

Natural Resources Wales initiated variation

We have decided to issue a Natural Resources Wales initiated variation for Silent Valley Landfill Site operated by Silent Valley Waste Services Limited.

The variation number is EPR/MP3835SV/V004

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

Purpose of this document

- This decision document:
- explains how Natural Resources Wales initiated variation has been determined
- provides a record of the decision-making process
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account

Structure of this document

- Key Issues

Key Issues

This Natural Resources Wales initiated variation was carried out as part of Natural Resources Wales Closed and Closing Landfill project. Silent Valley landfill ceased accepting waste 22/08/2011 and is now fully capped and restored. This variation incorporates the agreed closure and aftercare plan into the permit. A revised permit has been issued which reflects that no waste can be accepted on site for disposal and that the site is now operating in accordance with the agreed closure and aftercare plan.

Silent Valley Waste Services Limited (SVWS) were served a closure notice on the 17th November 2010 which required the submission of a Closure Report. Following compliance with this the initial Closure Notice was withdrawn and a second Closure Notice was served on the 15th June 2011. This closure notice required Silent Valley Waste Services to

1. Provide proposals for implementation of closure of the site, including proposals for improvements to the groundwater remediation pumping system, capping of completed waste deposits and additional landfill gas extraction infrastructure by the 1st August 2011. This was completed.
2. Cease accepting waste for disposal at the site on the 22nd August 2011. This requirement was complied with.
3. Provide reports to detail how the activities at the site will be managed during the aftercare phase by the 1st December 2011.

Silent Valley presented an interim submission for the third task detailed above. It was not possible to provide a final report at the time due to the landfill being closed before reaching final landform and Silent Valley Waste Services had to negotiate with the planning department of Blaenau Gwent to confirm an acceptable final landform. This negotiation continued until September 2012 when Blaenau Gwent agreed to an amendment to the planning permission for the development and re-profiling works and capping of the remaining uncapped areas of the landfill could commence. The works for this were completed in March 2013.

As part of the closure process SVWS installed four additional leachate monitoring wells on the southern flank of the Phase 1 landfill along the alignment of the BSC pipe. It was subsequently established that the as built BGCBC flank was highly permeable. In order to minimise rainwater infiltration, SVWS then undertook further capping using a low permeability design with associated re-profiling. The works for this were completed in July 2015.

Emission limits and monitoring frequencies were updated in the permit to reduce in accordance with the agreed closure plan.

Improvement Conditions were required with regards to down gradient monitoring point GW9. Table S1.3 from the permit has been replicated below:

Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
IC1a	The Operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales for approval a plan for the Pumping of groundwater and leachate from down-gradient monitoring point GW9. The plan shall include:- a) aims, objectives and timescales (with proposed start date); b) pumping system design and specification; c) proposals for subsequent assessment and review of data, including pumping rate, recharge rate and water quality against relevant environmental quality standards.	4 months from permit issue
IC1b	Following approval, the Operator shall submit a report to Natural Resources Wales containing a) monitoring results, review of data, conclusions and recommendations; b) any proposals for longer term pumping and periodic review as required.	12 months from approval of IC1a
IC2	The Operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales for approval a Failure Response Plan for the BSC pipe. The plan shall include:- a) an assessment of leachate levels and response zones within the Phase 1 waste mass; b) proposals to install dedicated leachate extraction wells in the event of a failure to BSC pipe or the branch lines being detected; c) the proposed extraction well locations and their construction specification; d) the response time for their installation, or for pre-emptive installation if necessary; and e) any alternative techniques.	15 months from permit issue