

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052213

Permit being assessed: CB3698ZW.

For: The Smithy, **held by:** Towy Metals Ltd

At: Aberarth, Aberarth, Aberaeron, Ceredigion, SA46 0LD.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 30/06/2026 between 11:20 and 12:10.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria list below.

NRW Lead Officer: Luke Taylor, accompanied by Christopher Tipper.

Report sent to: John Murphy, Site Operator , on 30/06/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
W3G - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Fire	Action only (X)	
W2C - Waste - 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
W1A	Review and update the site EMS and provide a copy to NRW for review	31/08/2026
W3G	Provide a copy of the site FPMP to NRW and ensure that this is available on site and accessible to the fire and rescue service in the event of an emergency	31/08/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
W2C	Empty and inspect the drainage system and sump to ensure it is operating correctly. Provide records of this to NRW	31/08/2026

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

This Compliance Assessment Report is being produce following an inspection of The Old Smithy at Aberarth, conducted by Luke Taylor (Senior Officer - Waste Regulation) and Chris Tipper (Enforcement Officer) of Natural Resources Wales.

The weather at the time of the inspection was overcast and dry, the officers were accompanied by the site operator throughout.

The site has not been operating since 2024 and operations have just recommenced at a very low level. During the inspection there was a small quantity of waste on site, all being stored on one of the impermeable concrete pads, some within containers. There were no end of life vehicles (ELV's) on site at the time.

W1A General Management - Permit Condition 1.1.1 - ACTION ONLY

The above permit condition states that you must operate in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non conformances, closure and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints.

The previous version of the site environment management system (EMS) needs to be fully reviewed and updated to reflect operations on site and changes made since the last time the site was operating. Further guidance on the development and review of the EMS can be found within the document 'How to comply with your environment management system' on our website:

[How to comply with your environmental permit](#)

**ACTION - Review and update the site EMS and provide a copy to NRW for review.
Deadline 31/08/2026**

W2C Operating Techniques - Permit Condition 2.3.1 - ACTION ONLY

In order to comply with table 2.3 within the above permit condition, you are required to store certain wastes, such as un-depolluted end of life vehicles, on impermeable pavement,

with a sealed drainage system. Sealed drainage system means a drainage system with impermeable components which does not leak and which will ensure that:

- (a) no liquid will run off the surface otherwise than via the system;
- (b) except where they may lawfully be discharged to foul sewer, all liquids entering the system are collected in a sealed sump.

When the site was previously in operation, there was a sealed sump at the bottom of the site, with drains from the upper and lower impermeable concrete pads leading to it. Whilst the site has been out of operation for several years, the sump chamber lid has been removed at some stage, allowing rain water to enter. There was also debris visible in the drainage channels on both of the concrete pads.

Prior to accepting any end of life vehicles, you must ensure that the sump is emptied and inspected to ensure that it is operating correctly, and maintain records of this. The drainage channels must also be cleared of debris. The process for routine inspection, maintenance of the drainage system must be detailed in the site EMS.

ACTION - Empty and inspect the drainage system and sump to ensure it is operating correctly. Provide records of this to NRW. Deadline 31/08/2026

W3G Fire - Permit Condition 3.4.1 - ACTION ONLY

The above permit condition requires that you manage and operate the activities in accordance with a written fire prevention and mitigation plan (FPMP), using the current, relevant fire prevention plan guidance. The latest version of this can be found on our website here:

[Natural Resources Wales / Fire prevention and mitigation plans](#)

Many sites place a copy of their plan in an 'emergency services box'. This could be located at the site entrance or another suitable location. The Fire and Rescue Service and NRW must be able to access it during an emergency.

ACTION - Provide a copy of the site FPMP to NRW and ensure that this is available on site and accessible to the fire and rescue service in the event of an emergency. Deadline 31/08/2026

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this compliance assessment report, please contact me: luke.taylor@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Regards,
Luke Taylor

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.

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 Waste compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**1. Management**

- W1A – General management
- W1B – Energy Efficiency (MCP/SG facilities only)
- W1C – Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

2. Operations

- W2A – Permitted activities
- W2B – Waste recovery plan
- W2C – Operating techniques
- W2D – The site
- W2E – Waste acceptance
- W2F – Technical requirements
- W2G – Improvement programme
- W2H – Pre-operational conditions

3. Emission and Monitoring

- W3A(1) – Emissions to water
- W3A(2) – Emissions to air
- W3A(3) – Emissions to land
- W3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- W3C – Odour
- W3D – Noise and vibration
- W3E – Monitoring
- W3F – Pests
- W3G – Fire

4. Information

- W4A – Records
- W4B – Reporting
- W4C – 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

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.