

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0051787

Permit being assessed: SP3298FT.

For: Giants Grave Landfill, **held by:** Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

At: Briton Ferry, Neath, N P T, SA11 2LN.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 12/05/2026.

Parts of permit assessed: 2024 Annual Environmental Report Review.

NRW Lead Officer: Sally Wakeford.

Report sent to: Principal Waste Management Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, on 19/05/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W2C - Waste - Operations - Operating techniques	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

Review of the 2024 Annual Environmental Report – Giants Grave Landfill

This document provides a review of the findings and recommendations presented in the 2024 Annual Environmental Report for Giants Grave Landfill.

1. Leachate Levels and Monitoring (Section 2.5, Page 26)

Leachate Level – LW17B

The 2024 Annual Report identifies that monitoring data from LW17B has demonstrated consistent readings since 2023. Historically, compliance limits were derived during the 2016 Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA) review (updated 2019) using limited data, resulting in the application of a default permit limit of 1m above the well base.

Since April 2023, leachate levels have exceeded this 1m limit on all but one occasion, with an average level of approximately 2.6m above well base. As agreed by NRW (email dated 22/01/2025), comparison monitoring between LW17B and A1301 was required throughout 2025. A full 12-month dataset is expected to inform any proposal to amend compliance limits.

It is acknowledged that a future HRA addendum may consider an amendment to the leachate trigger level for LW17B.

Schedule 5 Notifications – BH17B

The Operator has continued to submit Schedule 5 notifications for exceedances of the 1m limit, in line with permit requirements. Following implementation of comparison monitoring with A1301, NRW confirmed that exceedances from LW17B would not be scored (email dated 22/01/2025).

Leachate Level Monitoring

The 2024 Annual Report presents a case for amending the frequency of leachate level monitoring at several locations (excluding LW17B). NRW would consider these amendments, where supported by a revised HRA and appropriate permit variation.

Leachate Quality

There are no formal leachate quality trigger levels, so the purpose of monitoring is for characterisation only.

The mean ammoniacal nitrogen and chloride across the LWx wells is consistent with a leachate from an aged waste mass, although the results from the A130x leachate wells continue to record higher concentrations. The annual hazardous substances suite, completed twice in 2024, shows there are no significant adverse trends noted for the parameters monitored.

The 2024 Annual Report provides a review of the monitoring frequency. Based on the

current guidance only, the current monthly frequency of leachate level monitoring would appear to exceed monitoring frequency guidance (in LFTGN02) typical for landfills in the aftercare phase.

Based on the report NRW would consider:

- Most LWx wells: amendment to 6-monthly monitoring as per guidance
- A1301–A1303/A1305: continuation of quarterly monitoring to confirm trends.

Implementation of any amendments would require an updated HRA, revised Landfill Aftercare Plan and permit variation.

2. Groundwater Monitoring (Section 3.5, Pages 44–46)

The 2024 Annual Report highlights ongoing exceedances of ammoniacal nitrogen trigger levels at:

- BH9B (two occasions)
- BH43B (two occasions)
- BH45B (all but one occasion)

BH43B also shows upward trends in ammoniacal nitrogen, potassium, and chloride over the past two years.

The Annual Report also considered whether the monitoring frequencies were considered appropriate compared to the guidance for a closed landfill site. The guidance states monitoring is site specific and therefore must be informed by an updated Hydrogeological Risk Assessment.

Given these findings it is NRW's position that the current monthly monitoring frequency remains appropriate and that amendments to monitoring frequency cannot be considered where:

- Trigger levels are repeatedly exceeded
- Trends are increasing
- Adequate investigation has not been completed

The six-monthly hazardous substances suite may be a candidate for amendment, subject to maintaining the capacity for intensified monitoring if required.

Additionally, requirements from CAR_NRW0044738 (12 July 2024) remain outstanding, the action in the CAR form was: *“Operator to consider work to come into compliance with the limits in the permit, or present evidence to apply to vary compliance limits by 29 November or as otherwise agreed in writing with NRW.”*

3. Surface Water Monitoring (Section 4.5, Pages 56–58)

The report states: “Within the Addendum to the HRA... the following is stated:

“Once the proposal to revise compliance limits, as set out in this Addendum, have been determined by NRW, NPTWM will submit a revision to the Aftercare Plan in respect of control and trigger levels for surface water:

- *To remove Chloride limits from River North and River South (in accordance with Section 8.2 of HRA2016); and*
- *To revise Ammoniacal Nitrogen limits at River North and River South (in accordance with the 2018 Annual Report).*

Although the changes to chloride were implemented from June 2017, the changes to compliance limits for ammoniacal nitrogen have not been implemented and are awaiting a revision to the Landfill Aftercare Plan.”

The 2024 Annual Report confirms that previously agreed proposals (HRA Addendum, 2020) to revise surface water compliance limits remain partially unimplemented, particularly for ammoniacal nitrogen.

The Report also states: *“Trigger and control levels for ammoniacal nitrogen are detailed the Aftercare Plan for the surface water monitoring and based on the 2024 data, the control and trigger levels for the River and Canal monitoring locations remain relevant.”*

Current findings show:

- Only control level exceedances (no trigger exceedances)
- Stable relevance of existing trigger and control limits.

The Report states that the surface water monitoring locations in the aftercare phase could be set to a minimum frequency of every 6 months, rather than the quarterly required during the operational phase according to the relevant guidance. However, this is on a site-by-site basis to ensure environmental protection. In this case, NRW would consider:

- River Locations
 - Quarterly monitoring for 12 months
 - Followed by 6-monthly monitoring if no trigger exceedances occur
- Canal Locations
 - Amendment from monthly to quarterly monitoring

Any amendments to the frequency and compliance limits for ammoniacal nitrogen would require a revision to the Landfill Aftercare Plan and potentially the HRA. The Landfill Aftercare Plan should also include any contingency action if limits are breached. A permit variation would need to be completed to amend the relevant table in schedule 3 of the permit and Table S1.2 of Schedule 1 Operating documents.

4. Landfill Gas Monitoring (Section 5.5, Pages 77–79)

Perimeter Boreholes

No in-waste gas monitoring data has been received or reviewed by C&P Environmental Ltd for the Annual Report. Therefore, the perimeter gas monitoring has not been compared to the in-waste production.

The Report proposes the possibility to move to 6-monthly monitoring for perimeter wells, this would require:

- Demonstration of effective in-waste gas collection
- Evidence of adequate extraction coverage
- Gas balancing assessment

Higher-risk eastern perimeter wells should remain on monthly monitoring due to elevated methane concentrations.

Further supporting evidence could include:

- Gas flow and methane monitoring using gas clams
- Investigation into whether certain wells are effectively in-waste

NRW agree with the statement that: “If any monitoring frequency was reduced, there would need to be an ability for appropriate intensive monitoring if any action or compliance levels were exceeded.”

The Landfill Aftercare Plan would need revision alongside permit variation.

Surface Emissions

The surface emissions survey was undertaken in October 2024, and the ground conditions were described as waterlogged. The survey included landfill gas and leachate extraction and monitoring infrastructure as well as surface emissions through the engineered cap.

There were 7 discrete locations where concentrations were recorded as ≥ 100 ppm through capped surfaces. The LFTGN07 guidance states that if a walkover survey demonstrates the cap is not consistent and there are discrete features emitting substantial amounts of landfill gas, remedial action is required as soon as practically possible. Within the report it is recommended that “an action plan is considered and implemented to more frequently monitor (visually) and consider whether any remediation is required.”

It has been confirmed by NPTCBC that more frequent monitoring is occurring.

The comparison between the methane contour plots shows that the higher readings from October 2024 were in similar locations to some of those in January 2024

It is also recommended that the surface emissions survey was completed in late summer 2025, at a different season to previous years.

On the next revision of the Landfill Aftercare Plan, an update will be required with considerations of actions required for discrete surface emission features.

The Operator should consider if action is required to remediate the capping at these discrete locations, based off the more frequent visual reports and the surface emissions

survey.

5. Conclusions and Summary

The 2024 Annual Environmental Report presents justification for amendments to monitoring frequencies, supported by relevant data and guidance.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

- **Leachate Levels:**
Amendments may be considered (excluding LW17B), subject to HRA review.
- **Leachate Quality:**
LWx wells to 6-monthly; A130x wells to remain quarterly (pending trend confirmation).
- **Groundwater:**
No amendments supported at present due to ongoing exceedances and rising trends.
Further investigation and HRA review required.
- **Surface Water:**
Stepwise amendment to reduced frequency (river and canal), subject to Aftercare Plan revision.
- **Landfill Gas (Perimeter):**
Amendments conditional on demonstration of effective gas control systems.
- **Surface Emissions:**
Additional investigation, maintenance, and monitoring required prior to any future amendments.

END

Any compliance criteria not highlighted in the above summary should be considered as not assessed.

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resource Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012.

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 Waste compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

1. Management

- W1A – General management
- W1B – Energy Efficiency (MCP/SG facilities only)
- W1C – Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

2. Operations

- W2A – Permitted activities
- W2B – Waste recovery plan
- W2C – Operating techniques
- W2D – The site
- W2E – Waste acceptance
- W2F – Technical requirements
- W2G – Improvement programme
- W2H – Pre-operational conditions

3. Emission and Monitoring

- W3A(1) – Emissions to water
- W3A(2) – Emissions to air
- W3A(3) – Emissions to land
- W3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- W3C – Odour
- W3D – Noise and vibration
- W3E – Monitoring
- W3F – Pests
- W3G – Fire

4. Information

- W4A – Records
- W4B – Reporting
- W4C – 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.