

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0050067

**Permit being assessed:** BB3296CU.

**For:** Frongoch Lead Mine, **held by:** Mark Skitt

**At:** Frongoch, Trisant, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 4RL.

**Type of assessment:** Site Inspection,

**Reason:** Routine.

**On:** 01/10/2025 between 09:00 and 17:00.

**Parts of permit assessed:** All.

**NRW Lead Officer:** Malcolm Dines, accompanied by Jeremy Goddard.

**Report sent to:** Mark Skitt, Permit Holder, on 02/01/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	C3 Minor	1.1.1(a)
W4A - Waste - Information - Records	C3 Minor	1.1.2
W3A(1) - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	C3 Minor	1.1.1(a)
W2A - Waste - Operations - Permitted activities	C3 Minor	2.1.1
W2C - Waste - Operations - Operating techniques	C3 Minor	2.3.1
W2C - Waste - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
W2D - Waste - Operations - The site	C3 Minor	2.4.1
W2F - Waste - Operations - Technical requirements	C3 Minor	2.5.1
W3G - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Fire	C3 Minor	3.4.1

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W4B - Waste - Information - Reporting	C3 Minor	4.2.2

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
9	36

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
W1A	All the permit boundary must be marked by clearly identifiable posts/barriers that enable the extent of the permitted area to be clearly identified.	31/01/2026
W1A	Display a notice at or near the site entrance that is easily readable from outside the site in daylight hours and must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the permit holder's name</li> <li>an emergency contact name and the operator's telephone number</li> <li>a statement that the site is permitted by Natural Resources Wales</li> <li>the permit number</li> <li>Natural Resources Wales national numbers, 0300 0653000 and 0800 807060 (incident hotline)</li> </ul> As specified in the guidance document, "How to Comply with your Environmental Permit".	31/01/2026
W4A	Ensure that records are being kept of site attendance of the Technically Competent Manager and all persons working on-site. The records must be kept on-site and available for inspection and for each visit, must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>time in and time out of site;</li> <li>daily/weekly/monthly site checks.</li> <li>records of maintenance</li> </ul>	31/01/2026
W3A(1)	Ensure that your oil storage complies with this permit condition. If you do not replace the existing storage arrangement, you must provide evidence that the secondary containment bund has been tested and does not leak	31/01/2026
W1A	Submit an updated Environmental Management System that accurately reflects the current site layout and activities.	15/03/2026
W2A	Clear the bay below workshop of all wastes (including door cards and seats).	15/03/2026
W2C	Fully depolluted end-of-life vehicles, uncontaminated plastic, glass and ferrous and non-ferrous metal wastes arising from the treatment of end-of-life vehicles shall be stored on hard	15/03/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	standing.	
W2C	Whole undepolluted and undamaged End-of-Life Vehicles must not be stored on grass.	15/03/2026
W2D	All End-of-Life Vehicles and End-of-Life vehicle waste must be stored and treated within the permit boundary. Any wastes not stored within the permit boundary must be moved to within the boundary or from site.	03/05/2026
W2F	Ensure the removal and separate collection and storage of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fuel,</li> <li>• motor oil,</li> <li>• transmission oil,</li> <li>• gearbox oil,</li> <li>• hydraulic oil,</li> <li>• cooling liquids,</li> <li>• antifreeze,</li> <li>• brake fluids,</li> <li>• air-conditioning system fluids and gases</li> <li>• any other fluid contained in the end-of-life vehicle unless they are necessary for the re-use of the parts concerned</li> </ul> <p>This is to comply with the standards set out in table 2.5 of your permit</p>	03/05/2026
W3G	Update the Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan to reflect current site layout and activities using the current, relevant fire prevention plan guidance	03/05/2026
W4B	Submit waste returns for years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025	03/05/2026

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.

**You are non-compliant with your permit.**

**We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.**

### 4. Details of our assessment

This was an announced routine compliance visit undertaken by Malcolm Dines (Waste Regulation Officer) and Jeremy Goddard (Mid Wales Waste and Enforcement Team Leader) arranged so officers could meet the operators new Technically Competent Manager. Officers met with Mark Skitt (Owner and Permit Holder) and Sean Stockton (Technically Competent Manager). The weather was clear and dry.

Due to the long-term nature of non-compliance at your site, a Regulation 36 Notice will be issued to address all the following permit breaches.

\*\* This compliance report was updated on 02 January 2026 because I incorrectly scored two non-compliances:

- 1) Secondary containment of waste oil should have been action-only as I requested you provide evidence that it was suitable and therefore was not necessarily a breach of permit
- 2) Dismantling of wastes not on impermeable pavement. This made reference to permit breaches during previous site visits and was not observed during this compliance visit. It is included in this compliance report as action-only under "Other Matters" as it is included in the Regulation 36 Notice linked to this report.\*\*

### **Permit Breaches**

#### W1A - General Management - Category 3; Permit Condition 1.1.1(a)

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because you do not have a site noticeboard, as specified in the guidance document, "How to Comply with your Environmental Permit". A site noticeboard allows public to contact you or Natural Resources Wales in the event that they have concerns or would like further information. This can be critical for emergency services if they have to attend your site.

**Action:** Display a notice at or near the site entrance that is easily readable from outside the site in daylight hours and must include:

- the permit holder's name
- an emergency contact name and the operator's telephone number
- a statement that the site is permitted by Natural Resources Wales
- the permit number
- Natural Resources Wales national numbers, 0300 0653000 and 0800 807060 (incident hotline)

#### **By 31 January 2026**

#### W4A - Records - Category 3; Permit Condition 1.1.2

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because you are not recording the amount of time that staff are at the site and carrying out waste activities.

**Action:** Ensure that records are being kept of site attendance of the Technically Competent Manager and all persons on-site and working on waste activities. The records must be kept on-site and available for inspection and for each visit, must include:

- time in and time out of site;
- daily/weekly/monthly site checks
- records of maintenance

#### **By 31 January 2026**

#### W3A(1) - Emissions to Water - Action Only; Permit Condition 3.1.3

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because you are storing waste oils in a single Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC) that is balanced on a single-skin tank of indeterminate size. It is unclear whether, in the event of the the IBC

being damaged, that the tank will retain all or any of the fluids in the IBC

**Action:** Ensure that your oil storage complies with this permit condition. If you do not replace the existing storage arrangement, you must provide evidence that the secondary containment bund has been tested and does not leak **by 31 January 2026**

W1A - General Management - Category 3; Permit Condition 1.1.1(a)

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because you are failing to operate in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution. Your management system has not been updated since it was provided to you by your consultant when they applied for the permit in 2019 and it does not reflect current site activities.

**Action:** Submit an updated Environmental Management System that accurately reflects the current site layout and activities **by 15 March 2026**

W2A - Permitted Activities - Category 3; Permit Condition 2.1.1

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because you have been storing wastes such as door cards and interiors that are destined for disposal for longer than one year; and wastes destined for recovery for longer than 3 years. Where wastes for recovery are stored for longer than 3 years, we may consider them to have been disposed and can require you to remove them from site.

**Action:** Clear the bay below workshop of all wastes (including door cards and seats) **by 15 March 2026**

W2C - Operating Techniques - Category 3; Permit Condition 2.3.1

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because you are storing wastes other than fully depolluted end-of-life vehicles, uncontaminated plastic, glass and ferrous and non-ferrous metal wastes arising from the treatment of end-of-life vehicles on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage system.

**Action:** Fully depolluted end-of-life vehicles, uncontaminated plastic, glass and ferrous and non-ferrous metal wastes arising from the treatment of end-of-life vehicles shall be stored on hard standing **by 15 March 2026**

W2C - Operating Techniques - Category 3 (Consolidated); Permit Condition 2.3.1

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because whole undepolluted and undamaged vehicles are not being stored on an impermeable pavement with

- a. a sealed drainage system; or
- b. a drainage system which discharges to surface water or to groundwater and is designed, constructed and maintained so discharged run-off does not adversely impact the water quality of receiving water bodies, both during construction and when operational

The score for this permit breach has been consolidated under the above permit breach for permit condition 2.3.1 and therefore is assigned "Action Only" in Section 2 of this Compliance Report.

**Action:** Whole undepolluted and undamaged End-of-Life Vehicles must not be stored on grass **by 15 March 2026**

W2C - Operating Techniques - Action Only; Permit Condition 2.3.1

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because during previous site visits you have been seen dismantling wastes on hardstanding rather than impermeable pavement as required by the permit.

**Action:** You must only dismantle End-of-Life Vehicles and End-of-Life vehicle parts on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage system **by 03 May 2026**

#### W2D - The Site - Category 3; Permit Condition 2.4.1

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because you are storing End-of-Life Vehicles and Wastes outside the permit boundary because the boundary is not physically defined.

**Action:** Ensure that all End-of-Life Vehicles and End-of-Life vehicle waste is stored and treated within the permit boundary. Any wastes not stored within the permit boundary must be moved to within the boundary or from site **by 03 May 2026**

#### W2F - Technical Requirements - Category 3; Permit Condition 2.5.1

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because oils and fluids from End-of-Life Vehicles are not being stored separately as required by the permit.

**Action:** To comply with the standards set out in table 2.5 of your permit, you must ensure the removal and separate collection and storage of the following:

- fuel
- motor oil
- transmission oil
- gearbox oil
- hydraulic oil
- cooling liquids
- antifreeze
- brake fluids
- air-conditioning system fluids and gases
- any other fluid contained in the end-of-life vehicle unless they are necessary for the re-use of the parts concerned

**By 03 May 2026**

#### W3G - Fire - Category 3; Permit Condition 3.4.1

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because your Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan has not been updated since the permit was applied for in 2019 and does not reflect current on-site activities.

**Action:** Update the Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan to reflect current site layout and activities using the current, relevant fire prevention plan guidance **by 03 May 2026**

#### W4B - Reporting - Category 3; Permit Condition 4.2.2

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because you have not submitted waste returns since the permit was issued in 2019.

**Action:** Submit waste returns for years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 **by 03 May 2026**

#### **Other Matters**

W1A - General Management - Action Only; Permit Condition 1.1.1(a)

As noted for the compliance breach of permit condition 2.4.1 the boundary of the site is not physically defined and you have been storing wastes outside the permit boundary. To enable you to comply with your permit by ensuring all wastes are stored within the permit boundary you must ensure that the permit boundary is marked by clearly visible posts/barriers that enable the extent of the permitted area to be easily identified. Although there is no permit condition requiring the permit boundary to be physically identified, this has been included as an action on the accompanying Regulation 36 Notice due to the breach of permit condition 2.4.1.

W2C - Operating Techniques - Action Only; Permit Condition 2.3.1

You have been given this Category 3 breach under the above permit condition because during previous site visits you have been seen dismantling wastes on hardstanding rather than impermeable pavement as required by the permit. You must only dismantle End-of-Life Vehicles and End-of-Life vehicle parts on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage system

*In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order*

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 Waste compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**

**1. Management**

- W1A – General management
- W1B – Energy Efficiency (MCP/SG facilities only)
- W1C – Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

**2. Operations**

- W2A – Permitted activities
- W2B – Waste recovery plan
- W2C – Operating techniques
- W2D – The site
- W2E – Waste acceptance
- W2F – Technical requirements
- W2G – Improvement programme
- W2H – Pre-operational conditions

**3. Emission and Monitoring**

- W3A – Emissions to water, air or land
- W3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- W3C – Odour
- W3D – Noise and vibration
- W3E – Monitoring
- W3F – Pests
- W3G – Fire

**4. Information**

- W4A – Records
- W4B – Reporting
- W4C – 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.