

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0051665

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: Check Monitoring/Sampling,

Reason: Routine.

On 14/04/2026, between 13:50 and 14:10.

Parts of permit assessed: Emissions limits

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Tarmac Trading Limited, Permit Holder & 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-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C1 Major (Suspended)	Emissions Limits: Permit Condition 3.1.2
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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-C1	Improve operations to bring the discharge into compliance with permitted limits	01/06/2026
WQ-C1	Produce a report on why the system is not meeting limits of the permit	01/06/2026
WQ-C1	Organise an investigatory visit with myself (Elis Nuttall, Environment Officer) to trace the offending outfall to ascertain if it is runoff from offsite or if it is diffuse site drainage.	01/06/2026

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.

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

Site Visit Report

On the 14/04/2026, NRW officers visited Hafod Quarry, Abercarn to undertake routine water quality sampling (Permit no. AN0235601).

During this visit a breach of emissions limits was recorded for suspended solids. Please see details and actions below.

Breaches of permit condition:

CATEGORY 1 BREACH – Emissions Limits: Permit Condition 3.1.2

The limits given in schedule 3 shall not be exceeded:

- *Suspended solids (measured after drying at 105°C): 80mg/l*

Justification – The concentration of suspended solids during this routine sampling was measured at 2280mg/l, an exceedance over five times the numerical limit of 80mg/l. As a result a Category 1 breach is justified. However, this score will be suspended due to the following factors:

1. An ongoing enforcement case is underway for the site due to similar recent breaches. The permit holder has continually stated the effluent which is causing the breaches is not coming from the permitted site and that external inputs are artificially raising the records which are not a fair or accurate representation of site drainage water quality. I have previously agreed to delay the issuing of enforcement actions until evidence of these claimed external inputs can either be substantiated or disproved.
2. The member of NRW's sampling staff who undertook the monitoring visit on the 14/04/2026 contacted me to highlight that a pipe that discharges approx. 5 m upstream of the sample point is what is causing the suspended solids breach and that the channelised discharge (from the site) upstream is clear. This can be seen in Figure 1. As such there are uncertainties on where this polluting material has originated from, but it appears to support the permit holder's claim that additional discharges not from the site have caused recent breaches. Additional investigations

will be required to confirm the source or at minimum trace the pathway.



Figure 1 – Evidence provided by NRW sampling staff of the observations made on the 14/04/2026.

3. I visited the site on the 23/04/2026 (full details of which can be found in CAR_NRW0051666) and observed that the final settlement chamber and discharge channel were holding minimal water and dry respectively, indicating very low to minimal flows of site drainage in the preceding days. However, as stated previously, further investigations are required to confirm the pathways of all water leaving site and to investigate where off site drainage is originating and discharging.
4. The permit holder is in the process of installing a new treatment system following a

permit variation and consolidation which will be taking effect in October 2026. As such I am happy to work with the permit holder to address any issues with the site infrastructure prior to this date.

Please see a list of actions below.

Actions required by date specified

1. Improve operations to bring the discharge into compliance with permitted limits
2. Produce a report on why the system is not meeting limits of the permit
3. Organise an investigatory visit with myself (Elis Nuttall, Environment Officer) to trace the offending outfall to ascertain if it is runoff from offsite or if it is diffuse site drainage.

The deadline for the above actions is **01/06/2026**.

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

Please note, due to the ambiguity of the source/origin of the offending effluent the enforcement proceedings have been paused. However, if it is clear that the site is causing the polluted effluent then this suspended breach as well as previously suspended breaches will be used as evidence to support the enforcement case.

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@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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.