

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050550

Permit being assessed: DB3291CY

For: Waun Y Pound Upper Reservoir, **held by:** Natural Resources Wales

At: Blue Lake, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP23 6PL.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 28/01/2026, between 11:00 and 11:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Site infrastructure

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Scott Liddle, Company Director, on 05/03/2026.

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)	

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 28/01/2026 to Waun Y Pound Upper Reservoir (Blue Lake, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent,

NP23 6PL), permit reference number EPR-DB3291CY.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Waun Y Pound Upper Reservoir at 11:00 for a Water Quality Permit Compliance Visit. I did not meet any site operators during this visit, please see further details on this below. The weather was overcast, dry and cold during this visit.

General Observations

This site is a reservoir managed by NRW. Initially issued in June 2024, the permit enables NRW to exercise their regulatory step rights granted by S17 of the reservoirs Act 1975 to lower the water level of the Waun Y Pound upper reservoir to enable further inspection of the dam structure by a qualified civil engineer. The draw down is via the existing scour valve from the upper reservoir to the middle reservoir prior to discharge to an unnamed tributary of the River Ebbw, via an existing spillway.

The permit consents a maximum rate of discharge of 400l/s with the only water quality limit being that there shall be no significant trace of visible oil or grease present. The scour valve discharge (discharge point) shall be located at SO1540610845 to an unnamed tributary of the River Ebbw. This is also where the listed effluent sampling point shall be located.

The site was operational at the time of the visit with flows through the discharge point present, however the site is currently subject to changes in management, of which further details are outlined below. As stated above, no operators accompanied me on this visit to confirm the current arrangements and new arrangements for site management going forward.

Initial Observations – Change of management

On the 21/01/2026, NRW issued a full transfer of this permit from NRW to Hebe Group Limited, whose registered office is Oak Haven 1a, Trinity View, Caerleon, Newport, United Kingdom, NP18 3SU. The transfer shall take effect from the 04/02/2026. This transfer is for the operation of the water discharge activity, although Hebe Group Limited are also taking on the wider management and development of the site.

Due to the transfer of the permit prior to my visit, I decided to contact Hebe Group Limited to discuss the planned visit and give notice of any actions that may fall under their responsibility once the report is issued. I contacted the company director (SL) on the 27/01/2026 and informed them of my intention to visit the site the following day. SL was very enthusiastic on the phone and was eager to hear the outcome of any inspections and the requirements of Hebe Group Limited as the new site operators. While SL informed me that they could not join me themselves on site, they would attempt to organise for one of their representatives to meet me on site. While on the phone, SL noted the long term intention was to decommission the site as a reservoir and develop them into a more natural lake environment. It was also stated that commercial developments were also intended for the site.

On arrival at site, I was not met by any representatives from Hebe Group Limited and I was unable to contact SL over the phone. After waiting a reasonable period of time I commenced the inspection without any representatives of Hebe Group Limited.

Site Infrastructure Observations

There were no active operations ongoing at the site and no operators or representatives from NRW or Hebe Group Limited present. It is unclear whether there are any abstractions for amenity purposes occurring from these reservoirs. From my observations it is apparent that the primary use of the site is as a public greenspace with access tracks and public footpaths being used by local people.

As there was nobody on site to discuss current operations, I made my way to the only permitted and observable feature of the site which was the discharge/effluent sampling point. This point was easily accessible and accurate to the listed coordinates. The discharge was clear with no observable polluting material present, and the rate of discharge estimated to be compliant with the 400l/s limited, as seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – The discharge/effluent sampling point as observed during the visit.

No further infrastructure observations were made. I left site at 11:30.

Final Observations

Due to the limited information of site operations currently ongoing at this site (prior to

transfer from NRW to Hebe Group Limited) I will need to discuss any handover that is taking place with NRW's reservoirs team. Additionally, I will contact SL to discuss the outstanding requirements of the permit prior to the intended decommissioning work begin relating to:

1. Invasive Non-Native Species management plan
2. Site management plan
3. Silt and water quality management plan

Breaches of permit conditions

No breaches of permit conditions were recorded during this visit.

Actions required by dates specified

No actions for site operators/managers at this time.

Other advisory comments

No advisory comments.

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.