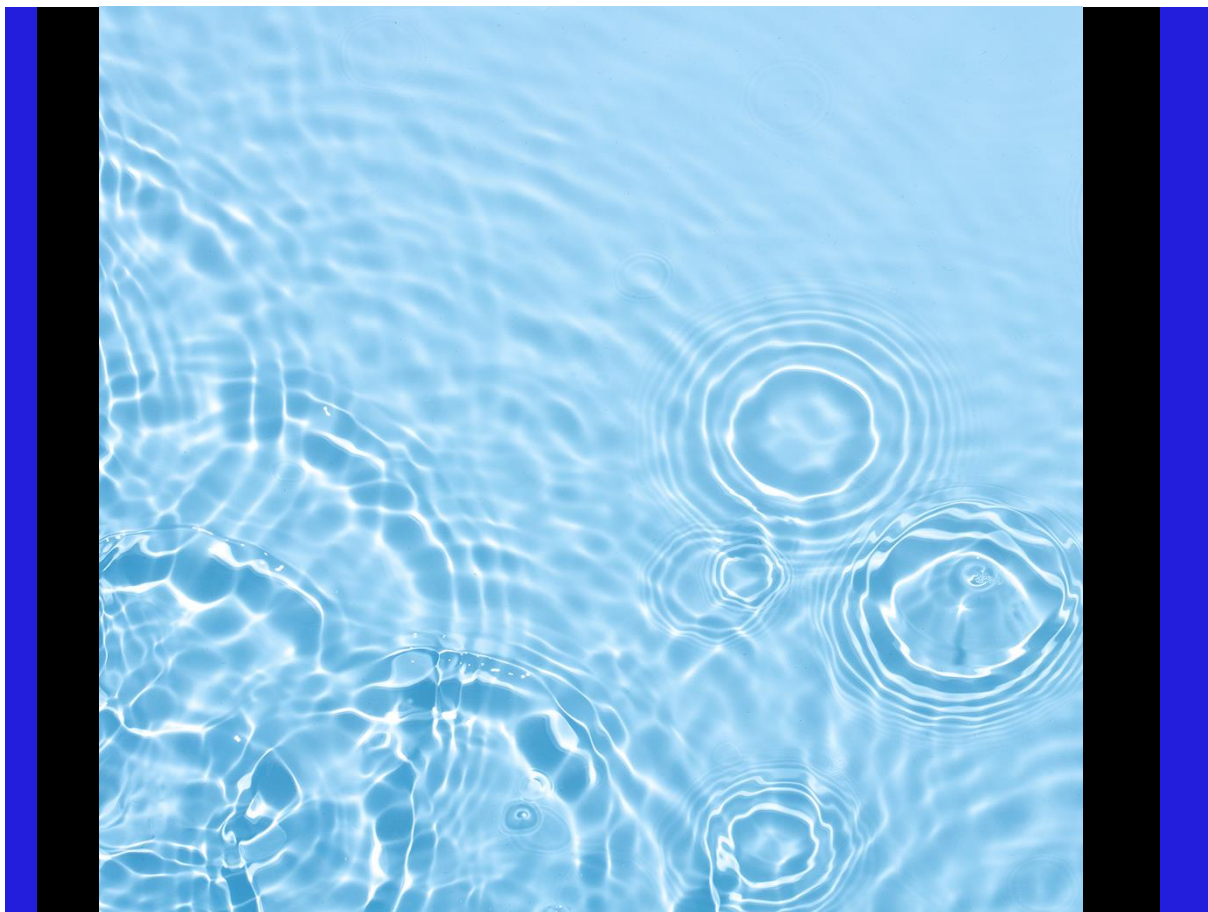


## Leak Detection and Repair Plan (LDAR) – Slough

Document no: 1  
Revision no: v1

Thames Water  
EPR/LP3738LC/V009

IED Permit Application  
1 July 2022



## Leak Detection and Repair Plan (LDAR) – Slough

**Client name:** Thames Water  
**Project name:** IED Permit Application  
**Client reference:** EPR/LP3738LC/V009  
**Document no:** 1  
**Revision no:** v1  
**Date:** 1 July 2022  
**Doc status:** Draft

**Project no:** B22849AM  
**Project manager:**  
**Prepared by:** [Prepared by]  
**File name:** Slough Leak Detection and Repair Plan

## Document history and status

Revision	Date	Description	Author	Checked	Reviewed	Approved

## Distribution of copies

Revision	Issue approved	Date issued	Issued to	Comments

---

### Jacobs U.K. Limited

1 City Walk  
Leeds, West Yorkshire LS11 9DX  
United Kingdom

T +44 (0)113 242 6771  
F +44 (0)113 389 1389  
[www.jacobs.com](http://www.jacobs.com)

---

Copyright Jacobs U.K. Limited © 2022.

All rights reserved. The concepts and information contained in this document are the property of the Jacobs group of companies. Use or copying of this document in whole or in part without the written permission of Jacobs constitutes an infringement of copyright. Jacobs, the Jacobs logo, and all other Jacobs trademarks are the property of Jacobs.

NOTICE: This document has been prepared exclusively for the use and benefit of Jacobs' client. Jacobs accepts no liability or responsibility for any use or reliance upon this document by any third party.

## Contents

<b>Acronyms and abbreviations</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Document Control</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope.....	1
1.2 Responsibility.....	2
<b>2. Assets and Monitoring</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1 Identifying Assets .....	3
2.2 Design Specifications.....	3
2.3 Monitoring.....	3
2.4 Leak Repair .....	5
2.5 Record Keeping.....	5
2.6 Type and Quantity of Emission .....	5
2.7 Key Personnel.....	6
2.8 Reactive Leakage Detection Process .....	6
2.9 Training and Calibration .....	6

## Tables

Table 2.1 – Monitoring Methods and Frequencies.....	4
Table 2.2 - Key Personnel.....	6

## Acronyms and abbreviations

EPR	Environmental Permitting Regulation
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
PRV	Pressure Relief Valve
EA	Environment Agency
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
BAT	Best Available Techniques
SHE	Safety Health and Environment
STC	Sludge Treatment Plant
STW	Sewage Treatment Works
TWUL	Thames Water United Ltd

## Document Control

This document is due to be reviewed every four years, unless there is a change to the biogas system described in the document.

Revision	Date Issued	Next Review Due	Owner

## 1. Introduction

The following document describes the methodology used to locate, identify and mitigate against fugitive emissions to air of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) or biogas from the permitted activities as part of the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) and Best Available Techniques (BAT) requirements. This methodology benefits the safety protection of site staff and increases productivity and the value of the process, as well as protecting the environment. This document supports the implementation of BAT 14 (h) and is aligned with the Slough STW Odour Management Plan. Where a Safety Health and Environment (SHE)SHE6 form has been completed, a SHE39 assessment undertaken, the outcomes should be used to inform how to proceed with biogas investigations and / or monitoring.

Thames Water, in accordance with BAT 14(h) utilise flame ionisation for the detection of leak of biogas, in accordance with 'sniffing methods' as defined in Table 6.2 of the Waste Treatment Best Available Technique conclusions document.

### 1.1 Scope

This document is applicable to all the permitted activities at the Thames Water Utilities Ltd ("Thames Water" or TWUL) Slough Sludge Treatment Centre (STC) site, which produces biogas for combustion in the one Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine, three boilers and two emergency flare stacks from the anaerobic digestion of sewage sludge, creating an energy and electricity source and helping to minimise Thames Water's environmental impact.

- Biogas pipework and storage including:
  - Welds / joins
  - Seals;
  - Flanges;
  - Valves;
  - Feeding and digestate separation units;
- Gas Compressors / Boosters;
- Conveyors and presses;
- Reception storage;
- Digestate storage;
- Building containment;
- Gas storage system including:
  - Pressure relief valves;
- Condensate traps;
- Digesters including:
  - Roof and cover fixings; and
  - Pressure Relief Valves.

Across sites, emissions of sludge to the environment tend to be minimal due to the site surface drainage measures in place and regular tour inspections. Therefore, emissions of sludge are not within the scope of this document.

## **1.2 Responsibility**

The Site Manager for the Slough site is responsible for ensuring the environmental permit conditions are complied with. Responsibility for undertaking the monitoring and reporting of any defects for repair falls to the Operations and Maintenance team for the site.

## 2. Assets and Monitoring

### 2.1 Identifying Assets

The following assets are scheduled for routine proactive inspection via flame ionisation detection on an annual basis:

- 1 x CHP Engine;
- 3 x Boilers;
- 2 x Emergency Flare Stack;
- 6 x Primary Digesters;
- 1 x Biogas Bag;
- Pipework;
- Condensate Traps;
- 1 x Siloxane Filter;
- Pressure Relief Valves (PRV); and
- Gas compressors / boosters.

This list is based on the sources where biogas and potentially VOCs are generated; transported; stored and utilised at the STC.

Prior to commencing any monitoring or inspection, the most recent P&ID plans for the biogas system should be obtained for the STC, to ensure all relevant pipework, fittings and equipment are identified for inspection.

The primary assets listed above are all uniquely identified with ID numbers except for pipework, which makes them easy to identify by the individual conducting the leak detection monitoring. Therefore, the assets across sites can be scheduled for inspection and identified for repair if necessary. Any new or replacement assets must complete an asset tagging process to maintain an accurate list for each site within SAP. Biogas Compressors / Boosters and valves are utilised when possible to reduce the risk of leaks from the system.

### 2.2 Design Specifications

All TWUL biogas assets have been built to a design specification (Thames Water, Water Industry [WIMES], national and international standards), which includes an operational lifespan.

For example, the PRVs are fitted with intrinsically safe limit switches which operate when an event occurs (pressure or vacuum relief) and which are wired back to the SCADA system, in accordance with Thames Water specifications.

All assets are inspected and maintained in accordance with Thames Water maintenance standards which are based on Water industry best practice.

The CHP engine and boilers are subject to routine inspection and maintenance by specialist contractors.

### 2.3 Monitoring

The assets mentioned are subject to daily monitoring also, as part of the operator's daily site duties. The Thames Water SHE 6M (visual assessment), which is completed quarterly by the Site Manager, and the site's SHE 39 Biogas Management Plan are examples of monitoring completed on site.. Site operational staff are required to wear methane detective personal biogas monitors which detect leakage in the area surrounding the site operator. Human senses (i.e. sight and smell), can also be utilised to detect a potential methane leak in a general area). While conducting visual inspections, the operator will look for signs of degradation of the equipment. These systems would detect any significant leaks within the system.

## Leak Detection and Repair Plan (LDAR) – Slough

Gas monitoring training delivered through a Thames Water approved training provider must be completed to be able to use the personal biogas monitors. This training is recorded on staff training records and subject to periodic refresher training. All personal biogas monitors are checked prior to use on site and are periodically externally recalibrated in accordance with manufacturer's requirements.

All PRVs are subject to regular inspection and energy generation from the CHP engines is monitored on a continuous basis through SCADA systems, as a proxy for biogas generation. A change in CHP utilisation and generation may be a sign that the digestion process is out of equilibrium or that there is a leak within biogas system. Electricity metering is completed half hourly. This would be alarmed to a control room via the SCADA system for the appropriate action to be undertaken. If a PRV is activated, an alert is sent through SCADA.

Any alert of potential leakage is reported centrally and a work order is raised for repair by appropriately skilled operatives. Checks are completed twice a year on Digester asset bases via an external contractor, who provide a report with recommendations for the asset.

If the source of the emission is unknown during the daily monitoring, then Optical Gas Imaging will be requested to complete an assessment to locate the source of the leakage. The responsibility of this falls to a Thermographic Engineer as seen in Table 2.2.

The process flow used when monitoring assets on each site is outlined in training guidance completed to utilise the Flame Ionisation Detector. This detector is a hand held device which can measure both the presence and level of biogas in a sample of ambient air, allowing the presence of leaks to be identified and localised.

The dedicated biogas holders have the highest potential for the largest immediate volumetric release, noting the presence of a PRV and double membrane design, but residual risks are inherently present across all critical plant. Immediate risk assets would include biogas transport (pipework: valving). Assets with a proportionally lower risk of biogas release would include ancillaries such as biogas boosters or condensate pots (i.e., are essentially sealed within normal use).

An up-to-date DSEAR zoning drawing is held on site and is a routine point of reference in day-to-day working.

Continuous monitoring of biogas pressure takes place within the biogas system which is connected to SCADA and an off-site control room to raise alarms on high or low pressure.

The tasks associated with monitoring the above assets are listed in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1 – Monitoring Methods and Frequencies**

Task	Expected Frequency	Method	Priority	Priority Rationale
Inspection of primary digesters	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal biogas monitors	High	Volume of contained biogas and level detection
Inspection of pipework between primary digesters and biogas storage	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal biogas monitors	Medium	Gas volume contains. Look for degradation of pipework including all joins, flanges, seals and valves.
Inspection of biogas storage	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal and fixed biogas monitors	High	Operation and Maintenance task
Inspection of pipework between biogas storage and siloxane filter	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal biogas monitors	Medium	Gas volume contains. Look for degradation of pipework including all joins, flanges, seals and valves.
Inspection of siloxane filter	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal and fixed biogas monitors	Medium	Operation and Maintenance task



## Leak Detection and Repair Plan (LDAR) – Slough

Task	Expected Frequency	Method	Priority	Priority Rationale
Inspection of pipework between siloxane filter and engines	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal biogas monitors	Medium	Gas volume contains. Look for degradation of pipework including all joins, flanges, seals and valves.
Inspection of pipework between biogas storage and boilers	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal biogas monitors	Medium	Gas volume contains. Look for degradation of pipework including all joins, flanges, seals and valves.
Inspection of pipework between biogas storage and flare	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal biogas monitors	Medium	Gas volume contains. Look for degradation of pipework including all joins, flanges, seals and valves.
Inspection of PRVs	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal biogas monitors	High	Operation and Maintenance Task
Inspection of condensate traps	Every twelve months	Flame ionisation detector (sniffing), Personal biogas monitors	Medium	Gas volume contains. Look for degradation of pipework including all joins, flanges, seals and valves.

### 2.4 Leak Repair

After a biogas leak is detected, the site monitoring operative informs the Site Manager or Senior Technician via the most appropriate communication method. A safety observation and corresponding action will then be raised regarding health and safety. If required, a contractor will be utilised to ensure the action is completed by a person with the relevant competencies, for example biogas safety. An audit trail will be available via the Thames Water planning tool. The Environment Agency (EA) is to be informed, if applicable, through the EPR permit Schedule 5 notification procedure.

A RIDDOR Dangerous Occurrence would be raised in the case of a serious health and safety incident that met the requirements.

### 2.5 Record Keeping

As mentioned above, all biogas assets on each site are uniquely identified and an electronic site register is available and kept up to date (SAP). Leak detection activities are assigned to a person appropriately trained using the site asset list via the MAMS system. After inspection, an electronic record is made of all checks completed and any follow up work which would be required is assigned to another appropriately trained person. Any work which is outstanding will be flagged as "mandatory work" on SAP, which is monitored monthly to ensure full completion.

### 2.6 Type and Quantity of Emission

It is likely that any fugitive emissions will be non-combusted biogas, since all combusted biogas is emitted via a point source emission directly from the combustion unit i.e. the CHP engine, boiler or flare stack. Non-combusted biogas accounts for most of the stored biogas and is made up of Methane (60-70%) and Hydrogen Sulphide (50-<100ppm). The quantity emitted will be variable depending on:

- The location of the emission source i.e., a hole in a biogas storage vessel could potentially release a large quantity compared to a length of isolated pipework;
- When the leakage was detected;

- Duration of the leak prior to repair; and
- The pressure of the contained gas.

An assessment will be carried out to quantify the release as far as practicable, including a consideration of the potential time period the leak has occurred over (based on visual and other inspections), the pressure and flow in the component with the leak in it, and the asset involved.

Any unmonitored releases receive immediate consideration as a component part of the incident response following the reporting of a biogas release to the TWUL Pollution Desk. Where resolution of the underlying issue is not immediate but instead of unknown duration, the views of approved persons (e.g. DSEAR Engineer; Health and Safety Advisor; other subject matter experts) would be sought to determine what would be practicable and safely deployable. Framework contractors would be contacted to provide input to defining monitoring methods, at appropriate frequencies, in any circumstances where the need for data resolution is higher than TWUL instrumentation and/or potentially needed longer term, including on odour.

## 2.7 Key Personnel

Those responsible for the implementation of the LDAR plan are outlined in section 1.2. A more detailed list is shown in Table 2.2 below.

**Table 2.2 - Key Personnel**

Title	Responsibility
Site Manager / Senior Technician	Ensuring the LDAR is implemented, site repairs are carried out in a timely manner by the onsite maintenance team. Responsible for reporting issues to appropriate authorities.
Site Operators	Operation of site assets, detection and reporting of leakage if discovered during out site duties.
Thermographic Engineer (Contractor)	Undertake site-based leakage monitoring and raising any leaks to the site management team.

## 2.8 Reactive Leakage Detection Process

There are occasions where additional requests to monitor for biogas emissions are directed to the team. For example, when new assets are installed and leakage checks are required before putting back into operation. The same processes as above are followed for monitoring and escalation.

## 2.9 Training and Calibration

Any members of staff involved in leak detection using specific equipment are trained in the use of that equipment and all relevant Health and Safety requirements. For example, DSEAR awareness before attending a site. Specialist equipment, such as the flame ionisation detector, are calibrated according to the recommendations of the manufacturer.