

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052617

Permit being assessed: BP3494FC.

For: Gardden Claypit 1 Midlands, **held by:** WRG (Midlands) Ltd

At: Gardden, Ruabon, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL14 6RF.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 17/08/2026.

Parts of permit assessed: Monitoring.

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Walton.

Report sent to: Chris Bennion, Steve Crocker, Site Business Manager, Environmental Compliance Data Analyst, on 17/08/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W3A(3) - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to land	C3 Minor	2.7
W3A(1) - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
W3A(2) - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	Action only (X)	
W3A(2) - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	C3 Minor	3.1.6
W2C - Waste - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	

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(3)	Take action to reduce leachate levels in in GWM3 and LMP2r to come in line with compliance limits.	07/09/2026
W3A(1)	ACTION: Submit quarter 1 point source emission data for WMP4a. Ensure monitoring data for WMP4a is included with quarterly monitoring reports.	24/08/2026
W3A(2)	ACTION: Please submit missing data for BH12a and GPF1.	24/08/2026
W3A(2)	Investigate elevated Carbon Dioxide and Methane levels and take action to bring levels back within permit limits.	07/09/2026
W2C	Provide some analysis and interpretation of groundwater quality results at WB2a and possible causes for these results and whether landfill leachate is potentially impacting groundwater and surface water quality. Update the site's HRA to reflect recent groundwater testing results.	14/09/2026

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

A review of monitoring data for quarter 1 2026 has been completed.

Leachate levels

GWM3 has a compliance limit of 114.25mAOD. This leachate well breached the limit on the following occasions:

10/02/2026 116.55

13/03/2026 117.29

LMP2r has a compliance limit of 114mAOD. This leachate well breached the limit on the following occasion:

10/02/2026 114.05

The above breaches of leachate levels have been consolidated into one **CCS C3 score**.

ACTION: Take action to reduce leachate levels in GWM3 and LMP2r to come in line with compliance limits.

Point source emissions to water

No point source emission data for WMP4a (sample point) was included with quarter 1 monitoring round data.

Whilst it is appreciated the permit only requires annual reporting of this data, given the recent compliance issues at WMP4a regarding ammoniacal nitrogen, please can quarter 1 data for WMP4a be submitted to NRW. Please include this data with quarterly reporting moving forward until NRW is satisfied this issue is resolved.

ACTION: Submit quarter 1 point source emission data for WMP4a. Ensure monitoring data for WMP4a is included with quarterly monitoring reports.

Landfill gas in external monitoring boreholes

Data appears to be missing for BH12a for January and February 2026 and GPF1 for February 2026.

ACTION: Please submit missing data for BH12a and GPF1.

The following boreholes breached limits for Carbon Dioxide in quarter 1:

BH2a (Limit of 1.5%) - breached on 7 occasions

BH3b (Limit of 1.5%) - breached on 5 occasions

BH4b (Limit of 1.5) - breached on 1 occasion

GBH3 (Limit of 1.5%) - breached on 8 occasions

BH7 (Limit of 1.4%) - breached on 7 occasions

BH8 (Limit of 1.8%) - breached on 8 occasions

GBH2 (Limit of 1.6%) - breached on 3 occasions

BH11a (Limit of 1.5%) - breached on 1 occasion

BH12a (Limit of 1.7%) - breached on 1 occasion

GBH10 (Limit of 2.7%) breached on 2 occasions

The following perimeter boreholes breached limits for methane in quarter 1:

GPF1 (Limit of 1%) - breached on 1 occasion with recorded value of 1.5%.

The above perimeter gas breaches have been recorded as one consolidated CCS C3 score.

ACTION: Investigate elevated Methane and Carbon Dioxide levels and take action to bring levels back within permit limits.

Groundwater

WB2A is a downgradient superficial strata groundwater borehole, monitoring the upper water-bearing glacial/fluvioglacial deposits.

WB2a recorded the following parameters on 18/02/2026:

Alkalinity (CaCO₃:mg/l): 25.7

Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N:mg/l): 2.3

Conductivity (uS / cm): 2650

Chloride (mg/l): 838

The site's Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA), notes that the landfill leachate is sodium-biocarbonate-chloride leachate containing elevated ammoniacal nitrogen and chloride.

The elevated chloride, ammoniacal nitrogen and conductivity are all parameters which are consistent with the leachate chemistry.

The results for WB2A show substantial increases in ammoniacal nitrogen, chloride and conductivity compared with the historical data set in the HRA.

The Chloride levels recorded at WB2a are around 8 times the long term average.

The HRA conceptual model states WB5B is one of the principal upgradient superficial groundwater monitoring boreholes. WB2A is downgradient on the east side. Groundwater flow is interpreted as being west to east.

The above results show a strong concentration gradient between WB5B and WB2A. This result is not consistent with the HRA's conclusion that no impact is observed within superficial groundwater receptor. The current results show a deviation from groundwater quality conditions relied upon in the HRA.

The very low alkalinity is also not consistent with the HRA findings.

The earlier mentioned leachate head breaches at GWM3 and LMP2r are located close to and up gradient of WB2a. This should be explored as a possible cause for the elevated groundwater quality results and action should be taken to reduce leachate heads to within compliance limits.

ACTIONS:

- **Provide some analysis and interpretation of groundwater quality results at WB2a and possible causes for these results and whether landfill leachate is potentially impacting groundwater and surface water quality.**
- **Update the site's HRA to reflect recent groundwater testing results.**

End of comments

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.