Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0053052

Permit being assessed: AB3091ZZ.

For: Sychtyn, **held by:** Mr Edward Vaughan, Mr John Vaughan and Mrs Eluned Beryl Vaughan

At: Sychtyn, Llanerfyl, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0JF.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 18/09/2026 between 13:45 and 15:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Site Infrastructure and management System.

NRW Lead Officer: Malcolm Dines, accompanied by Murray Pugh.

Report sent to: Edward Vaughan, Permit Holder, on 28/09/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W3A(2) - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	Assessed (A)	
W2G - Waste - Operations - Improvement programme	C3 Minor (Suspended)	2.3.1
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	Action only (X)	

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	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
W2G	Comply with the requirements of Improvement Condition 1	31/12/2026
W1A	Provide written confirmation that whey meets the by-product test	31/12/2026

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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 was a routine Compliance visit carried out by Malcolm Dines (Waste Regulation Officer) and Murray Pugh (Tackling Waste Crime Officer) who met with Edward Vaughan (Permit Holder and Technically Competent Manager). The weather was wet with heavy rain during the compliance visit.

Permit Breaches

W2G - Improvement Programme - Category 3 (Suspended); Permit Rule 2.4.1
You have been given the above breach of Rule 2.4.1 as the infrastructure report required by Improvement Condition 1 was not submitted to Natural Resources Wales by the deadline of 30 August 2026, as required by Compliance Report CAR_NRW0052122, dated 17 June 2026.

You sent an email on 27 August 2026 explaining that while the engineer had been to site, they had not yet produced the report. Because this work is in progress, the compliance score for this breach has been suspended. If you fail to submit the report before the new deadline below, this score will be unsuspended and could towards your annual compliance banding.

Action: comply with the requirements of Improvement Condition 1 **by 31 December 2026**

Other Matters

Use of whey as a feedstock

At the time of this compliance visit you confirmed that you are accepting whey as a feedstock and that this is being accepted as a waste as you are retaining the wate transfer notes.

Under Natural Resources Wales' guidance - Natural Resources Wales / End of waste: anaerobic digestate produced from anaerobic digestion of source-segregated biodegradable waste - you can only spread digestate to land without the need for a deployment under a mobile plant for landspreading permit when the feedstock for the digestate is either farm waste (such as chicken manure or cattle slurry) and/or crop grown

specifically as a feedstock for the digester. Unless the whey is classed as a by-product, and therefore not waste, you cannot continue to accept the whey and still spread the digestate to land without an approved mobile plant deployment.

It is the requirement of the producer to classify waste correctly, or to determine whether it is a by-product by providing written confirmation that the whey meets the by-product test. This is done by applying the by-product test set out at GOV.UK using the following link: Check if your material is waste - GOV.UK . Natural Resources Wales may check the self-assessment and may disagree with the result.

If the producer of the whey will not provide a written statement, then the whey will be considered to be a waste and therefore, if you want to continue to accept this whey as a feedstock the digestate must only be spread to land under an approved deployment for a landspreading permit. You do not need to hold your own mobile plant permit, but will need to contract an existing mobile plant operator to apply for a deployment to spread to your land.

Action: provide written confirmation that whey meets the by-product test **by 31 December 2026**

W3A(2) - Emissions to Air: Emissions Monitoring

Compliance report CAR_NRW0051735, dated 11 May 2026, required you to submit a report by 12 July 2026 into the Approach To Limit result for VOCs reported in the stack emission monitoring for your site for 2025.

Natural Resources Wales received an email from you on 20 August 2026 that included a response from the engine maintenance company, 2G, dated 16 July 2026, that stated,

> *"The engine state of tune is, as you rightly said, within permit tolerance, the VOCs (unburnt hydrocarbon) value is governed by engine age, condition and design. The current run-hours on the set are 89,000 hrs*
>
> *2G have replaced the cylinder heads for V36 latest upgrade since the 62k overhaul. To increase the exhaust temp that will in turn benefit emission control we could upgrade the piston design for natural gas, which could be done circa Jan 2027"*

The email from 2G does not address whether any work was undertaken to identify potential problems with the operation of the engine, or engine management and set-up, but do detail that the cylinder heads were replaced however, this would have been around 2023 and so before two consecutive years where the VOC emissions were Approach To Limit. These are It is noted that there was was significant drop in the level of VOC emissions compared to the testing undertaken in 2022.

However, you had the emissions re-tested and the results for all emissions were below the Emission Limit Value set in the permit.

No Action Required

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.