

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0038855

Permit being assessed: TB3497TJ.

For: Glan Yr Afon Waste Transfer Station, held by Cyngor Sir Ceredigion County Council

At: Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3JQ.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 18/10/2021 between 13:58 and 14:19.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: Simon Edwards, TCM on 03/11/2021.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	Assessed (A)	
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	Action only (X)	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	Assessed (A)	
C3 - General Management - Materials acceptance	Assessed (A)	
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	Assessed (A)	
F2 - Amenity - Noise	Assessed (A)	
F3 - Amenity - Dust/fibres/particulates and litter	Assessed (A)	
F4 - Amenity - Pests/birds and scavengers	Assessed (A)	
F5 - Amenity - Deposits on road	Assessed (A)	
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales	Assessed (A)	

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

Total number of 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
C1	Supply NRW with a copy of your latest continuing competency certificates.	17/11/2021

Action 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 was a routine announced site inspection of waste operations at Glan-yr-Afon Waste Transfer Station (WTS) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officer Bethan Lewis. The weather during this visit was overcast but warm.

Prior to this site inspection, Bethan Lewis requested a copy of Glan-yr-Afon WTS's current Environmental Management System (EMS) and Accident Management Plan. These are documents which must be maintained and implemented under the site's permit. These documents were received on the 01 October 2021 as requested.

On arrival at Glan-yr-Afon WTS, Bethan met with Mr. Simon Edwards, the Technically Competent Manager (TCM) at the site. Mr. Edwards accompanied Bethan throughout the duration of this visit.

Site Inspection

As can be seen from photographs 1-5 below, all wastes at Glan-yr-Afon WTS were stored on an impermeable surface either in bays or closed containers and the site was found to be well-organised, clean and tidy. Mr. Edwards explained to Bethan that surface water from all areas of the site serving waste activities now drains to foul sewer following a recent upgrade in site infrastructure.

No issues were identified on site at the time of this visit.



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

*Image 5*

Rear Yard

The rear yard is an area of the site that is outside the current permit boundary and on the other side of the Glan-yr-Afon Brook that runs along the rear of the permitted area. As during the previous compliance visit, this yard is currently being used to store assorted items belonging to Ceredigion County Council and to de-water road sweepings. The area where road sweepings are de-watered drains to foul sewer. This area is photographed below (Image 6).

*Image 6*

Technical Competence

According to the waste returns submitted by Glan-yr-Afon WTS for the first (January-March) and second quarter (April-June) of 2021, Mr. Edwards' continuing competency certificate(s) expired on the 06 September 2021. This was raised with Mr. Edwards during the above site inspection and Mr. Edwards explained that he had renewed his continuing competency prior

to this date. So that NRW can keep a record of Mr. Edwards' continuing competency certificates, we ask that he supply Bethan Lewis (NRW Officer) with a copy of his latest continuing competency certificates by the 17 November 2021.

Fire Prevention

During the above site inspection, Mr. Edwards highlighted to Bethan a section of the Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) sent to Mr. Pete Malvern, TCM at the adjacent Glan-yr-Afon Civic Amenity (CA) site (EPR: NP3998FA) on the 07 July 2021 (Report ID: CAR_NRW0037872). This CAR was written following a review of the CA site's Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan (FPMP). The section of interest to Mr. Edwards stated:

"Establishing a clear area around the site perimeter is not discussed within the FPMP, yet with there being another waste site neighbouring Glan-yr-Afon CA site is essential to prevent fire spreading from one site to another. This clear area can be established by ensuring that no waste is stored on either side of the fence separating both sites. If this is not possible, FRS state that a fire resisting separation must be provided".

Glan-yr-Afon WTS is one of two waste sites bordering Glan-yr-Afon CA site. Unlike Glan-yr-Afon CA site, there is no requirement for waste activities at Glan-yr-Afon WTS to be managed and operated in accordance with a written fire prevention plan. As appreciated by Mr. Edwards on the day of this site inspection however, minimising the risk of fire spreading from one site to another is in Glan-yr-Afon WTS best interests and the requirement for Glan-yr-Afon CA site to operate in accordance with a FPMP impacts operations at Glan-yr-Afon WTS.

Image 3 above shows the treated waste wood bay at Glan-yr-Afon WTS. The concrete wall to the left of this bay represents the site boundary between Glan-yr-Afon CA site and Glan-yr-Afon WTS. As waste is stored on either side of this boundary, Mr. Edwards enquired whether the concrete wall photographed could be considered a fire resisting separation.

On page 27 of NRW' Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan Guidance (Guidance Note 16) it states the following:

"if you use bays or walls between stacks to store waste materials they should be of sufficient height, thickness and construction that offer a fire resistance period of at least 120 minutes to allow waste to be isolated to stop fire spreading and minimise radiant heat Product specification will need to be established via approved stockists to ensure appropriate standard of fire resistance are met. It is essential that when installing such products that the installation method used is in line with the manufacturers recommended installation requirements".

If the concrete walls separating waste at Glan-yr-Afon WTS and Glan-yr-Afon CA site are able to provide a fire resistance period of at least 120 minutes therefore, and the walls have been installed in line with the manufacturers recommended installation requirements; from NRW' perspective, there is no reason why the concrete walls cannot be considered a fire resisting separation. As it was the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) that requested a fire resisting separation be erected between Glan-yr-Afon WTS and Glan-yr-Afon CA site however, NRW insist that Mr. Edwards contact FRS to confirm this. NRW are aware that the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service are conducting a site visit at Glan-yr-Afon CA site on the 30 November 2021. Mr. Edwards may therefore wish to make contact with the

operator of Glan-yr-Afon CA site prior to this visit to ensure that this matter can be raised on the day of this visit.

For Mr. Edwards' benefit, a link to NRW' Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan Guidance (Guidance Note 16) can be found below:

<https://naturalresources.wales/media/684379/guidance-note-16-fire-prevention-mitigation-plan-english.pdf>

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources 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 only relating to the activity assessment
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.

What are suspended scores?

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 and Waste action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**A: Permitted activities**

- A1 Specified by permit

B: Infrastructure

- B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention and control of emissions
- B2 Infrastructure – Closure and decommissioning
- B3 Infrastructure – Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)
- B4 Infrastructure – Containment of stored materials
- B5 Infrastructure – Plant and equipment

C: General management

- C1 General management – Staff competency/training
- C2 General management – Management system and operating procedures
- C3 General management – Materials acceptance
- C4 General management – Storage, handling, labelling and segregation

D: Incident management

- D1 Incident management – Site security
- D2 Incident management – Accidents, emergency and incident planning

E: Emissions

- E1 Emissions – Air
- E2 Emissions – Land and groundwater
- E3 Emissions – Surface water
- E4 Emissions – Sewer
- E5 Emissions – Waste

F: Amenity

- F1 Amenity – Odour
- F2 Amenity – Noise
- F3 Amenity – Dust/fibres/particulates and litter
- F4 Amenity – Pests/birds and scavengers
- F5 Amenity – Deposits on road

G: Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting

- G1 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Monitoring of emissions and environment
- G2 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Records of activity, site diary/journal/events
- G3 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Maintenance records
- G4 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales

H: Resources efficiency

- H1 Resource efficiency – Efficient use of raw materials
- H2 Resource efficiency – Energy efficiency

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance 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 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at 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.