

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0051428

**Permit being assessed:** CB3395CX.

**For:** Ystum Colwyn AD, **held by:** Ystum Colwyn Farms Ltd

**At:** Ystum Colwyn, Meifod, Powys, SY22 6XT.

**Type of assessment:** Site Inspection,

**Reason:** Routine.

**On:** 09/04/2026 between 11:00 and 12:30.

**Parts of permit assessed:** See below.

**NRW Lead Officer:** Libby Hughes, accompanied by Kathryn Bradshaw.

**Report sent to:** Owner / Operator, Owner / Operator, on 30/04/2026.

### 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	Assessed (A)	
IR2B - Installations - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
IR2C - Installations - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
0	0

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
IR2C	See Action 1 below	15/05/2026

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.

**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**

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) officers visited Ystum Colwyn AD plant on 9th April to carry out a site familiarisation visit, and to introduce new staff to the facility and the Operator. During the visit there was discussion about a permit variation. NRW officers met with the owner / operator and the Consultant advising on the current permit variation.

Officers carried out a site inspection. The site was very tidy, and no compliance issues were raised. The proposed permit variation and the revisions to the site boundary were discussed.

**IR2C - Operating techniques**

Waste transfer notes were produced to show the origin of the farm wastes used to feed the anaerobic digester. The waste is sourced from a small number of farms known to the operator, to ensure the quality of waste is maintained, and that contamination from non-compostable or digestible waste is minimal. Chicken litter is sourced from farms where broilers are bedded down on biodegradable straw pellets.

The primary digester has an automatic de-gritting system. In practice there is hardly any grit entering the system, and to date it has not been necessary to empty the grit trap.

**Standard Rules Variation**

An upgraded version of the The standard rules was published in December 2025, to SRN2023 No 1.1

<https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/tbmg2lss/sr2023-no01-v11-on-farm-ad-installation.pdf>

Discussions were held around the requirements of the latest variation and the increased reporting requirements which must be submitted as part of the annual returns by 31st January each year. The owner / operator confirmed awareness and understanding of the monitoring and reporting of the updated version. Most of the new monitoring requirements are already captured by the existing SCADA system.

Discussions included the additional requirements for leak detection and repair; for clarification, below is an excerpt from the Standard Rules permit which details the requirements.

Monitoring fugitive emissions			
Parameter	Limit	Monitoring standard or method	Other specifications
Volatile organic compounds, including methane	As agreed with Natural Resources Wales	Leak detection and repair	- EN 15446 - Monitoring points as specified in a DSEAR risk assessment and LDAR programme - Limit as agreed with Natural Resources Wales as a percentage of the overall gas production

**Action 1:** Review the process for the monitoring of fugitive emissions to ensure that it is being carried out in accordance with these requirements.

**Permit Variation**

The latest permit variation submitted to NRW is in the process of determination. A second primary digester will be added together with a second feed system. A flare will be added as well as a gas balloon. The aim is to increase overall performance and optimise gas capture by slowing the process down rather than increasing throughput. The two primary tanks will be linked to both feeders so that if either primary tank or feeder needs to be taken off-line for maintenance or repair, the other tank can continue to operate and be fed from either feed system.

The owner / operator was reminded that all new infrastructure must be constructed in accordance with a CIRIA 736 report, or equivalent approved standard. This is also likely to be a requirement of the planning process.

**Outstanding Actions**

CAR Form **CAR\_NRW0050745** which was sent to the operator on 3rd March 2026 included four actions, all to be completed by 30th April 2026. During the visit NRW officers were provided with reports to demonstrate compliance with Action 2.

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 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	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(1) – Emissions to water
- IR3A(2) – Emissions to air
- IR3A(3) – Emissions to 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.

### **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](mailto: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](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.