

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049209

Permit being assessed: AF4020601

For: ST MELLONS RHYMNEY VALLEY NURSERIES, held by HAYGROVE LIMITED

At: BEGAN ROAD, OLD ST MELLONS, CARDIFF, ., CF3 6XL.

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

On 20/08/2025, between 10:00 and 10:50.

Parts of permit assessed: Site infrastructure and operations

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Johnny Magda, Site Manager, on 02/09/2025.

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)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-B4 - Water Quality - Operations - Improvement programme	Action only (X)	
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-A1	Repair or replace the dislodged spray bars on the filter system to ensure even distribution of effluent.	07/10/2025
WQ-A1	Remove excess vegetation from the filter bed to ensure efficient filtration of effluent can occur.	07/10/2025
WQ-D1	Provide a copy of the most recent system survey conducted in 2023.	Already completed
WQ-B4	Provide evidence that any works recommended by the most recent service have been undertaken.	07/10/2025
WQ-D1	Provide a copy of the most recent waste transfer notes as evidence of the removal and disposal of the primary settlement tank waste.	Already completed

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 20/08/2025 to Rhymney Valley Nurseries (Haygrove Limited), permit reference number EPR-AF4020601.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) arrived at 10:00 for a water quality compliance visit where I met with the site manager (JM). The weather was overcast with light, intermittent rain during the visit.

General Observations

The site is a commercial nursery with amenity facilities for staff. It is serviced by a sewage treatment plant consisting of a primary settlement tank and filtration bed. The treated effluent, as noted in the permit, discharges to underground strata (Condition 1). The discharge shall contain no more than 50mg/l of total suspended solids, a pH range of 5-9 and a discharge rate greater than 5.25m³/d (0.22m³/h).

The site was operational at the time of the visit.

Initial Discussion

On arrival, I conducted a brief discussion with JM on the history of the site, both in terms of management and compliance. It was noted that no serious issues, alterations or maintenance has been required for the system.

It was confirmed that the treated effluent it is permitted to discharge to ground, however the discharge point is located underneath the on-site water storage reservoir. This discharge point has never been identified by site operators, NRW or external contractors. No further details were known about the nature of the discharge point or its location, but it was stated it has never caused an issue.

The system was last serviced in October 2023, with the result showing the system was working as designed with minor maintenance advisory points. I requested evidence of this service in writing as well as evidence that any works conducted as a result of the service report were completed. Please see actions list below.

The emptying of the primary settlement/solids tank is undertaken by Wales Environmental

Ltd, who conduct visual checks and removal of solids on a regular basis. The most recent emptying was completed on the 11/06/2025. I requested evidence of transfer notes to support this.

We then proceeded to inspect the site infrastructure.

Site Infrastructure

The primary/solids settlement tank was observed and inspected (located at ST2275183505). The pump was in place and appeared to be in good working order. There was no excessive build-up of solid waste and no other points of concern. This is evidenced in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – The primary settlement tank as observed during the visit.

The filter system is located at ST2258683482 and was easily accessible due to recent groundworks to clear the area. On inspection it was clear that the system was quite dry due to a prolonged period of dry weather. Regarding the condition of the infrastructure, it was observed that several of the spray bars have been dislodged/broken which could lead to an uneven distribution of effluent throughout the bed. Additionally, there was a significant amount of vegetation material on the surface of the filter bed. These observations are evidenced in Figures 2, 3 and 4. I noted that these points would constitute breaches of infrastructure maintenance, but due to the age of the permit there are no conditions to regulate these breaches against. As such, I have actioned them below as a

major priority to ensure the system is operating efficiently as soon as possible. Please see details below.



Figure 2 – The filter system as observed during the visit.



Figure 3 – The filter system as observed during the visit. Damaged spray bars and vegetation build up clearly present.



Figure 4 – The filter system as observed during the visit. Damaged spray bars as described above.

The final effluent sample point was confirmed to be located at ST2257783483. There was some discharge present at the time of the visit (as seen in Figure 5), but this discharge was clear and displayed no sign of solids carry over. No deposits of waste or fungus were observed in the chamber or pipework and there was no odour.



Figure 5 – The final effluent sample point as observed during the visit.

As stated in the initial meeting, the discharge point was not accessible during the visit due to it being a discharge to ground located underneath the reservoir. It was stated that this has always been the case as long as Haygrove Limited have operated the site. The only maintenance noted for the reservoir was that it was re-lined ~25 years ago. At the time of the visit the reservoir was holding water (Figure 6) and no issues were noted.



Figure 6 – The reservoir as observed during the visit.

No further observations were made during the visit. We returned to the office for final discussions.

Final Discussion

On returning to the office I outlined my observations, explained the issues observed regarding the filter maintenance requirements and listed the actions I would be including.

No further statements were made or questions asked.

I left site at 10:50.

Breaches of permit condition

No breaches of permit conditions were noted during this visit, however concerns were raised regarding the condition of the filter bed, but due to the age of the permit no conditions are present that regulate this infrastructure. However, I have included actions below that should be addressed as soon as possible.

Action required by dates specified

1. Repair or replace the dislodged spray bars on the filter system to ensure even

distribution of effluent.

Deadline: 07/10/2025

2. Remove excess vegetation from the filter bed to ensure efficient filtration of effluent can occur.

Deadline: 07/10/2025

3. Provide a copy of the most recent system survey conducted in 2023.

Deadline: Already Completed

4. Provide evidence that any works recommended by the most recent service have been undertaken.

Deadline: 07/10/2025

5. Provide a copy of the most recent waste transfer notes as evidence of the removal and disposal of the primary settlement tank waste.

Deadline: Already Completed.

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 654 651.

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.