

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0039458

Permit being assessed: SP3298FT.

For: Giants Grave Landfill, held by Neath Waste Management Co Ltd

At: Briton Ferry, Neath, N P T, SA11 2LN.

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

On 09/02/2022 between 09:30 and 11:30.

Parts of permit assessed: All

NRW Lead Officer: Luke Burton.

Report sent to: Mike Jones, Service Manager on 22/02/2022.

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)	

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

Present: Mike Jones and Phil Rees – Neath Port Talbot Council.

Weather: Overcast but not raining for the duration of the inspection.

This was a routine inspection as part of Natural Resources Wales' Closed Landfill Project.

The aim of the inspection was to determine compliance with the sites' environmental permit and supporting documents. Findings of the inspection are set out below. A further review of the site's submitted monitoring data will be completed separately and the findings set out in a separate Compliance Assessment Report.

Groundwater and landfill gas monitoring points: A selection of groundwater monitoring points were inspected. All points were accessible, present, and intact. No landfill gas odours were detected, or was there any unusual vegetation die back around the monitoring points.

Leachate monitoring points: A selection of leachate monitoring points were inspected. All points were accessible, present, and intact. No landfill gas odours were detected, or was there any unusual vegetation die back around the monitoring points.

Recommendation: We recommended that you erect permanent signage at each monitoring location so it is easily identifiable, to assist with sampling and maintenance. This is a recommendation only and therefore not subject to compliance scoring, specified further action or a completion deadline.

Landfill gas extraction points: A selection of landfill gas extraction points and a manifold were inspected. All points were accessible, present, intact, and, at approximately 90° to the landfills surface except one. This point was confirmed as being installed in that direction. No landfill gas odours were detected, or was there any unusual vegetation die back around the extraction points.

Landfill gas condensate management system: Measures for the management of landfill gas condensate were observed during the inspection e.g. knock-out pots. All points were accessible, present, and intact. No landfill gas odours were detected, or was there any unusual vegetation die back around the system. The systems maintenance was discussed – Checks are conducted once a week for issues such as blockages.

Landfill surface: During the site inspection and cap walkover, all areas of the cap appeared intact, well vegetated, not pooling rainwater, and not showing signs of excessive settlement. No evidence of slippages or cracks/movement of the landfill mass were encountered. No evidence of leachate outbreaks, landfill gas odours or any unusual vegetation die back were encountered. A small area of stained ground was encountered at the toe of the Southern flank – However, this was attributed to the natural breakdown of vegetation, which covered the flank.

Surface water management system: A selection of the surface water channels were inspected. Despite vegetation growing over the top of them, all channels themselves were present, intact, and free from debris. The systems maintenance was discussed – Checks are undertaken periodically and vegetation is cleared on an annual basis.

Leachate collection system: A selection of manholes providing access to the leachate collection system were viewed. The manhole covers were not lifted. The covers were intact and the surrounding ground did not show evidence of any surcharges having taken place from the system. No landfill gas odours were detected, or was there any unusual vegetation die back around the system. The systems maintenance was discussed – CCTV checks or cleansing of the system are not currently undertaken. The reed bed system which accepts leachate collected by the system, before discharge to the River Neath was

inspected. This is reported on in a separate Compliance Assessment Report for Water Quality Discharge Permit ref EPR/BP0236201.

Recommendation: We recommended that, as much as possible, you investigate the condition of the leachate collection system so to establish the systems integrity and undertake any required maintenance. This is a recommendation only and therefore not subject to compliance scoring, specified further action or a completion deadline.

Gas utilisation plant and flare: The gas utilisation plant and flare are contained within a secure area of the site. Following an exhaust valve failure on the gas utilisation plant, all collected gas had been flared for the last 2 weeks. The seal was being repaired whilst I was on site. As per permit condition 1.2.1 The operator has considered energy efficiency measures – Through working with their gas management contractor, increased suction and gas field balancing has increased gas utilisation. The efficiency of the engine has also been considered. Please keep us updated on any further review and whether there are suitable opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the activities.

Security: The site was secure, being protected by two locked gates and a palisade fence around the landfill perimeter, so to safeguard against any infrastructure associated with the permit being vandalised or stolen.

Other: Permit transfer. The transfer of the permit from Neath Port Talbot Waste Management Co. Ltd. To Neath Port Talbot Council was discussed. The transfer is to be submitted imminently. Please contact me directly should you require any pre-application advice and guidance regarding this process – We can offer up to 2 hours free pre-application advice and guidance. Longer term it is the operator's intention to update the permit to reflect the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment changes to limits and transfer. It was felt that this may compromise the delivery of the transfer application, so the operator will not make the applications in tandem.

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.