

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052033

Permit being assessed: LP3030XA.

For: Cardiff Energy Recovery Facility, **held by:** Viridor Trident Park Limited

At: Trident Park, Glass Avenue, Cardiff, CF24 5EN.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 29/04/2026 - 30/04/2026.

Parts of permit assessed: 1.1.1(a) and 3.1.2. and 4.2.3.

NRW Lead Officer: Geraint Harris.

Report sent to: Plant Manager, Plant Manager, on 03/06/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	Assessed (A)	
IR3A(1) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
IR4B - Installations - Information - Reporting	Assessed (A)	
IR3A(2) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	Ongoing (O)	3.1.2
IR3A(2) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	Action only (X)	

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
IR3A(2)	Actions will be addressed in the next CAR Form	Already completed

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR3A(2)	Action 1: While there is no explicit requirement for Viridor to report the cause of individual “NA” daily averages within the routine returns, NRW requests clarification on the reasons for insufficient data capture on these dates. This should include confirmation of whether the data gaps were due to CEMS availability, calibration or maintenance activities, plant shutdowns, or other operational or instrumentation issues, and how these periods have been considered in demonstrating compliance with daily ELVs. Due 22nd June 2026.	22/06/2026

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

Q1

Q1 Monitoring Returns

During this reporting period, on the 10th March 2026, NRW received a Schedule 5 Notification in relation to the issues surrounding the failed ASTs (CAR_NRW0050893), followed by the associated Part B submission on the 8th May 2026. These submissions provide further information on the extent and cause of the calibration and reporting issues identified, including potential impacts on reported NO_x emissions and compliance with ELVs. The details of this notification, and NRW’s assessment of the Viridor’s response, will be addressed in a later CAR form.

The Q1 (January to March) monitoring returns were received on time and reported no ELV exceedances. However, given the identified failures of the AST and issues with the validity and implementation of calibration functions, the reliability of the reported NO_x emissions data is now in question. It is therefore likely that NO_x ELV exceedances occurred during this period but were not identified in the submitted returns. This has been progressed via Viridor’s Schedule 5 notifications and will be assessed further by NRW.

The permit defines a daily average emission limit value as the average of at least 43 valid half-hourly averages (or, for CO, 43 valid half-hourly or 129 valid 10-minute averages). A review of the Q1 monitoring data indicates a number of dates where daily averages are recorded as “NA” across multiple determinands (including HCl, SO₂, NO_x, VOC, PM, NH₃ and CO), specifically:

- A1: 29th March
- A2: 22nd and 24th January
- A2: 7th, 10th and 11th February

Viridor has reported several planned and unplanned outages during the quarter, which provide some context for periods of reduced data availability. However, it is not clear which events or underlying issues resulted in the dates listed above being designated as “N/A”.

Action 1: While there is no explicit requirement for Viridor to report the cause of individual “NA” daily averages within the routine returns, NRW requests clarification on the reasons for insufficient data capture on these dates. This should include confirmation of whether the data gaps were due to CEMS availability, calibration or maintenance activities, plant shutdowns, or other operational or instrumentation issues, and how these periods have been considered in demonstrating compliance with daily ELVs. **Due 22nd June 2026.**

Waste Returns

Viridor’s Q1 waste return has been reviewed against their permit and has been accepted.

Climate Change Risk Assessment

We have carried out a basic review of Viridor’s’ risk assessment and satisfied it meets our current climate change risk assessment requirements. The CCRA demonstrates a good understanding of relevant climate hazards and identifies site-specific risks, receptors, and pathways effectively. Existing mitigation measures are generally well described and reflect current good practice for the EfW sector. Climate change is appropriately recognised, with reference to increasing temperatures and rainfall intensity.

The CCRA identifies relevant risks and describes existing controls effectively; however, it does not consistently evaluate whether those controls will remain effective under future climate conditions, such as increased temperatures or more intense rainfall.

Similarly, while additional mitigation measures are identified, these are often high-level or procedural in nature. It is not always clear how these actions will reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring, or the severity of its impact. As a result, the assessment does not fully demonstrate how proposed measures will reduce overall risk, which limits its effectiveness as a forward-looking risk assessment.

In a comprehensive risk assessment, risks are typically reassessed after mitigation measures are applied in order to determine the level of residual risk. In this case, risks are generally scored initially, but the assessment does not consistently revisit these ratings once controls or additional measures are considered and reviewed. This means it is not always clear whether the risks have been reduced to an acceptable level or how effective the mitigation measures are.

Whilst freezing conditions are correctly identified as an operational issue, the assessment should recognise and evaluate the potential for associated emissions impacts, particularly during startup and shutdown conditions.

In addition, whilst risks are identified, the assessment does not clearly define trigger points, contingency measures, or operational responses. For example, it does not set out the conditions under which specific actions would be taken (such as rainfall thresholds prompting flood response measures or temperature thresholds triggering enhanced odour controls). The absence of these elements means that the approach is more reactive than proactive.

It is recognised that these aspects do not necessarily need to sit entirely within the CCRA itself and may instead be appropriately addressed within the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP). However, they should be clearly defined in either the risk assessment or the CCAP to demonstrate how risks will be actively managed in practice.

Whilst the assessment includes a commitment to periodic review, there is currently no clear framework for incorporating new climate data or demonstrating continuous improvement. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) is expected to address this, including the development of measurable KPIs, trigger points, and defined actions.

Overall, the CCRA provides a strong baseline, but would benefit from a more structured, outcome-based approach that clearly demonstrates how risks will be reduced and managed under future climate conditions. There is no further action required at this stage, however the CCRA is a live document and should be reviewed periodically as part of your EMS and after any significant climate change related events or near misses.

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.