

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0051666

**Permit being assessed:** AN0235601

**For:** Hafod Quarry, **held by:** TARMAC TRADING LIMITED

**At:** Hafod Quarry, Abercarn, Newbridge, Caerphilly, NP11 5LH.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Site Inspection,

**Reason:** Routine.

**On** 23/04/2026, between 12:15 and 12:40.

**Parts of permit assessed:** Site management and infrastructure

**NRW Lead Officer:** Elis Nuttall.

**Report sent to:** Tarmac Trading Limited, Permit holder and site operator, on 01/05/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	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-B3	Remove excess silt and debris from the final settlement tank to ensure effective settlement of solids prior to discharge. Evidence should be submitted of completion.	01/06/2026
WQ-B1	Monitor any effluent being tracked off site by vehicles or any runoff not entering catch pits and take appropriate actions to prevent them discharging untreated or via unpermitted channels.	31/10/2026

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 23/04/2026 to Hafod Quarry, Abercarn permit reference number EPR- AN0235601.

This visit was conducted due to a water quality sampling breach of suspended solids recorded on 14/04/2026, details of which can be found in CAR\_NRW 0051665, to assess the conditions of site drainage. This was an unannounced visit.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Hafod Quarry at 12:15 where I met with the Senior Operation Manager (NB). The weather was clear and dry during the visit.

**General Observations**

The site is a quarry and asphalt plant located in Abercarn, Caerphilly.

This permit covers site drainage discharges when flows in the Nant Hafod Fach (receiving watercourse) are under 0.53m<sup>3</sup>/second. The discharge shall consist solely of trade effluent comprising of site drainage from quarrying activities and shall not contain any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or solid waste matter. The volume of discharge shall be dependent on rainfall. The following composition limits shall not be exceeded:

- 80mg/l of suspended solids
- 5mg/l of mineral oil
- A pH value of 9 pH units or less than a pH value of 6 pH units

The site was operational at the time of the visit.

**Initial Discussion**

As noted, this visit was conducted to assess the condition of site drainage infrastructure and discharge water quality due to a recent breach of suspended solids. It is noted that the source of the effluent that caused the breach is somewhat uncertain, with NRW sampling staff noting a potential external input which is consistent with claims made by site operators for several recent breaches.

I began my visit by discussing the site's current operations with NB who noted that the improvement works were ongoing and that significant investments were being made. It was stated that no flows from the permitted discharge channels were present at the time of the visit. We proceeded to investigate the drainage infrastructure prior to off site discharge.

### **Site Infrastructure**

We began by observing the final settlement tank prior to discharge. The tank was seen to be holding a significant amount of silt and debris (as evidenced in Figure 1) however there was minimal water both holding and entering the tank at the time of the visit. I would advise that this tank be cleared of excess silt and debris to ensure appropriate capacity to hold and settle suspended solids in the immediate future. This is actioned below. Despite this, it is clear that the site is not and has not discharged water via the consented discharge point recently.



Figure 1 – Final settlement tank as observed during the visit.

The site entrance catch pit was observed to be holding polluted site drainage at the time of the visit, however NB noted that this was treated using an on-site silt buster located nearby. It is then discharged back into the watercourse via site drainage channels. No concerns noted. Observations seen in Figure 2.



Figure 2 – The site entrance catch pit as observed during the visit.

While the catch pit appeared to be working effectively, I did observe some runoff leaving the site via the carriageway, as observed in Figure 3. It is unclear where this effluent has originated, potentially being tracked off site by vehicles, and was entering a road drain ~30m down the road from the site entrance. However, this runoff did not appear to be polluted and was not significant in volume. I advise that the site operators monitor any water being tracked off site or any runoff discharging at any point other than the permitted discharge points. Appropriate actions should be taken if this situation becomes amplified or poses a risk to off site water quality. This is actioned below.



Figure 3 – Runoff observed leaving site and entering a road drain during the visit.

Finally, the discharge channel towards the sample point was observed, evidence of which can be seen in Figure 4. As can be seen, there was no flow at the time of the visit, with the channel appearing dry in several locations. This indicates no recent discharges via the permitted points. However, this does not mean that there are not any other undocumented discharges from site. Another follow up visit to investigate the site drainage further is needed and to identify the pathway that the polluted effluent observed on the 14/04/2026. This has been actioned in CAR\_NRW 0051665 so is not reflected here.



Figure 4 – Site discharge channel as observed during the visit.

No further observations made. It is acknowledged that discharges would be difficult to trace at the time of the visit due to a period of dry weather occurring, so any follow up visits would benefit from rainfall so that flows can be traced effectively.

### **Final Discussion**

I outlined my observations with NB who agreed that the site was currently performing well regarding site drainage, and reiterated the efforts being made to address the historic issues experienced. It is clear that the site is attempting to be proactive in addressing this. No further questions were raised.

I left site at 12:40.

### **Breaches of permit conditions**

No breaches were recorded during this visit.

### **Actions required by dates specified**

1. Remove excess silt and debris from the final settlement tank to ensure effective

settlement of solids prior to discharge. Evidence should be submitted of completion.

**Deadline: 01/06/2026**

2. Monitor any effluent being tracked off site by vehicles or any runoff not entering catch pits and take appropriate actions to prevent them discharging untreated or via unpermitted channels.

**Deadline: Continual (administrative date of 31/10/2026).**

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**

A follow up visit to undertake further drainage investigations will be completed as soon as possible. Please contact me to organise this visit as soon as practicable.

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