

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049275

Permit being assessed: AN0325701

For: Unimetals Recycling (UK) Limited, held by Unimetals Recycling (UK) Limited

At: Northside, South Dock, Alexandra Dock, Newport, NP20 2WE.

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

On 29/08/2025, between 13:30 and 14:35.

Parts of permit assessed: Site infrastructure and operations

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Georgina Sidney, EHS Partner, on 08/10/2025.

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	Assessed (A)	

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

2. What action is required?

No action required.

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 29/08/2025 to Unimetals Recycling (UK) Limited (Fridge Recycling Plant), permit reference number EPR- AN0325701.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Unimetals Recycling, Alexandra Docks, Newport at 13:30 for a water quality permit compliance inspection where I met with the site's EHS Partner (GS). The weather was mostly dry with intermittent light rain during the visit.

General Observations

The site is a fridge recycling centre. The permit consents the discharge of trade effluent comprising of site drainage from an area of 16,754m² to Northside, South Dock at ST3176285206. The volume of the discharge shall be dependant on rainfall and shall contain no visible oil or grease. A sample point shall be provided and maintained at ST3174285187. The site was operational at the time of the visit.

Initial Discussions

A general discussion on the site, its compliance history and permitted activities was held prior to any infrastructure inspections.

This was the second compliance visit conducted for this site, previously being visited in June 2024. I began the discussion by confirming that the actions set previously (provide servicing and sampling records) had been completed. These were confirmed by GS and evidence of communication with NRW including the requested information was observed and sent onward to myself for reference. No further outstanding actions were identified.

It was noted that no major changes to site operations have occurred since the previous visit, with the most recent maintenance (the emptying of the oil interceptor) conducted on 24/09/2024. I observed the waste transfer notes for this maintenance digitally during the visit and it was also sent to me via email. No further actions were set regarding site maintenance records.

It was noted that the discharge point for this permit is also the consented discharge point for the site's sewage treatment plant. This treated sewage effluent discharge is covered in a separate permit (AN0325702) and as such will not be discussed further in this report.

We then proceeded to inspect the site infrastructure.

Site Infrastructure

The permit and associated drainage infrastructure only services the fridge recycling plant area of Unimetals, with the adjacent units and areas being served by separate, isolated systems. The general site conditions were good, with no standing water or visible oils/fuels present on open areas. All surface water present was being effectively managed and channelled into the surface water drainage system. This can be seen in Figure 1. It was noted no washdown chemicals are used on site vehicle or infrastructure, with oils and fuels being the only pollutants present that pose a risk to the aquatic environment.



Figure 1 – Site conditions as observed during the visit.

The oil interceptor was inspected. The chamber was not overly full and it appeared to be working effectively. See Figure 2 as evidence of these observations. It was stated that the site manages 2 separate interceptor tanks which work independently but converge and discharge via the same sample/discharge point (see details below). As stated, it was last emptied in September 2024, records of which were observed. It is advised that the company review the need to action further maintenance on the system now that a year has passed since the previous maintenance was undertaken.



Figure 2 – The oil interceptor as observed during the visit.

The sample point was observed to be located at ST3174985187 which is compliant with the location listed in the permit and is completely accessible. The effluent within the chamber was observed to be clear with no visible oils/fuel present and no odour which could indicate contamination. This is evidenced in Figure 3.



Figure 3 – The sample point as observed during the visit.

Whilst attempted, the discharge point could not be observed directly due to extensive vegetation growth, as seen in Figure 4. The area around the discharge point is owned/managed by ABP and not Unimetals Recycling (UK) Limited so any management of it falls outside the remit of the site. Regardless, access to the discharge point is not a permit requirement so no actions are set regarding facilitating access.



Figure 4 – The location of the discharge point as observed during the visit.

No further observations were made during this visit.

Final Discussions

I outlined my observations and actions to GS who raised no further questions.

I left site at 14:35.

Breaches of permit conditions

No breaches of permit conditions were observed during this visit.

Actions required by dates specified

No actions are listed for this inspection.

Other advisory comments

1. Assess the need to undertake further oil interceptor maintenance as it has been a year since it was last emptied. Note this is an advisory comment and not an action. No updates will be requested.

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.