

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049884

Permit being assessed: BB3599CW.

For: Newport Data Centre, **held by:** Vantage Data Centers UK Ltd

At: Imperial Park, Celtic Way, Marshfield, Newport, NP10 8BE.

Type of assessment: Other,

Reason: Other.

On: 28/10/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: 2.1 Permitted activities 2.1.1 The operator is only authorised to carry out the activities specified in schedule 1 AR1 (the “activities”).

NRW Lead Officer: Ian James.

Report sent to: Harrison Barrett, Environmental Permitting Manager, on 07/11/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR2A - Installations - Operations - Permitted activities	C3 Minor	2.1 Permitted activities 2.1.1 The operator is only authorised to carry out the activities specified in schedule 1 AR1 (the “activities”

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	4

How we use the non-compliance score to calculate your annual fee is explained in the ‘Important Information’ section below.

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR2A	Review procedures, clarifying escalation processes as well as whether Permit needs varying or otherwise to encompass similar situations where component failure leads to engines running.	19/12/2025

Compliance 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

CAR form – Vantage Data Centre (CWL11) – EPR/BB3599CW

Incident

On 11th September 2025 (Thursday) NRW's incident Communication Centre received notification from VDC that engines had operated on 9th September 2025 (Tuesday). This was followed by an email that included the 'Generator Emergency Scenario' form as included in the Permit and designated for reporting 'Emergency' situations as per Performance Reporting Table S4.2.

Assessment of the incident, as reported, followed with NRW asking for clarification on whether the event reported was an 'Emergency' / fell within the Permitted Operations of the Permit as below;

Schedule 1 Part 2 Section 1.1 Part A(1) (a) : Burning any fuel in an appliance with a rated thermal input of 50 or more megawatts Consisting of individual Schedule 25A: Medium Combustion Plant Combustion of diesel in 194 compression ignition engines for the purpose of electricity generation with a total thermal input of 520 MW.

Operation consisting only of:

- Planned operation of the engines for testing purposes (single engine / single cell)
- Unscheduled testing following unplanned repair (single engine / single cell)
- Unplanned emergency operation for backup power provision in the event of failure of supply from the National Grid (initially all engines, followed by load shedding)

The Operator responded on 11th September 2025 at 1522h that on further investigation they considered the incident a 'break-fix' rather than 'emergency'.

A call between NRW and the Operator on 17th September 2025 took place where the Operator explained how there had been a component failure causing a false signal to the generators to trigger them to run. As the generators were running processes commenced to validate the reasons for this

and it was rapidly identified as a fault and the generators were offline again in 9 minutes.

It should be noted that the reporting timeframe for the 'emergency scenario, under which the incident was first reported, wasn't followed. Whilst this wasn't subsequently classed as such if it had been an 'emergency' then this would have also been a breach of the Permit.

NRW currently views this as operation of the generators outside of the Permitted activities as listed above and as such a breach of the Permit Conditions.

The reasonably foreseeable environmental impact of this is deemed to be **low**. Whilst long term running of multiple generators is likely to create a *high to significant* impact the fact that only 6 engines were involved, that they ran for just 9 minutes and Permitted activities for routine testing allow an annual limit of 50 hours informs the impact to be within otherwise permitted limits for 'approved' activities.

The overall breach is therefore assessed as a C3 in this instance.

Consideration was given to a higher level of breach in that potential impact is significant were multiple engines to run for a considerable period of time. Give that there is no evidence that the issue could affect multiple cells of engines and that the failure was rapidly identified and corrected this was mitigated to 'LOW' C3 under our guidance.

If multiple engines were to run in a similar circumstance and for a period that increased the emissions to a level we considered required a more substantial enforcement response this could change our view. As such 'no further action' applies to the situation as it stands and this could also change if further information came to light or a similar event occurred again.

Actions;

1. Identify root cause and put in place mitigation measures related to this component failure.
Due: 19/Dec/25.
2. Review reporting/notification processes related type of incident. Due: 19/Dec/25.
3. The Operator may wish to consider whether the Permit conditions and Operating Techniques are appropriate for situations where engines run in an unplanned manner but where the impact is similar or lower than planned maintenance conditions and where they are confident that overall limits could still be complied with. Decision due: 19/Dec/25

With thanks.

If you have any questions regarding this Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) form, please contact Ian James on 03000 654203 or via email on ian.james@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resource Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012.

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 of 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	Score
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	60
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	31
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	4
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property	0.1

How we use assessment scores

The number and severity of non-compliances recorded in a year will affect your annual subsistence fee the following year. A non-compliance factor is added to your site's Operator

Performance Risk Appraisal (OPRA) score when we calculate your fee to reflect the additional resource we use to assess permit compliance.

If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend scores for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. Suspended scores will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

Full list of Industry compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

1. Management

- IR1A – General management
- IR1B – Finance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR1C – Energy efficiency
- IR1D - Efficient use of raw materials
- IR1E - Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities
- IR1F - Multiple operator installations

2. Operations

- IR2A – Permitted activities
- IR2B – The site
- IR2C – Operating techniques
- IR2D – Technical requirements
- IR2E – Improvement programme
- IR2F – Pre-operational conditions
- IR2G – Landfill engineering (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2H – Waste acceptance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2I – Leachate levels (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2J – Closure and aftercare (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2K – Landfill gas management (only applicable to Landfill)

3. Emission and Monitoring

- IR3A – Emissions to water, air or land
- IR3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- IR3C – Odour
- IR3D – Noise and vibration
- IR3E – Monitoring
- IR3F – Pests
- IR3G – Air quality management plans
- IR3H – Monitoring for the purposes of the Industrial Emissions Directive (this heading includes Large Combustion Plants)
- IR3I – Fire

4. Information

- IR4A – Records
- IR4B – Reporting
- IR4C – Notification

Enforcement response

Any non-compliance with a permit condition 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 twenty 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 to 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.