

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0039515

Permit being assessed: CB3237AP.

For: Gwynedd Skip And Plant Hire Ltd, held by Gwynedd Skip And Plant Hire Ltd

At: Lon Hen Felin, Cibyn Ind Est, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2BD.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number 2201380).

On 24/02/2022 between 09:30 and 10:10.

Parts of permit assessed: see below

NRW Lead Officer: Daniel Grant.

Report sent to: Huw Jones, Operations Manager on 08/03/2022.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	C3 Minor	1.1.1
E3 - Emissions - Surface water	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	Assessed (A)	
F2 - Amenity - Noise	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
1	4

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
C2	Provide update on what steps you will take to improve containment of surface water on site.	04/04/2022

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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 an unannounced, post-incident inspection carried out on Thursday 24 February 2022 by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) officer Daniel Grant (Hazardous Waste Regulation Officer).

This post incident inspection was carried out following a fire related incident that occurred at Gwynedd Skip & Plant Hire Ltd site on the 24 February at approximately 2:30am. NRW were made aware of the incident at the time by the Fire and Rescue Service and also by Gwynedd Skip & Plant Hire Ltd at 9am on the same day.

The NRW officer was accompanied by Huw Jones (Operational Manager) throughout the visit. The visit consisted of an inspection of the permitted area where the fire took place as well as the site drainage.

Weather conditions throughout the inspection were breezy and damp with a short spell of very light snow.

During the visit it was established that the fire occurred within the permitted site boundary of the yard where mixed waste is deposited directly from the skips that are brought into site from customers (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Section of the yard where the mixed waste was deposited, and the fire occurred.

It was explained that the FRS were made aware of the fire by a reporter. Fire alarms at the site are only located inside the building, there is currently no way of detecting a fire outside by means of fire alarms.

The fire was contained in the mixed waste pile on site and did not spread further (Figure 2). A fire break around the mixed waste pile and between the mixed waste pile and the outbuilding prevented the fire from spreading further inside.



Figure 2. Mixed waste pile where the fire incident occurred. Fire break walls surrounding the waste pile and between the waste and the outbuilding.

Huw described the likely cause of the fire as a waste battery that was hidden underneath the mixed waste pile that was not identified when accepted on site in a skip. Due to the recent wet weather Huw explained that this could have provided the specific conditions for bacteria to cause the waste battery to combust.

Due to the combustible nature of the waste battery described it is likely that this battery was a hazardous waste. You should be aware that your permit does not allow you to accept any hazardous waste batteries. You can only store the following non-hazardous waste batteries:

- 16 06 04 alkaline batteries (except 16 06 03)
- 16 06 05 other batteries and accumulators

Recommendation- waste batteries

Although not a non-compliance at this present time we strongly advise that you look into improvements on site regarding the acceptance of waste batteries to avoid any future incidents. We are aware that customers may place some un-permitted waste types in your skips and that the identification of such waste types might be an issue in regard to pre-acceptance checks of the waste at your site. However, you should have a system in place to deal with this (ideally recorded in your EMS). This should be a process that is implemented when the waste is tipped and sorted at your yard. If any batteries are identified these should be separated and placed inside an acid resistant container with a weatherproof lid on top. The hazardous

waste batteries should then be disposed of as soon as possible as your permit does not allow the storage of such waste items.

Site Drainage

Containment of firewater relating to site drainage was also discussed whilst on site. Huw explained that all wastewater produced during the fire was captured in the site's culverts (Figure 3) that lead to the site's oil interceptor (Figure 4). Huw also confirmed that the site has a Trade Effluent Consent with Welsh Water which allows them to discharge into the foul sewer via the oil interceptor.



Figure 3. Site culverts that captured the wastewater directly from the mixed waste pile



Figure 4. Discharge into the site's interceptor from the site's culverts.

During the visit there was still a lot of firewater on site as seen in Figure 3-4. A large quantity of water also contained inside the building after a bund was placed on the drains inside the building during the incident (Figure 5). It was also discussed with Huw on site that the infrastructure surrounding the site drain could be improved in order to ensure containment. It was apparent that wastewater had by-passed the site drain (Figure 6). This was likely due to the sheer volume of wastewater produced at the time but also due to the drain cover (Figure 4) not being large enough and a lack of infrastructure surrounding it to prevent this from happening. For example, it was mentioned that a lip could be built around the drain to contain the wastewater and prevent any by-passing. Improvements to the interceptor itself regarding its size and adequacy was also discussed and the guidance surrounding this was sent to Huw following the visit in an e-mail dated the 28th February 2022.



Figure 5. Wastewater from the fire contained inside the building.

Figure 6. Waste and water marks beyond the interceptor drain showing the wastewater by-passed the drain.



There was no evidence of any wastewater having left the site boundary and into any nearby surface water drains during the visit.

Hefin Thomas contractors Ltd were arriving on site as the NRW officer left site. Huw explained Hefin Thomas contractors Ltd were going to empty the site interceptor and capture any wastewater still on site in the outbuilding and in the culverts.

Huw further explained that they were in talks with Hafod Landfill, Wrexham to accept their burned waste and were awaiting confirmation of this. There would likely be a 5 day wait until Hafod Landfill could accept the waste to ensure it is safe following the fire.

The following non-compliances were noted following the site inspection:

C2 Management Systems and Operating Procedures-Permit Condition 1.1.1 (a)- General Management- Compliance Classification Scheme Category 3 breach

Permit Condition 1.1.1 (a) requires that *"The operator shall manage and operate the activities:*

- a. in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution"*

Section 2.10.1 of your written management system states the following:

"Surface Water Control- all surface water from the site drains to the foul sewer via oil interceptors as shown on Drawing no. GSPH/17A. Drainage from the hardstanding areas of the site will pass through silt traps to

reduce the risk of deposition of mud on the concreted areas of the site.”

During the visit the NRW officer identified that “all surface water” did not drain into the “foul sewer via oil interceptors”. As explained above, it was evident that surface water had by-passed the site drain, therefore, not all surface water was captured effectively.

Huw discussed with the NRW officer that improvements could be made surrounding this, such as providing a lip around the drain to prevent by-passing during periods of large volumes of surface water. You should also re-familiarise yourself with the site’s oil interceptor. You should consider if this interceptor is still large enough for your site and whether the drain discharging into it is large enough to capture all surface water as well.

Please provide an update to this non-compliance, including what improvements will be made, by:

04 April 2022

Should you wish to discuss any of this information please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Daniel Grant, Hazardous Waste Regulation Officer

daniel.grant@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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.