

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052749

Permit being assessed: BU8002IT.

For: Cross Hands Meat Processing Plant, **held by:** Dunbia UK

At: Cross Hands Business Park West , Cross Hands, Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire, SA14 6RF.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 20/08/2026 between 09:15 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Management, Emissions and monitoring, Information.

NRW Lead Officer: Alex Bowder, accompanied by Daren Pike.

Report sent to: Dunbia (UK), Environmental Manager and Co-ordinator, on 21/08/2026.

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)	
IR2A - Installations - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
IR2B - Installations - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
IR2C - Installations - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
IR3C - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Odour	Assessed (A)	
IR3D - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Noise and vibration	Assessed (A)	
IR3E - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Assessed (A)	
IR3F - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Pests	Assessed (A)	
IR4A - Installations - Information - Records	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

1. Purpose and background

This Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) records the observations and comments of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) officers following a site inspection undertaken on 20 August 2026 at Cross Hands Meat Processing Plant, Cross Hands Business Park West, Cross Hands, SA14 6RF. The inspection related to activities carried out by Dunbia (UK) Ltd under Environmental Permit EPR/BU8002IT.

The visit was undertaken to facilitate the regulatory handover to NRW Officer Daren Pike and to conduct a routine compliance inspection of activities regulated under the environmental permit. The inspection included a review of permitted operations, environmental management arrangements, emission control measures, and site infrastructure. Discussions were held with site representatives regarding operational performance and environmental compliance.

No permit condition non-compliances were identified during the visit, and no compliance assessment scores were recorded.

2. Site walkover and general inspection

NRW officers arrived on site at approximately 9:15am and completed the required site induction procedures before meeting with Dunbia representatives. Following introductions and an update on staffing, operational matters, and changes since the previous inspection, officers undertook a general inspection of the facility.

The inspection focused on key environmental aspects of the operation, including site drainage infrastructure, emission control measures, waste storage and handling activities, the effluent treatment plant (ETP), and external operational areas. Discussions were held throughout the visit regarding the management of permitted activities, environmental performance, routine maintenance, compliance monitoring, and improvement measures implemented since previous inspections.

The food preparation and production halls were not included within the scope of this visit. No

environmental compliance issues were identified within the areas inspected.

Site Drainage

Officers reviewed the site's drainage infrastructure and associated maintenance arrangements. Site representatives outlined ongoing inspection and maintenance activities undertaken by the engineering team to ensure drainage systems remain operational and free from obstruction. The drainage network appeared well maintained at the time of the visit, with no visible defects or concerns identified.

Emission Points and Monitoring

The operator described the routine monitoring and inspection regime in place for permitted emission points. Regular checks continue to be undertaken at the W2 discharge location and associated penstock infrastructure, with records maintained to demonstrate completion of inspections. Environmental management activities remain integrated within the site's wider ISO 14001 certified management system.

The operator provided an overview of the annual stack emission monitoring programme, which covers five emission points comprising two steam generation stacks, two hot water boiler stacks, and one smoker stack. Emissions testing is undertaken at the required frequency and the results are submitted to NRW annually in accordance with the permit requirements.

The proposed introduction of backup generators at the site was discussed, including the applicability of the Medium Combustion Plant (MCP) Regulations and associated permitting requirements. It was noted that backup generators can fall within the scope of the MCP regime and may require permitting, even where they are operated primarily for emergency use or routine testing.

Officers reminded the operator that monitoring return data must be submitted within the reporting period specified in the permit and emphasised the importance of complying with these requirements.

Infrastructure Improvements

Officers reviewed the area surrounding the W5 sampling point and discussed infrastructure improvements implemented by the operator. Previously installed protective barriers remained in place and continue to provide protection to the adjacent gas installation from vehicle movements. These controls appeared effective, and no related incidents have been reported since their installation.

The engineering workshop has now been constructed adjacent to the main building. General housekeeping standards were satisfactory, and recently introduced storage improvements were noted. The operator confirmed that the site's drainage plans have been updated to reflect the revised layout and current drainage arrangements associated with this development.

Effluent Treatment Plant

The ETP and associated operational areas were inspected. The installation remained in good condition, with treatment equipment situated on impermeable surfaces and segregated from surrounding activities. Site representatives provided an overview of the management arrangements for screenings and sludge generated by the treatment process, including off-site transfer to appropriately authorised facilities.

Chemical storage and dosing systems were observed to have suitable secondary containment measures in place, with spill response equipment readily available. No issues were identified regarding chemical storage, containment, or housekeeping standards during the inspection.

Officers discussed the potential for undertaking a future **audit of the ETP**. The audit would involve a detailed review of the various treatment stages and operational controls to verify that the plant is functioning as intended and to identify opportunities to optimise treatment performance and overall effluent quality.

Site representatives confirmed that no odour-related concerns had been raised since the previous inspection.

Ammonia Management

The operator provided an update on measures implemented to manage ammonia concentrations within site discharges and reduce the risk of elevated results. Discussion included ongoing drainage maintenance activities, housekeeping measures, and improvements to waste handling equipment. Modifications previously made to the PortaPacker system remain in use and are intended to minimise the potential for liquid losses during operation and waste container exchanges.

The operator queried the ammonia emission limit value (ELV) of 0.3 mg/l specified in the permit and asked whether there may be scope for this limit to be reviewed through a permit variation, given the tight compliance threshold. NRW officers explained that permit ELVs are derived using a risk-based assessment methodology. This process takes into account the background water quality of the receiving watercourse, the available dilution within the river system, and the environmental quality standards necessary to protect the aquatic environment, including fish populations and other sensitive ecological receptors.

3. Conclusion

The inspection concluded with a summary discussion between NRW officers and site representatives. Based on observations made during the visit, environmental control measures appeared to be operating effectively, and no permit non-compliances were identified.

Officers left site at 11:00 AM.

ATTENDEES	POSITION / ORGANISATION
Alex Bowder	Senior Regulation Officer, NRW
Daren Pike	Senior Regulation Officer, NRW
HSE Manager	Dunbia (UK)
Environmental Manager	Dunbia (UK)
Environmental Co-ordinator	Dunbia (UK)
Site Engineering Manager	Dunbia (UK)

Alex Bowder and Daren Pike

Senior Officers - Southwest Wales Industry Regulation

Alex.Bowder@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

END OF REPORT

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.