Report sent to: Group Technical Manager, Group Technical Manager, on 09/03/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR1C - Installations - Management - Energy Efficiency	Action only (X)	
IR2C - Installations - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
IR2C - Installations - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
IR1D - Installations - Management - Efficient use of raw materials	Action only (X)	
IR1C - Installations - Management - Energy Efficiency	Action only (X)	
IR4B - Installations - Information - Reporting	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
IR1C	Revise the figures using the net calorific value (10.098) and provide the information regarding the application of the electrical efficiency factor. Due 13th March 2026.	13/03/2026
IR2C	Provide NRW with the quantities of all the end of waste/product materials that have left the site in 2025. Due 3rd April 2026.	03/04/2026
IR2C	<p>Action 3: with regards to 2025 only, NRW would like to know the answers to the following questions by the 3rd of April 2026:</p> <p>Do NSSL receive 17 01 07 as a single, unmixed, single-source waste stream, or does it arrive from multiple sources? How many different waste producers contribute to the 17 01 07 stream NSSL send to landfill? Can NSSL provide a breakdown of the origin of all 17 01 07 consignments (e.g., per producer, site, or project)? How do NSSL verify the waste description and EWC code provided by the producer before acceptance? Does NSSL reject or downgrade loads that contain mixed materials, contaminants, or non-inert constituents? If so, how often does this occur? Where on site is 17 01 07 stored before removal to landfill? Is it stored separately from other waste streams? Do NSSL mix, combine, or bulk together 17 01 07 wastes from different sources before onward transfer? Are there any circumstances where 17 01 07 is rehandled, mechanically sorted, screened, crushed, or otherwise processed on site? How do NSSL ensure cross-contamination does not occur during storage, loading or movement of materials on site? What visual inspection process is used to confirm the load is inert and uncontaminated at acceptance and before dispatch? How do NSSL demonstrate that the 17 01 07 they send to landfill is free from: metal plastics wood insulation plasterboard / gypsum soil containing organics asbestos If contamination is discovered, what procedures are followed? Have NSSL ever reclassified 17 01 07 to another code following inspection? If so, how often?</p>	03/04/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	<p>Do NSSL conduct any Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) testing on this stream before sending it to landfill?</p> <p>If no testing is carried out, what evidence supports NSSL's decision that the waste meets the "single-source inert" exemption?</p> <p>Have any receiving landfill operators requested testing or raised concerns about heterogeneity or contamination?</p> <p>Have any loads been rejected by landfills due to contamination or incorrect classification?</p> <p>How do NSSL demonstrate that the waste remains "inert" throughout handling and storage?</p> <p>Can NSSL provide photographs or inspection records supporting the classification for 17 01 07 dispatched to landfill?</p> <p>How do NSSL confirm compliance with the requirement that inert landfill waste must originate from a single source and single stream?</p> <p>If the waste originates from multiple sources, what is your justification for classifying it under the inert "no testing required" exemption?</p>	
IR1D	Review your raw materials usage to identify any opportunities to improve efficiency of use. Please report your findings at the 13th March 2026 onsite visit.	13/03/2026
IR1C	Review your energy usage to identify any opportunities to improve efficiency of use. Please report your findings at the 13th March 2026 onsite visit.	13/03/2026

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

Neals Soil Supplier Ltd (NSSL)

Annual Performance Review

Permit condition 4.2.2: For the following activities referenced in Schedule 1, table S1.1 (A1 to A3), a report or reports on the performance of the activities over the previous year shall be submitted to Natural Resources Wales by 31 January (or other date agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales)

each year. The report(s) shall include as a minimum:

- (a) a review of the results of the monitoring and assessment carried out in accordance with the permit including an interpretive review of that data;
- (b) the annual production / treatment data set out in schedule 4 table S4.2; and
- (c) the performance parameters set out in schedule 4 table S4.3 using the forms specified in table S4.4 of that schedule.

Raw Material and Water Usage

“The washing plant is topped up with surface water from interceptor ditches on the site and as such has not needed refreshing from the mains. The washing plant water system is a closed loop system and therefore disposal of waters since first operation is not required.”

Permit condition 1.3. requires operators to take appropriate measures to ensure that raw materials and water are used efficiently in their activities and to maintain records of their water use. This permit condition does not specify that this only relates to mains water use and since Neal’s are utilising water from the interceptor ditch they should be recording their use in accordance with the permit. Action 1 below was issued to NSSL in February 2025.

CAR_NRW0046409 Action 1: Please investigate how you can measure and record water use on-site, including abstracting water from field ditches. Please provide NRW with a copy of your findings by the 4th of April 2025.

In response NSSL stated:

“We do not abstract from controlled waters, as we understand it the interceptors do not require an abstraction permit or monitoring and would not form part of any monitoring or submissions requirements. However, we have requested that RPS undertake a water usage review as part of ongoing site management reviews.”

The progress and results of these reviews will be discussed at a site visit on the 13th of March 2026.

The raw materials include both the waste materials treated in the wash plant throughout the year and those virgin raw materials used on site as part of the process. A total of 280,000tonnes of waste material was processed in the wash plant, approximately 26,000tonnes were hazardous while the remaining approximately 253,000 tonnes were non-hazardous. The following materials were used in the washing process: -

DFloc 331 – 17,500kg

DFloc 5278 – 18,000kg

D-Sperse PE58 – 7000kg

DFloc 335 – 19,800kg

D-Floc 52020 – 5000kg

Sulphuric Acid – 6500kg

Table 1, below, is a review of the amount of waste (tonnes) treated per kg of raw material used. During 2025, Neal's used more virgin raw materials than in any of the preceding 3 years. Furthermore, during 2025 they treated less waste per kg of raw material used. As with energy usage, the heterogeneous nature of the waste means it is difficult to compare year-on-year consumption. However, Neal's is required to take appropriate measures to ensure that raw materials and water are used efficiently in their activities. Action 2, below, was issued to NSSL in February 2025.

Table 1

Year	Tonnes Treated	DFloc 331	DFloc 5278	D-Sperse PE58	DFloc 335	Sulphuric Acid
2025	280000	16	15.6	40	14.1	43.1
2024	225000	16.1	18.8	32.1	14.6	34.6
2023	200000	45.5	50	66.7	60.6	47.6
2022	245820	37.2	41	81.9	81.9	51.2
2021	245820	n/a	98.3	41	41	60

CAR_NRW0046409 Action 2: Please review your raw materials usage to identify any opportunities to improve efficiency of use. Please report your findings by the 4th of April 2025.

In response NSSL stated:

A review of raw materials usage has been undertaken with a focus on identifying opportunities to improve efficiency. Our current suppliers conduct regular monitoring and performance assessments of the wash plant to ensure that the chemicals used deliver optimal efficiency. This proactive approach enables adjustments to dosing and chemical selection based on plant performance and product requirements. Variations in chemical volumes are purposefully applied to enhance product quality and meet specific customer demands, while also supporting efficient plant operation. At present, no significant inefficiencies have been identified, and the ongoing supplier-led monitoring ensures that raw material usage remains both effective and economically viable. RPS have also been instructed to undertake a water and raw material efficiency review.

The progress and results of these reviews will be discussed at a site visit on the 13th of March 2026.

Neal's is required to review and record at least every four years whether there are suitable alternative materials that could reduce environmental impact or opportunities to improve the efficiency of raw material and water use. In compliance report CAR_NRW0046409 issued on the 21st of February 2025, NSSL were issued with the following action:

CAR_NRW0046409 Action 3: Please provide NRW with your most recent review. Due 4th of

April 2025.

In response NSSL stated:

“As discussed in action 2, RPS have been instructed with scope to undertake this review in line with the 4 yearly permit requirement.”

The progress and results of these reviews will be discussed at a site visit on the 13th of March 2026.

Energy usage

The washing plant is currently run via diesel oil generators on site. A total of 146,000 litres of diesel oil were used on-site during the reporting period. Following review last year, it was advised that the previously applied conversion approach was considered to be incorrect. No alternative NRW-specific conversion factor or methodology was provided. In the absence of an agreed regulatory multiplier, it was determined by NSSL that the UK Government Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Conversion Factors would be used as the most appropriate and nationally recognised basis for calculation. NSSL state that energy generation is now calculated using a revised approach that first converts diesel volume to fuel energy using the diesel net calorific value and then applies an electrical efficiency factor to reflect actual generator performance. The calculation is undertaken as follows:

146,000 litres × 10.7 kWh/litre = 1,562,200kWh (1562.2MWh)

It appears that NSSL have used the Gross calorific value for gas oil (10.74) rather than the net calorific value (10.098).

NSSL then go on to state that they apply an electrical efficiency factor to reflect actual generator performance. However, this appears to have been omitted from this report.

Action 1: Revise the figures using the net calorific value (10.098) and provide the information regarding the application of the electrical efficiency factor. **Due 13th March 2026.**

NSSL are required to take appropriate measures to ensure that energy is used efficiently in their activities. They are also required to review and record at least every four years whether there are suitable opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the activities and take any further appropriate measures identified by a review. In compliance report CAR_NRW0046409 issued on the 21st of February 2025, NSSL were issued with the following action:

CAR_NRW0046409 Action 5: Please provide NRW with your most recent review. Due 4th of April 2025.

In response to Action 5 NSSL stated:

“We confirm that RPS Tetra Tech are currently in the process of preparing an updated Energy Efficiency Review in line with the 4-yearly requirement set out in our environmental permit. This review will assess the current energy efficiency plan and compare to current energy usage operations, identify opportunities for improvement if any, and ensure continued compliance with best practice and regulatory expectations. The completed report will be submitted to NRW

upon finalisation.”

The progress and results of these reviews will be discussed at a site visit on the 13th of March 2026.

Waste Returns

NRW received NSSL waste returns on time. NSSL received 723173.86tonnes of waste in 2025 and sent 156958.7 tones of waste off site. NSSL’s 2025 recovered materials include approximately 210,000tonnes of sand and aggregates and 68,000tonnes of filter cake. As well as approximately 444tonnes of ferrous and non-ferrous metal were recovered for recycling.

Action 2: Provide NRW with the quantities of all the end of waste/product materials that have left the site in 2025. **Due 3rd April 2026.**

The incoming waste’s EWC codes have been checked against the permit and all match those stipulated in Schedule 2 of the permit.

NSSL disposed of 88,082.40 tonnes of waste with the EWC code 170107 in 2025.

In response to the Regulation 61 Notice sent to Neals on the 17/09/2024, (see compliance report CAR_NRW0046092) NSSL state

“17 01 07 – Stone as per question 9 is going to Newport City Council landfill – Materials don’t require further testing due to the following conditions. The material classified under EWC code 17 01 07 – Inert Tiles/Bricks/Ceramics is deemed inert and does not require testing under the Landfill Directive. This classification is based on its physical and chemical stability, meaning it does not undergo significant physical, chemical, or biological transformations over time. Inert materials, such as bricks, tiles, and concrete, are non-reactive, do not produce leachates harmful to the environment, and do not pose risks of contamination to soil or groundwater. As such, their inert nature aligns with the criteria set by the Landfill Directive, exempting them from the necessity of testing, provided their composition is confirmed through visual inspection or documented evidence from the source.”

However, upon review of the landfill directive NRW would like further information regarding the acceptance, storage, processing and disposal of 170107 waste.

Action 3: with regards to 2025 only, NRW would like to know the answers to the following questions by the **3rd of April 2026:**

- **Do NSSL receive 17 01 07 as a single, unmixed, single-source waste stream, or does it arrive from multiple sources?**
- **How many different waste producers contribute to the 17 01 07 stream NSSL send to landfill?**
- **Can NSSL provide a breakdown of the origin of all 17 01 07 consignments (e.g., per producer, site, or project)?**
- **How do NSSL verify the waste description and EWC code provided by the producer before acceptance?**
- **Does NSSL reject or downgrade loads that contain mixed materials, contaminants, or**

non-inert constituents? If so, how often does this occur?

- **Where on site is 17 01 07 stored before removal to landfill? Is it stored separately from other waste streams?**
- **Do NSSL mix, combine, or bulk together 17 01 07 wastes from different sources before onward transfer?**
- **Are there any circumstances where 17 01 07 is rehandled, mechanically sorted, screened, crushed, or otherwise processed on site?**
- **How do NSSL ensure cross-contamination does not occur during storage, loading or movement of materials on site?**
- **What visual inspection process is used to confirm the load is inert and uncontaminated at acceptance and before dispatch?**
- **How do NSSL demonstrate that the 17 01 07 they send to landfill is free from:**
 - metal
 - plastics
 - wood
 - insulation
 - plasterboard / gypsum
 - soil containing organics
 - asbestos
- **If contamination is discovered, what procedures are followed?**
- **Have NSSL ever reclassified 17 01 07 to another code following inspection? If so, how often?**
- **Do NSSL conduct any Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) testing on this stream before sending it to landfill?**
- **If no testing is carried out, what evidence supports NSSL's decision that the waste meets the “single-source inert” exemption?**
- **Have any receiving landfill operators requested testing or raised concerns about heterogeneity or contamination?**
- **Have any loads been rejected by landfills due to contamination or incorrect classification?**
- **How do NSSL demonstrate that the waste remains “inert” throughout handling and storage?**
- **Can NSSL provide photographs or inspection records supporting the classification for 17 01 07 dispatched to landfill?**
- **How do NSSL confirm compliance with the requirement that inert landfill waste must originate from a *single source and single stream*?**
- **If the waste originates from multiple sources, what is your justification for classifying it under the inert “no testing required” exemption?**

End.

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 required for the permit condition assessed to avoid non-compliance. No non-compliance scored at this time
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(1) – Emissions to water
- IR3A(2) – Emissions to air
- IR3A(3) – Emissions to 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.

Disputing the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If you disagree with the content of this Compliance Assessment Report form, you should submit your concerns, in writing, to the regulating officer who issued it within **15 working days** of its issue. This will be treated as a **Stage 1 review**.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the stage 1 review, you may request a **Stage 2 appeal**. This request must be submitted **within 21 working days** of receiving the response from the stage 1 review.

Further details on our review and appeal process are available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Appeal a regulatory decision from Natural Resources Wales](#)

Concerns Not Related to the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If your concerns do not relate to the content of the Compliance Assessment Report form, you should first attempt to resolve the issue with the regulating officer or their line manager.

If the issue remains unresolved, please contact our **Customer Contact Team**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:00)
- **Email:** enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

They will provide details on how to escalate your concerns through our **Complaints and Commendations procedure**.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you may contact the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 790 0203
- **Email:** 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.