

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052022

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 01/06/2026, between 12:59 and 13:39.

Parts of permit assessed: Water Quality Sampling

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Tarmac Trading Limited , Site operator, on 05/06/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
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	Ensure site drainage plans are available when NRW officers return to conduct drainage investigations on the 10/06/2026.	10/06/2026

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.

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 01/06/2026 to Hafod Quarry, Abercarn permit reference number EPR- AN0235601. The purpose of this visit was to undertake routine compliance monitoring and to investigate reported “offsite” inputs that are reportedly causing the site to breach its emissions limits.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) and IL (NRW Environmental Data Collection Officer) attended Hafod Quarry at 13:00 where we met with the Site Manager (LJ) and the Senior Operation Manager (NB). The weather was wet and overcast 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 0.53m³/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.

Please note, this permit has undergone a variation to consolidate it with AN0337201 and to include on-site treatment of site drainage. This variation is due to come into effect on 31/10/2026.

Initial Discussion

On arrival at site, IL and I met with LJ and stated the purpose of the visit before proceeding to the permitted discharge point.

Site Infrastructure

The discharge point was observed to be clear of any silt with very good clarity at the time of the visit, as seen in Figure 1. Both IL and LJ took samples during the visit. Results will be shared once available.



Figure 1 – The sample point as observed during the visit.

It was noted previously that a lateral outfall pipe ~3m upstream of the sampling point has been observed to be discharging polluted water. At the time of this visit the pipe could not be seen due to heavy vegetation growth, however it was clear that no pollution discharges were taking place at the time of the visit. As such the planned investigations were

postponed due to the lack of flow meaning dye tracing would be impractical.

On returning to the site office, I requested to inspect the final settlement tank due to previous actions requesting it to be cleared of excess debris after a visit conducted on the 14/04/2026. On observation, it was clear that the tank has been cleared by the stated deadline, as seen in Figure 2. No further actions regarding this were set.



Figure 2 – The final settlement tank as observed during the visit.

The only additional piece of site infrastructure I highlighted to LJ was that the silt buster treating runoff from the catch pit was discharging into a road drain near the site entrance, as seen in Figure 3. I queried whether this drain discharged into the leat which passes through the sampling point or if it discharged elsewhere. LJ did not know the answer at the

time of the visit but stated plans would be available showing the drainage layout from site. I requested that these be made available for the next visit where drainage investigations will hopefully be possible. This is reflected in the actions list below.



Figure 3 – The silt buster outlet pipe discharging to a road drain as observed during the visit.

No further infrastructure observations were made during this visit.

Final Discussion

I outlined my conclusions from this visit to LJ who agreed with what was discussed. The only concerns raised by LJ was that the site are being asked to be responsible for water that enters the drainage system that does not originate from the site i.e. the old coal tip. I informed LJ that while water from off site may not travel through the quarry area, any water that passes through site, including haul roads and parking areas, are classed as “site drainage” and therefore are regulated by the permit and in turn the site must manage it in line with their permit conditions. I agreed to return to site within 2 weeks to undertake the planned drainage investigations. This was subsequently agreed to take place on 10/06/2026. No further discussions were held or questions asked.

We left site at 13:39.

Breaches of permit conditions

No breaches were recorded during this visit.

Actions required by dates specified

1. Ensure site drainage plans are available when NRW officers return to conduct drainage investigations on the 10/06/2026.

Deadline: 10/06/2026

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

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.