

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049241

Permit being assessed: KB3293HZ

For: MINEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM SERVING, held by The Coal Authority
At: CRAIG YR ABER, NEW ROAD / CROWN ROAD, BETWEEN KENFIG HILL AND
TONDU, CEFN CRIBWR, BRIDGEND, CF32 0BP.

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

On 26/08/2025, between 10:30 and 11:45.

Parts of permit assessed: All

NRW Lead Officer: Ceri Malone, accompanied by: Callum Murray, Emily Roe01.

Report sent to: Chris Crowe, MRA Operative, on 29/08/2025.

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	C3 Minor	1.1 General Management – 1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities: (a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints; and (b) using sufficient competent persons and resources.
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C3 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	Assessed (A)	

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	Complete the necessary reed bed maintenance to reduce the amount of sludge and debris currently in the system by 31/03/2026. Provide evidence of this being completed.	31/03/2026
WQ-C1	Submit the annual monitoring report for year 24-25 with determinands listed in Table S4.1 of the permit by 29/09/2025.	29/09/2025

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

Mine Water Treatment System Serving Craig Yr Aber

Permit Number EPR/KB3293HZ

Site Report

On 26/08/2025 I completed a regulatory inspection of the water discharge for the mine water at Craig Yr Aber. This was to check compliance with the permit EPR/KB3293HZ for the mine water treatment scheme. I met with an operative of the Mining Remediation Authority (MRA) at 10:30. Two other Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Environment Officers were also in attendance. The weather was warm with intermittent light rain.

The MRA gave NRW officers a walkover of the treatment system. The site uses an aeration process utilising a pumped double cascade before passing to two separate settlement ponds. These two ponds feed a further two reedbeds which treat the water in series before discharging back into the watercourse. The discharge location was checked and matched Table S3.2 of the permit – NGR SS 85652 84477. No discolouration was noted in the discharge (*photograph 1*).

Monitoring data is presented at liaison meetings and requested for 2024-2025. The MRA

operative advised that they would arrange for it to be sent over for review.



Photograph 1: Discharge location

While inspecting the reed beds it was apparent that there was a build-up of sludge and debris throughout the wetland area (*photographs 2 and 3*). A number of trees were also present within the reed beds potentially reducing the treatment prior to discharge. In the last CAR form (CAR_NRW0044259) reed bed cutting was stated to be due. We were informed that this has not been completed. As there are two reed beds, maintenance can be completed separately by taking one reed bed out at a time and bypassing it while allowing treatment to continue in the operational reed bed.



Photograph 2: Sludge Build up at Reed Bed Inlet



Photograph 3: Sludge Build Up at Reed Bed Outlet

Breaches of permit condition:

Relating to the build-up of sludge and debris in the wetland areas:

1.1 General Management – “1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities: (a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints; and (b) using sufficient competent persons and resources.”

Action required by dates specified:

- 1. Submit the annual monitoring report for year 24-25 with determinands listed in Table S4.1 of the permit by 29/09/2025.**
- 2. Complete the necessary reed bed maintenance to reduce the amount of sludge and debris currently in the system by 31/03/2026. Provide evidence of this being completed.**

Contact details:

If you have any other queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details: Ceri Malone, Environment Officer, Ceri.Malone@naturalresourceswales.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 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.