

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050074

Permit being assessed: CB3093FQ

For: Caerphilly Castle, held by Cadw (Welsh Government)

At: Castle Street, Caerphilly, CF83 1JD.

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

On 03/12/2025, between 09:00 and 11:50.

Parts of permit assessed: All permit

NRW Lead Officer: Gavin Summerhill.

Report sent to: Nathan Wilcox, Cadw Facilities Manager South Wales, on 18/12/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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 Report

On Wednesday 3rd December 2025 I arrived at Caerphilly Castle, Castle Street, Caerphilly CF83 1JD to carry out a permit inspection on a scour valve release. Permit number CB3093FQ.

The permit is for the routine, non-emergency, non-flood prevention opening of a low-level scour valve at Caerphilly Castle moat approximately once every 6 months, to prevent the valve located at the Outer Moat from seizing. The new discharge of 18m³/day of raw, uncontaminated water enters the Porset Brook. The scour valve is located at the base of

the Outer Moat drop shaft and controls flows via a 300mm gate valve.

The weather conditions were overcast and foggy. My site inspection commenced at 9.00am

Observations

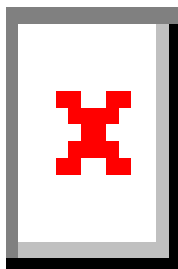
I checked the National Grid Reference of the Scour Valve Release discharge point at ST 16068 87359. I can confirm this to be accurate as stipulated by the permit. Please see Fig 1 below.

Discharge point Natural Grid Reference (Fig 3)



The receiving watercourse Porset Brook presented a high flow rate and appeared fairly discoloured but no odours were present. please see Fig 2 below.

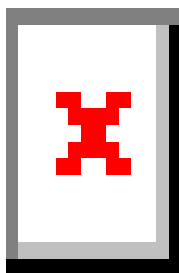
Porset Brook Discharge Point (Fig 2)



After the initial check at the discharge location I travelled to Castle Caerphilly where I met with N Wilcox (Cadw Facilities Manger South Wales) also in attendance was M Cooper (ARUP Dam Engineer)

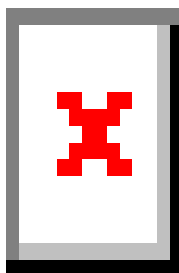
I proceeded to check the National Grid Reference of the raw water outlet/effluent sample point at ST 15682 87046. I can confirm this to be accurate as stipulated by the permit (approximately 3m) Please see Fig 3 below.

Raw water outlet/effluent sample point (Fig 3)



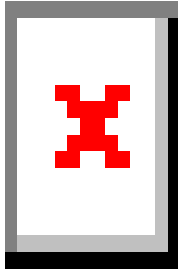
Overall the condition of the sluice gate was satisfactory and no access issues were observed. It was noted there was heavy build up of debris surrounding the outlet. Please see Fig 4 below.

Sluice gate debris build up (Fig 4)

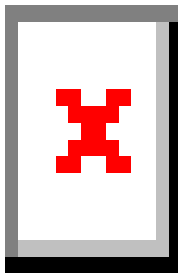


I proceeded to visually assess the overall water condition within the moat. The visual assessment did not highlight any concerns. Please see Fig 5 and 6 below.

Visual Moat water assessment (Fig 5)



Visual Moat water assessment (Fig 6)



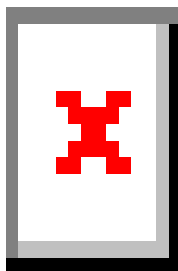
I had a conversation with N Wilcox regarding the testing of the lower level scour valve. N Wilcox advised the valve is fully opened for a one minute duration then semi closed for a reduced flow for a further minute. The routine test of the valve is conducting at least every six months.

Before the opening of the valve was to commence I advised N Wilcox that I would travel to the discharge location in preparation to witness the impact on the receiving watercourse at Porset Brook. N Wilcox proceeded to stay at the outlet location at Caerphilly Castle and communication would take place via telephone.

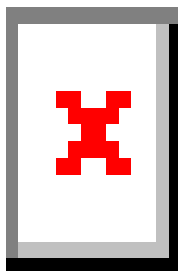
At 11.24 am N Wilcox advised the valve was fully opened. N Wilcox advised there was no obvious signs of silt or debris within the discharge. One minute later N Wilcox advised the valve was semi closed. One minute later N Wilcox advised the valve was fully closed.

I proceeded to wait at the discharge location for nineteen minutes. During this time I did not witness any discolouration to the receiving watercourse. There was no silt, debris, oil/grease or odours present. Please see Fig 7 and 8 below.

Receiving watercourse at the time of scour valve test (Fig 7)



Receiving watercourse at the time of scour valve test (Fig 8)



This concluded my inspection. I left site at 11.50am.

Breaches of permit condition:

No breaches observed.

Other advisory Comments:

There was heavy build up of debris surrounding the outlet. This needs to be cleared immediately and a maintenance schedule put in place to ensure the outlet remains free of debris.

Action required by date specified:

Provide photographic evidence that the outlet has been cleared of debris.

This action is required by **Friday 9th January 2026**.

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:

Gavin Summerhill (Environment Officer)

gavin.summerhill@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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.

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.