Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0053215

Permit being assessed: PP3998FD.

For: Court House Farm, **held by:** Pembrokeshire County Council

At: Little Newcastle, Letterson, Pembrokeshire, SA62 5TD.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 12/10/2026.

Parts of permit assessed: Closure Plan.

NRW Lead Officer: Sally Wakeford.

Report sent to: Environmental Services Project Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, on 12/10/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	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
W1A	Provide an updated closure plan and plan the monitoring for surrender in line with the current guidance.	30/04/2027

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

On 30/01/2025 A Post Closure working plan was submitted to NRW by Pembrokeshire County Council regarding the closed landfill at Court House Farm, Little Newcastle, Letterson.

The Closure Plan submitted includes a comprehensive history of the site. The plan suggests one round of surface water samples, followed by additional rounds if required, could be undertaken to aid the surrender of the permit. Whilst there are no monitoring requirements within the permit, a surrender would require more than some surface water samples to be accepted.

These water samples, however, would be a good way to start to determine if the landfill is having an impact, but they do not cover the whole range of requirements for surrender.

NRW's Geoscience team provided the following information regarding the surrender requirements, It was identified that landfill sits on a Secondary B aquifer and the waste deposited was lower leaching potential Type B.

In the current guidance, how-to-surrender-your-environmental-permit-additional-guidance-for-landfill-and-other-permanent-deposits-of-waste-saesneg-yn-unig.pdf Table 2 on page 12 states the risk matrix would require 2b* and the information required for surrender assessment as:

"*2b You must base your application either on a direct assessment of the leaching or gassing potential of the waste, or through a risk assessment that shows that there is a suitable barrier to prevent pollution.*

- *To assess the risk to water, the results of a site investigation or routine monitoring must demonstrate that groundwater or surface water receptors are not being impacted by the leachate.*
- *To assess the risk from landfill gas you must either demonstrate that the concentration of gas within the waste is:*
    - *similar to background soil gas concentrations (either natural sources or as a result of non-landfill activities); or*
    - *below 5% for carbon dioxide and below 1.5% for methane; or*
    - *between 5% and 10% carbon dioxide and between 1.5 % and 5% methane, where the maximum hazardous gas flow rates (Qhgs as defined by BS 8485:2007) is 0.7 litres/hour. The maximum gas flow rate in any borehole must be less than 70 litres/hour. o Above 10% carbon dioxide and/or above 5% methane, you should monitor in accordance with Chapter 5 and submit a standard surrender application.* A desk study may be sufficient at sites in Secondary B locations. This should be clarified in pre-application discussions"*

Section 4.2.3 goes on to explain further the requirements of monitoring for gas with the waste types deposited:

"***4.2.3. Pre-Landfill Directive inert wastes - monitoring***

If your site has accepted waste with a low leaching and gassing potential, but based on your assessment you decide that you need more monitoring data to determine whether the waste has achieved the completion criteria, you must monitor for a reasonable minimum period:

- *For sites in Table 2 categories 2a and 2b, we recommend that you carry out monitoring to assess the impact from leachate quarterly, for a minimum of two consecutive years. To assess the impact from landfill gas the monitoring should be a minimum of monthly for 6 months.*"

The Report Appendix C notes:

- Methane concentrations up to 30% in 1993 (potentially prior to capping).
- Methane concentrations up to 6% in 1996.
- A maximum of 2.1% in 1997.
- An indication that methane may have been approximately 8% in 2002

The report then states "Whilst the results give a good indication of the levels of methane, due to the uncertainties identified above it is not possible to rely on these results to undertake a full gas risk assessment."

As such, the report does not provide sufficient desktop study evidence to conclude that the gassing potential of the waste has met the requirement of the surrender guidance. It does however provide useful background and historic information regarding the general decrease in methane concentrations in the historic datasets mentioned. The report states that the historic data cannot be relied upon to undertake a full gas risk assessment, and does not include current gas monitoring, gas flow measurements, or an assessment against the gas criteria set out in the surrender guidance.

The majority of the content of the Closure Plan provides a much needed updated document covering the history and management of the site, but it does not provide the clarity around the surrender in line with the current guidance and therefore the document cannot be accepted and the conclusion of "no gas monitoring is proposed" is difficult to reconcile against the current surrender guidance.

Please note this has been marked as an Action Only in the Compliance Criteria assessed above, with a due date of 30 April 2027, or as otherwise agreed in writing with NRW.

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 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.