

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0043880

**Permit being assessed:** CG0408201

For: Knolton Farmhouse Cheese Limited, held by Knolton Farmhouse Cheese Limited  
At: Oswestry Road, Overton, LL13 0LG.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Check Monitoring/Sampling, Reason: Routine.  
On 07/12/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: Emissions and Monitoring

**NRW Lead Officer:** Callum Brannan.

**Report sent to:** Stuart Latham, Director, on 09/04/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	3.1 Emissions to Water

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

### 2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	Improve operations and bring discharge back into compliance	26/04/2024

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.

**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

Dear Stuart Latham and Matt Carnell,

On the 17th of January 2024, NRW were notified of a permit failure for Knolton Farmhouse Cheese (KFC) based on a routine sample taken on the 7th of December 2023.

The permit failure was for a breach in aluminium within the final effluent discharge. As per the permit, the aluminium limit for the final effluent discharge is **1mg/L**. On the day the sample was taken, the aluminium was at a level of **1.3mg/L**.

KFC were informed of the breach with the opportunity to raise any issues that may have occurred on site during this time.

Correspondence from Matt Carnell via email confirmed the following:

*"In response to this breach notice I have checked internal (submitted monthly) & external UKAS results for Oct23-Jan24 for aluminium testing along with agreed testing frequency details and onsite testing equipment service records from Hach (attached).*

*Based on results & operator feedback at no point of operation and testing have we breached our permitted limit or dosed Aluminium at levels which would potentially lead to an issue. I have looked back at records for the day the sample was taken and we did not conduct a test on this day. We are as can be seen from the results far below our limit (normally around 25-50% of the allowable levels) and do not believe a spike to this level is possible. This is one test and we conduct multiple per month including external and have never hit these levels during this period.*

*I will raise this failure notice with the management team to discuss compliance and recommend even further actions we could take. I have instructed the operators to conduct daily Aluminium tests for now where possible".*

It is recommended that daily in house samples are continued to be taken for aluminium as previously agreed.

If you have any further issues or queries about anything in this form, please raise them with your Environment Officer [Callum.Brannan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:Callum.Brannan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) .

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 to 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
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property

### If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend non-compliance for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. These will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

**Full list of water quality action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):****WQ A: Management**

- WQ-A1 General management

**WQ B: Operations**

- WQ-B1 Permitted activities
- WQ-B2 The site
- WQ-B3 Operating techniques
- WQ-B4 Improvement programme
- WQ-B5 Pre-operational conditions

**WQ C: Emissions and monitoring**

- WQ-C1 Emissions to water
- WQ-C2 Emissions to land
- WQ-C3 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- WQ-C4 Installation of monitoring boreholes

**WQ D: Information**

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.