

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0051957

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: 22/05/2026.

Parts of permit assessed: Annual Environmental Report 2025.

NRW Lead Officer: Sally Wakeford.

Report sent to: Principal Waste Management Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, on 22/05/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W4C - Waste - Information - Notification	Assessed (A)	
W4B - Waste - Information - Reporting	Assessed (A)	
W3A(1) - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	3.5.1(b) Table 3.2 (amended)
W3A(1) - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	3.5.1(c) Table 3.4

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
2	8

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
W3A(1)	Undertake leachate depth monitoring of A1301 as agreed with NRW, or consider other options for monitoring of LW17b. Discuss proposals with NRW	17/01/2027
W3A(1)	Operator to investigate reasons for high elevated ammoniacal	17/01/2027

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	nitrogen in BH45B and BH43B	

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

This Compliance Assessment Report has been completed following the compliance review of quarterly monitoring notifications submissions for 2025, the Schedule 5 notifications and the Annual Report 2025.

As per permit condition 4.3.1, Schedule 5 notifications of permit breaches have been submitted by the operator. (W4C – Notifications), along with the quarterly monitoring returns and Annual Environmental Report (W4B - Reporting).

As per agreement with NRW, these breaches have been consolidated to an annual report. This report covers the calendar year of 2025.

Leachate Level Breaches

W3A – Emissions to water, air or land – Permit Condition 3.5.1(b) Table 3.2 (amended) – Category 3 breach (consolidated)

Monitoring and sampling undertaken in 2025 identified leachate level exceedances that were reported via Schedule 5 Notifications received throughout the year, as shown below.

Date of monitoring	Borehole	gas/level	unit	Compliance limit/ trigger level	Measured value
21/01/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2.7
18/02/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2.6
23/04/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2.4
19/05/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2.4
17/06/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2.2
30/07/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2.2
19/08/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2.1
15/09/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2
11/11/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	2
17/12/2025	LW17b	Leachate depth	m	1	3.1
17/12/2025	LW5	Leachate depth	m	1.6	2
17/12/2025	LW8	Leachate depth	m	1	1.2
17/12/2025	LW15	Leachate depth	m	2.1	2.2

The exceedance of leachate level limits has been scored as a (consolidated) category 3 breach of the permit condition 3.5.1 (b) and table S3.2, which was amended during HRA review in 2020 to the compliance levels shown in the below table.

Monitoring point reference/ Description	Limit (m above base of well)	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring method
LW5	1.6	Monthly unless otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales	1. Accurate to + 0.01m relative to Ordnance Datum 2. Unless otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales, monitoring methods used shall be in accordance with Environment
LW8	1.0		
LW15	2.1		
LW17	1.0		
A1302	3.0		
A1305	2.8		
Any additional leachate wells installed during the closure & aftercare period, after April 2019.	1.0		
as shown on drawing reference: Drawing NPTCBC - GG Environmental Monitoring Plan BHs and LWs Sept 2018	unless otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales		Agency document "Guidance on monitoring of landfill leachate, groundwater and surface water" (LFTGN 02).

These breaches have been consolidated into one annual category 3 breach of permit.

LW17b remains difficult to monitor the leachate levels. Typically, this well appears to be steady around approximately 2.4-2.9m. It was the intention of the operator to review the data collected and submit an amendment to the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA) for approval from NRW to amend the leachate level limit for this well.

As agreed by NRW in an email dated 22/01/2025, the operator was required to compare LW17b with A1301 throughout 2025. Following a request to undertake the comparison monitoring of a nearby well the decision was made not to score the breaches of the limit. However, as shown in the Annual Environmental Monitoring Report, this comparison monitoring has not taken place, and the Operator has failed to act upon an action for permit compliance. The score cannot be suspended.

"However, recent discussion with NRW highlighted that NPTCBC could compare the leachate levels in LW17b with those for the nearby A1301 throughout 2025. This would then provide a dataset to inform any potential changes to the leachate level limit in LW17b. However, there is no recent leachate level monitoring in A1301 and no comparison can be made. It would be recommended to start monitoring the leachate levels in A1301 (along with those wells with compliance levels) on a monthly basis to build up a dataset."

ACTION: Undertake leachate depth monitoring of A1301 as agreed with NRW, or consider other options for monitoring of LW17b. Discuss proposals with NRW by 17 January 2027 or as otherwise agreed in writing with NRW.

Groundwater Limit Breaches

W3A – Emissions to water, air or land – Permit Condition 3.5.1(c) Table 3.4 – Category 3 breach (consolidated)

Monitoring and sampling undertaken in 2025 identified exceedances of compliance limits for emissions into groundwater for Ammoniacal Nitrogen that were reported via Schedule 5 Notifications received throughout the year. Schedule 5 notifications shown below.

- BH12 – The control level of 1.6mg/l was exceeded in July 2025 with a reading of 1.7mg/l.
- BH45B – The trigger level of 59.5mg/l was exceeded on all eleven occasions (flooded December 2025). The concentration recorded was up to a maximum concentration of 130mg/l in April 2025.

Borehole BH45B - All monitoring completed in 2025 has exceeded the trigger level of 59.5mg/l (eleven results as location flooded in December). The mean concentration in 2025 has increased to 102mg/l compared to 81mg/l in 2024. It is recognised that this location also records elevated methane and the likely presence of landfill gas as it is believed that this borehole (along with BH43B and BH40B) are buried in waste outside the landfill boundary and therefore outside the influence of the any onsite leachate and gas control infrastructure – although confirmation of this would be a recommendation.

- BH43B – exceeded either the control or trigger level in all eleven occasions (flooded December 2025). Exceeded the trigger level of 108.9mg/l on six occasions (January, March to June and November) with the highest concentration being 120mg/l.

Borehole BH43B The ammoniacal nitrogen in 2025 continues a general rising trend observed since 2022 (as shown by the linear trendline on the graph) with all results in 2025 above the control level of 72.6mg/l. The results now fluctuate around the trigger level of 108.9mg/l with six of eleven results breaching this compliance level. The groundwater being sampled in this borehole has always had elevated ammoniacal nitrogen present, but the levels are now much higher. Potential investigation into the groundwater in the borehole should be considered.

The most significant rising trend observed continues to be for ammoniacal nitrogen for BH43B (although a rising trend in chloride and potassium for this location did not continue throughout 2025)

The exceedance of Ammoniacal Nitrogen limits have been scored as a consolidated category 3 breach of the permit under condition 3.5.1(c) Table S3.4.

In an email to the Operator on 20/05/2026 it was suggested that the following actions could be investigated regarding these boreholes:

- The original drilling logs if they can be located.
- Failing that a historical record review could be undertaken and plans of the site and

surrounding produced a basic CSM or refined existing one included any potential nearby sources.

- Please confirm how deep these monitoring points are – what is the current depth to water/base.
- Shallow trial pits could be undertaken in the locality to record the arisings.

The HRA2016 has been reviewed in regard to these two boreholes and found the following statements regarding BH43B and BH45B:

“could possibly be attributed to a leak in the base of the eastern drain”

“...in all likelihood there could have been an outbreak incident in the vicinity of BH43B, however, as this ‘event’ appears to be depleting it is considered that any impact will be less significant in future. Significantly monitoring at BH12 to the south of BH45B at the edge of the southern extension demonstrates that any plume that developed had been completely dispersed or attenuated to background concentrations by the edge of the landfilled area”.

Current monitoring indicates the levels are still high in these boreholes, and BH43B continues a general rising trend since 2022. As the HRAR is required (see section on HRAR below), the reasons for the high (and rising) levels of Ammoniacal Nitrogen in BH45B and BH43B should be assessed during this review and further investigation undertaken.

ACTION: Operator to investigate reasons for high elevated ammoniacal nitrogen in BH45B and BH43B by 17 January 2027 or as otherwise agreed in writing with NRW.

Annual Hazardous Substances Suite

The annual hazardous substances suite for leachate samples was completed in October 2025. The four yearly hazardous substances suite was completed on samples in October 2025. **LW18 does not appear to have been monitored for the annual requirement.**

2 yearly hazardous substances monitoring

Overall, the groundwaters do not record any significant increases between the 2023 results and those from October 2025 for the hazardous metals.

Overall, the groundwaters do not record any significant increases between the 2023 results and those from October 2025 for the other inorganics analysed.

No BTEX detected in either 2023 or 2025 – the 2025 results include improved minimum reporting values.

No phenol or phenol compounds detected in either 2023 or 2025.

Overall, the 2025 hazardous substances analysis has not recorded any results that are significantly different from those recorded in 2023.

3.1.6 – Hydrogeological Risk Assessment Review (HRAR)

The permit condition 3.1.6 states that:

3.1.6 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 unless otherwise agreed in writing by NRW.

A review of the HRA should be submitted 6-9 months before 6 and then 12 years after permit issue – The current permit was issued in 17 July 2015, and 12th Anniversary date being 17 July 2027 – 6 months prior to this would be **17 January 2027** when an HRAR would be required under permit condition 3.1.6. The previous full HRAR was conducted in 2016, albeit amended in 2019 and only accepted in 2020. However, this would still require a review even from acceptance date.

ACTION: provide updated HRA by 17 January 2027 unless otherwise agreed in writing with NRW.

You will note that all actions noted within this CAR have been aligned to coincide with the requirement of a HRAR update, this is to allow these investigations into LW17B/A1301 and BH45B/BH43B to be completed and updated within the HRAR. Please contact your regulatory officer if there are any concerns.

Appendix F

Thank you for providing the relevant documents for Appendix F of the Annual Report, these have been provided to our Landfill Emissions Reduction Project Team for review.

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.