

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0038949

Permit being assessed: BU8819IV.

For: Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site EPR/BU8819IV, held by FCC Waste Services (UK) Limited

At: Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site, Pontardawe, SWANSEA, West Glamorgan, SA8 4RX.

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

On 17/11/2021 between 07:00 and 09:15.

Parts of permit assessed: 3.4.1 Odour management

NRW Lead Officer: Ffion Thomas.

Report sent to: Richard Thomas, Site Manager on 18/11/2021.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
A1 - Specified by permit	Assessed (A)	
B1 - Infrastructure - Engineering for prevention and control of emissions	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	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?

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

Pwllfa site visit 17th November Phased permeant cap engineering works progress review and off-site odour assessment.

Ffion Thomas undertook a site visit on the 17th November. The purpose of this visit was to review phased permanent capping works and undertake an offsite olfactory assessment.

Offsite odour assessment.

Ffion Thomas undertook an odour assessment before arriving at the Pwllfawatkin site. Having previously regulated the site Ffion is aware of locations that have historically reported odours, using this knowledge along with review of the odour assessment locations used by colleagues in summer of 2021 several locations were visited as detailed in the table below.

In line with Horizontal guidance H4 appendix 1 for undertaking sniff testing no strong-tasting foods or drinks had been consumed. No perfumes or heavily scented toiletries applied. No car air freshener in place. No cold/flu symptoms were experienced.

The wind was from the North, North East, very light but sufficient to sway flags/small branches. It was a cold crisp morning with dew on the ground and mist raising from rivers in the area.

At each location I exited the car, walked away from the car paused and returned. Breathing at a normal rate. ~5 minutes was spent at each location.

time	Location	Observations
07:11	Parked and walk at: Layby on Gelli Gron Rd, Rhyd y Fro, opposite turning for Waun Gron. Walked south and north along footpath SN71488 05138 – SN71534 05084 – SN71488 05200	No landfill odours noted. Car exhaust as vehicles passed and female dog walkers perfume noted.
07:22	Parked and walk at Road bridge on lane opposite travellers well, Rhyd y fro. SN71241 05734 – SN71282 05739	No Landfill odours noted. No other odours noted. Chilly with low mist in air above river.
07:33	Parked and walk at Layby on A474 south of Abernant Ind Est north Rhyd y Fro SN70430 07640	No landfill odours noted Some car exhausts noted as they passed. Walked up and down layby to get air movement across face.
07:41	Parked and walk at Abernant Ind Est, grassed area by roundabout, near takeaway hut (food stall not operational) SN70297 08280 – SN70303 8262	No Landfill odours noted. Epoxy resin odour noted (recognised due to having used product historically) Flags moving in breeze confirmed wind direction NNE. Could see landfill through hedgerow – lorry seen tipping waste and 360 grab working on SE flank.

Approx. 07:50	Driving with windows open along Pontardawe road. 1st terrace of houses left-hand side, North of Landfill turning. SN 70317 08773	Landfill Odour noticed. Car windows open.
07:52	Parked and walk at Layby on entering Cwm Gors, walked to bus stop and returned. SN70346 09692 – SN70333 09966	No Landfill odours. Did note pine tree odour opposite leylandii hedge.
08:11	Parked and walk at: Play park Ger y Afon. Walked round park. SN70398 11463 – SN70410 11499	No landfill Odours noted. Did note coal smoke, (recognise as grew up with coal fires, no central heating.)
08:19	Parked and walk at: Car park opposite Nissa shops Gwaun Cae Gurwen, walked to railway line crossed street return to car park. SSN70221 11585 – SN70181 12061	No landfill odour, Did note cooking odours, sweet smell possibly breads or cakes and bacon or fried food. Bacon odour intensified by “cegin bach café” Exhaust fumes of car leaving car park,
08:28	Parked and walk at: Residential lane opposite Parc y Werin Brynman Rd. walked round the building opposite rugby pitch within park. SN70181 12308 – SN70264 12283	No Landfill odour noted. No other odours noted.
Approx. 08:38	Driving with windows Closed along Pontardawe road. 1st terrace of houses left-hand side, North of Landfill turning. SN 70317 08773	No landfill odour noted. No other odours noted.

Odour consistent with landfill gas was detected off site at 1 location as highlighted red in the table above.

Onsite inspection reviewing Permanent capping works

Ffion Thomas undertook an onsite visit as a follow up review of the phased permanent capping engineering works undertaken on the South West flank.

Pwllfawatkin has an agreed phased capping CQA plan, but updated area drawing is requested. This had not yet been received at the time of my visit. Site manager confirmed that weld samples had been sent for testing and the CQA report would follow once results received.

ACTION FCC Forward CQA report once compiled by CQA engineer.

Ffion Thomas and the Site manager visited the South west flank to observe the recently completed permanent cap. geosynthetics liner has been welded and anchored in place.

Weld liner samples have been sent to laboratory for testing and the CQA report will be completed on their receipt. The restoration soils are yet to be placed.

Temporary sacrificial geosynthetics liner is also in place at the top of the cell side wall extension. Used to minimise rain ingress over the coming winter months and reduce odour emissions, improving gas collection. This liner extends across the top of the sidewall and connects to cell 4.

Further works were on going to prepare the south west corner of the flank for further permanent capping. Preparations for the regulation layer was ongoing along the southern flank to the western corner.

Recognising that gas could now be migrating towards this uncapped western corner it was agreed that work on placing this next stage of soil regulation layer would concentrate along the liner anchor trench and progress westwards. Weather permitting this work was scheduled to be completed by 22th November.

ACTION FCC: communicate to NRW when this regulation layer work has been completed.

The upper surface of the soil layer must be places such that damage to the geosynthetics will not occur in terms of ripples or undulations, protruding sharp objects such as stones, and soft materials. Such issues are controlled by inspections required by the CQA Plan. During the visit the regulation compacted soil layer placed to date on the western corner near the haul road was visually checked and no undulations noted nor sharp objects protruding.

FCC gas contractors Infinis have identified that additional gas wells within the south western corner would increase gas utilisation and aid in odour minimisation.

Infinis were met on site and confirmed 4 gas pin wells were to be installed. These well will then connect to the main gas line, rerouted along the bottom of this south/west flank corner. 1 pin well was already in place, and all 4 wells and associated pipework to be completed by end of week 26th November.

No issues were reported relating to the Gas Utilisation Plant performance, with the engines operational at time of the visit.

The active tipping face is of a small size.



view looking down onto Pwllfawatkin operational landfill, Photo taken 17/11/21 at 09:35. Illustrates areas recently capped (black) placement of regulation layer (dark brown) and active tipping face (white)

Recognising the works being undertaken, installation of further gas wells and placement of regulation layer in preparations for permanent capping along with a small tipping face illustrated that the operators were using appropriate measure to minimize odours. At the time of this visit and areas assessed no non-compliance with permit condition 3.4.1 was identified.

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 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.