

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048174

Permit being assessed: AN0237001

For: CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT WAUN-Y-POUN, held by HANSON AGGREGATES
At: CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT, WAUN-Y-POUND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, EBBW
VALE, BLAENAU GWENT, NP23 6PL.

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

On 25/04/2025, between 10:30 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Permit compliance

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: R Sturges, Operational Manager, on 01/05/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-A1	Clear the debris from the path leading towards the sample point to ensure safe access for all who require it. Evidence of this work should be provided using the contact details below.	01/06/2025

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

Site Visit Report

This report details the site visit made on the 25/04/2025 to Hanson Aggregates Concrete Batching Plant (trading as Heidelberg Materials UK) permit reference number EPR - AN0237001.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Hanson Aggregates Concrete Batching Plant at Waun-Y-Pound Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP23 6PL for a permit compliance visit at 10:30 where I met with their regional operations manager. The weather was clear and dry at the time of the visit.

General Observations

This site is a concrete batching plant and has held an EPR permit since 1995.

The permit only holds one numeric consented limit:

- No sample of the discharge shall contain more than 100 milligrams per litre of suspended solids (measured after drying at 105° Celsius).

The permit also includes several descriptive emissions conditions, which are as follows:

- The discharge shall not contain any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or solid waste matter.
- The discharge shall consist only of treated trade effluent from a concrete batching plant.
- The maximum volume of effluent discharged shall be dependent on rainfall.
- As far as reasonably practicable, the works shall be operated so as to prevent:
 - i. any matter being present in the effluent, other than matter specifically covered by numerical conditions in this consent, to such an extent as to cause the receiving waters, or any waters of which the receiving waters are a tributary, to be poisonous or injurious to fish in those waters, or otherwise cause damage to the ecology of those waters.
 - ii. the treated effluent from having any adverse environmental impact.

The site is currently operational.

Site Infrastructure

A general site walkover and condition assessment was undertaken to begin my visit. The yard was in a good condition, with no standing water or excessive silt/debris present, as seen in Figures 1 & 2. It was noted that the site no longer uses detergent to wash down plant/machines after the visit in 2020 highlighted this as an issue. As a result, no foam was observed anywhere on site.



Figure 1 – General site conditions at the time of the visit.



Figure 2 – General site conditions at the time of the visit.

The operators endeavour to capture and re-use as much water on site as possible through channelling surface runoff back into the treatment system tanks. These channels can be seen in Figure 3 leading to the treatment tanks.



Figure 3 – Treatment tanks at the time of the visit with surface water drainage channels visible directing water into the treatment tanks.

The treatment pits were inspected and a description of the process was given by the operational manager. A stirrer agitates suspended solids, bringing them to the surface before the water is recirculated and reused on site. These tanks appeared to be in good condition with no major defects observed, as seen in Figure 4. All tanks were observed, with the final tank showing no excessive build-up of suspended solids, as expected. This is seen in Figure 5.



Figure 4 – The treatment pits at the time of the visit. No defects or issues observed.



Figure 5 – The final settlement tank prior to discharge.

A green pipe was observed leading into the first settlement tank, as seen in Figure 6. When queried, the operations manager noted that this was a part of their surface water management for site. Surface water that run off the hill to the rear of the site tends to pool behind the production units, causing standing water. This pipe is used to pump that water off the site and into the treatment pits, which it would naturally do given time to enter the surface water channels on site. As this is rainfall dependant and is covered as part of the site's consented discharge volumes I do not see this as a non-compliant activity.



Figure 6 – A pipe used to channel excess surface water into the treatment tanks.

Due to the period of dry weather at the time of the visit, the outlet of these tanks was blocked to retain as much water on site as possible for re-use in the production process. As a result there was no discharge from the tanks at the time of the visit, as seen in Figure 7.



Figure 7 – The discharge point of the treatment tanks to the wider site drainage. No flow at the time of the visit.

The site's oil interceptor was checked with no issues observed. There was no flow through the system due to the tanks being isolated, as seen in Figure 8. Similarly, the consented sample point also displayed no flow due to the retention of water on site, as seen in Figure 9.



Figure 8 – Oil interceptor at the time of the visit.



Figure 9 – The sample point with no flow as observed during the visit.

The sample point itself is in the correct location as confirmed by an onsite grid reference check (SO1557710607). Access to the sample point is adequate with no major obstructions causing hinderance, but there was some debris on the access route which could pose a trip hazard for those wishing to access it. This is seen in Figure 10. A clean up of this debris is advised and reflected in the actions below.



Figure 10 – The access route to the sampling point with the aforementioned debris present e.g. branches, disused pipework, general waste etc.

A brief inspection of the site's recent waste transfer notes was conducted (an example of which is seen in Figure 11), with all appearing to be in good order and transported off site responsibly. It was noted that wastes are removed from the treatment tank "as needed" based on visual inspections.

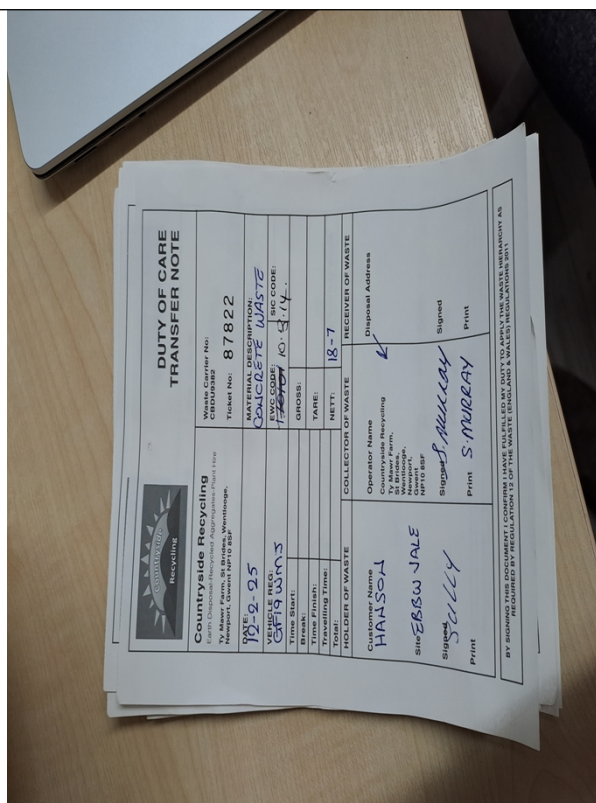


Figure 11 – An example of a recent waste transfer note observed during the visit.

No further on site investigations were conducted during this inspection.

I left site at 11:00.

I proceeded to inspect the discharge point, noted to be located on a small, unnamed stream at SO1565010810. Unfortunately, due to access issues and heavy vegetation growth I could not identify and confirm the exact location. As there was no discharge from the site at the time of the visit I am not overly concerned as there was no effluent to assess. This discharge point will be confirmed on my next visit to site.

Breaches of permit condition:

No breaches were recorded during this visit.

Action required by dates specified:

1. Clear the debris from the path leading towards the sample point to ensure safe access for all who require it. Evidence of this work should be provided using the contact details below.

Deadline: 01/06/2025

If we do not receive the information requested within specified deadline and have not been informed as to why there is a delay then we may serve a Regulation 60 Notice requiring the

information under Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Other advisory comments:

This is a well performing site which has had no issues reported with NRW since 2020 due to advice and actions being implemented when requested. Thank you for your efforts in being a responsible and considerate operator. Please let me know if you require assistance with any issues you may experience in future.

Contact details:

If you have any queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details: Name, Environment Officer, elis.nuttall@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk, 03000 65 4651.

Thank you,

Elis Nuttall.

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 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.