

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050586

Permit being assessed: WQD009196

For: THE BLACK COCK INN, **held by:** MITCHELLS & BUTLERS PLC

At: WAUNWAELOD WAY, CAERPHILLY, ., CARDIFF, CF83 1NF.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 03/02/2026, between 10:00 and 10:20.

Parts of permit assessed: Site infrastructure and operations

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: James Lovegrove, Company Director, on 05/02/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Assessed (A)	
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-D1	Submit waste transfer notes as evidence of the most recent de-sludge undertaken for the system.	19/02/2026

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 03/01/2026 to the sewage treatment plant and infiltration system serving The Black Cock Inn (Waunwaelod Way, Caerphilly Mountain, CF83 1BD) permit reference number EPR-WQD009196.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended The Black Cock Inn at 10:00 for a water quality permit compliance inspection where I met with site staff. The company Director (JL) was not present. The weather was raining and cold at the time of the visit.

General Observations

The site is a commercial pub containing full catering/restaurant, welfare and staff facilities with capacity for 70 covers. It is serviced by a sewage treatment plant discharging to ground via an infiltration system.

The sewage treatment system is consented to discharge into land secondary treated sewage effluent via an infiltration system. The emissions limits are as follows:

- Maximum daily discharge volume: 9m³/d
- ATU-BOD as O₂: 29mg/l
- Suspended solids: 30mg/l
- Ammoniacal nitrogen (as N): 20mg/l
- Visible oil or grease: No significant trace present.

The discharge and sample point as well as the infiltration system shall be located at ST1439884727.

The site was operational at the time of the visit.

Initial Discussion

On arrival at site I met with a staff member who identified themselves as the owner's father in law ('A'). While 'A' informed me that the site owner was not present they were happy for me to inspect the treatment system on my own after confirming that the chambers were unlocked. No further discussions were held and I proceeded to the treatment system unaccompanied.

Site Infrastructure

On arriving at the treatment system, general conditions were good. All chamber covers were secure and the tank and control box integrity were sound. There were no obstructions and all parts of the infrastructure were accessible. These observations are seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – General site conditions as observed during the visit.

The alarm system and control box were inspected. The motor was running and appeared to be in good working order. All electronic components were clean and operational with no condensation or water ingress that could impact their function. This is evidenced in Figure 2.



Figure 2 – The alarm and control box as observed during the visit.

Each chamber of the treatment system was lifted in turn and the following observations were made. Evidence of each can be seen in Figure 3.

1. Primary settlement tank – The walls of the tank were in good condition with no cracks, breaks or leaks present. There was sufficient capacity in the tank and no excessive/abnormal odours present. I have actioned that the operator inform NRW of when the most recent de-sludge was undertaken for the system and to submit waste transfer notes as evidence.
2. Aeration chamber – As above, the integrity of the tank was good. The system was running well with continuous aeration underway and no excessive carry over of solids visible. There was some foam present in the second chamber but this was not carrying over into the final effluent tank and was assessed to be part of the desired biological breakdown of material.
3. Final effluent chamber – The tank was once again in good condition and holding the treated water well. The water was clear with the slight haze attributed to accumulated residues on the tank walls. An advisory has been set to undertake a clean of the tank when it is next emptied as per good practice. There was some pin floc (small floating inclusions) on the water's surface but this is not a concern and will be broken up and diluted during discharge.

Overall the treatment system is in good operational condition with no concerns raised. Please ensure good practices are continued in line with the permit conditions.



Figure 3 – The treatment system as observed during the visit. From top to bottom, left to right: Primary settlement tank, aeration chamber (1), aeration chamber (2) and final effluent tank.

The sample/discharge point is in the permitted location and was easily accessible and lifted. It is noted that the chamber lid was slightly loose and I was able to lift it without the use of drain keys. While it does not pose a risk from an integrity standpoint, the ease of opening could lead to unwanted access. I have added this as an advisory comment.

The water in the chamber was observed and while difficult to assess its quality due to reflecting light it was evident that no observable pollution was present and no concerning odours were experienced. As such I have no concerns over the quality of effluent being discharged. These observations can be seen in Figure 4.



Figure 4 – The sample/discharge point chamber as observed during the visit

The area of land behind the system where the infiltration system is located was clear of debris and there was no pooling water present. No odours or evidence of inadequate infiltration was present. As such I am happy to conclude that the infiltration system is performing well and as designed. This can be seen in Figure 5.



Figure 5 – The area where the infiltration system is located as observed during the visit.

No further observations were made. I returned to the pub to speak with staff on my conclusions.

Final Discussion

I informed 'A' that I had no concerns regarding the conditions observed and that I was happy that the system is performing well. No further discussions were held and no questions were asked.

I left site at 10:20.

Breaches of permit conditions

No breaches were recorded during this visit.

Actions required by dates specified

1. Submit waste transfer notes as evidence of the most recent de-sludge undertaken for the system.

Deadline: 19/02/2026

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

1. Undertake a clean of the system the next time the solids are removed.
2. Assess the sample point chamber cover and replace it if required to ensure its security.

Please note, these are advisory comments only, not actions. They are not actions and no updates will be requested. However, they stand as best practice guidance and will ensure the long term performance and integrity of the system and ensure continued compliance.

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 required for the permit condition assessed to avoid non-compliance. No non-compliance scored at this time
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

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 Monitoring
- WQ-C5 Installation of monitoring boreholes

WQ D: Information

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

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.

Disputing the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If you disagree with the content of this Compliance Assessment Report form, you should submit your concerns, in writing, to the regulating officer who issued it within **15 working days** of its issue. This will be treated as a **Stage 1 review**.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the stage 1 review, you may request a **Stage 2 appeal**. This request must be submitted **within 21 working days** of receiving the response from the stage 1 review.

Further details on our review and appeal process are available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Appeal a regulatory decision from Natural Resources Wales](#)

Concerns Not Related to the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If your concerns do not relate to the content of the Compliance Assessment Report form, you should first attempt to resolve the issue with the regulating officer or their line manager.

If the issue remains unresolved, please contact our **Customer Contact Team**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:00)
- **Email:** enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

They will provide details on how to escalate your concerns through our **Complaints and Commendations procedure**.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you may contact the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 790 0203
- **Email:** 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.