

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049139

Permit being assessed: AN0235601

For: Sewage treatment plant serving Hafod Quarry, held by TARMAC TRADING LIMITED
At: Hafod Quarry, Abercarn, Newbridge, Caerphilly, NP11 5LH.

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

On 12/08/2025, between 10:20 and 12:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Site infrastructure and permitted activities

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Lewis Jenkins, Site Manager, on 15/08/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	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-D1	Provide records of flow monitoring data from February-August 2025 as evidence that the infrastructure is in good working order.	29/08/2025

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 by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the 12/08/2025 to Hafod Quarry, Abercarn permit reference number EPR- AN0235601. Please note that this inspection was conducted in conjunction with an inspection of the site's other ERP permit (AN0337201).

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Hafod Quarry at 10:20 where I met with the Site Manager (LJ) and the Senior Operation Manager (NB). The weather was clear and dry during the visit.

General Observations

The site is a quarry and asphalt plant located in Abercarn, Caerphilly.

This permit covers site drainage discharges when flows in the Nant Hafod Fach (receiving watercourse) are under 0.53m³/second. The discharge shall consist solely of trade effluent comprising of site drainage from quarrying activities and shall not contain any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or solid waste matter. The volume of discharge shall be dependent on rainfall. The following composition limits shall not be exceeded:

- 80mg/l of suspended solids
- 5mg/l of mineral oil
- A pH value of 9 pH units or less than a pH value of 6 pH units

The site was operational at the time of the visit.

Please note, this permit is currently undergoing variation to consolidate it with AN0337201 and to include on-site treatment of site drainage.

Initial Discussion

Due to previous incident response visits, I was familiar with the site, and its consents prior to this inspection. However, I clarified the following discussion points prior to on site investigations.

The most recent incident on site was a breach of the suspended solids limit on the 05/06/2025, returning a result of 1880 mg/l. It was stated the cause of this incident was a sudden downpour which overwhelmed an interim system while a new catchment weir was being constructed. It was stated that this work has now been completed and working effectively.

The permit states that a means of flow measurement shall be operated and maintained. I had no previous experience or knowledge of what the site possessed but it was stated that the device is located within the leat (channel) and was updated at the end of 2024. This was inspected during the visit, and I requested an example of flow data recorded by the site. Please see further details below.

General maintenance has not changed on site with a period of dry weather meaning no further incidents have occurred due to extremely low runoff and water levels. No site shutdowns have been needed. Settlement lagoons are continually de-sludged, last undertaken on 13/03/2025.

The site is currently undergoing a series of improvement works associated with the permit variation noted above. This includes on-site runoff treatment prior to discharge and an increase in storage capacity. While not currently permitted, the infrastructure is being put in place, with the site manager requesting that I observe the works currently complete as evidence of their efforts to proactively operate an environmentally sustainable operation in future. Details on the observations made can be seen in the sections below.

Site Infrastructure

The sample/discharge point was checked and was confirmed to be in the correct position and accessible. As seen in Figure 1, there was minimal discharge at the time of the visit, and it was completely clear.



Figure 1 – The sample/discharge point as observed during the visit.

It was noted that there were no discharges from site the time of the visit, with the water present deriving from external sources outside of the site's boundary. This is evidenced in Figure 2 (dry leat/channel from site).

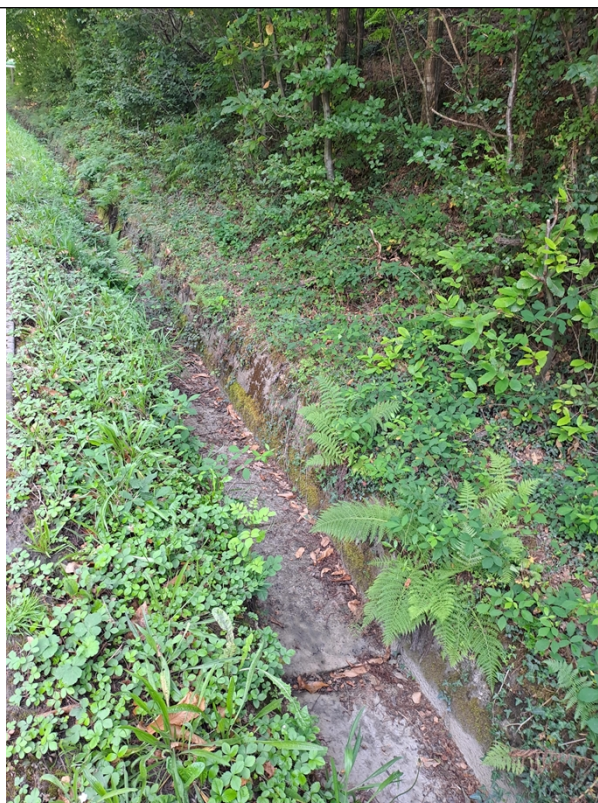


Figure 2 – Dry leat running from site ~100m upstream of the sample/discharge point at the time of the visit.

The flow monitoring point was observed and located at ST2213496184. As stated, this was upgraded in 2024. Figure 3 shows the infrastructure as it appeared at the time of the visit.



Figure 3 – The flow monitoring point as observed during the visit. No flows from site.

Due to no flows being present at the time of the visit, a visual assessment of discharges could not be made.

LJ then suggested that I observed the progress of the improvement works. We returned to the main site to undertake this.

Improvement Works

LJ gave a tour and explanation of the improvement works. This infrastructure and associated operations are currently not covered by the permit, but the forthcoming variation will cover the changes. Detailed notes were not made but the following was observed.

1. Lagoon 1 has been extended with ~800m³ of material removed to do so. This will be the primary site storm water storage. The lagoon was dry at the timer of the visit, as seen in Figure 4.



Figure 4 – Lagoon 1 which has undergone extension.

2. Lagoon 2 has been drained down, cleared and a pump installed to transport water to the treatment system (see notes below). This lagoon will be extended by a further 100m. This is evidenced in Figure 5.



Figure 5 – Lagoon 2 as observed during the visit.

3. A water treatment system (Siltbuster) has been installed in preparation for the permit variation to be issued, as seen in Figure 6. It has been configured to treat site drainage for suspended solids. This system was inspected and appears to have been installed correctly, with LJ showing good knowledge and understanding of its operation and each stage's purpose. It is accompanied by a fully operational control room and material store, as seen in Figure 7.



Figure 6 – An overview of the water treatment system infrastructure.



Figure 7 – The control room and material store in place.

4. Two new wheel wash systems have been installed to ensure no sediments are tracked off site. Due to plant movements on site it was not possible to obtain a photo of this infrastructure at the time of the visit, but I witnessed its operation, and it is in good, effective working order.
5. A new final catchment weir has been constructed near the site entrance to capture any residual runoff before the boundary of the site. This is what was being constructed during the incident on the 05/06/2025, however it is now complete and appears to be working effectively, as evidenced in Figure 8. This effluent is then treated via a smaller treatment system and returned to the site discharge, as seen in Figure 9.



Figure 8 – The new final catchment weir as observed during the visit.



Figure 9 – The treatment system used to treat drainage effluent from the final catchment weir.

No further on site observations were made. We returned to the site office for a debrief and final comment.

Final Discussions and Comments

I clarified my observations and comments with LJ and NB, concluding that I had not observed any permit breaches during this visit. I also thanked them for taking the opportunity to show me the progress of the improvement works and their commitment to becoming a sustainable and proactive operator going forward. The only action will be to supply evidence of flow monitoring records. This is reflected in the actions list below. No further comments were made or questions asked.

I left site at 12:15.

Breaches of permit condition:

No breaches were recorded during this visit.

Action required by dates specified:

1. Provide records of flow monitoring data from February-August 2025 as evidence that the infrastructure is in good working order.

Deadline: 29/08/2025

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:

No advisory comments.

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: Elis Nuttall, 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.