Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0053156

Permit being assessed: AW2004001

For: MAES Y LADE TREGOYD BRECON POWYS, **held by:** ESSEX BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS

At: MAES Y LADE, TREGOYD, BRECON, POWYS, LD3 0SS.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 30/09/2026, between 11:58 and 12:43.

Parts of permit assessed: 3. Location, 4. Sampling Points, 5. Volume, 8. Discharge

NRW Lead Officer: Frankie Farrell, accompanied by: Kirsty Allwood.

Report sent to: David Hassard, Centre Manager, on 06/10/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	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-C4	Provide NRW with evidence confirming the location of the designated sampling point	31/10/2026
WQ-B1	Review occupancy levels and apply to vary the permit if the site regularly caters for more than 50 people.	31/10/2027

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 Description

Maes y Lade is located within the Black Mountains and provides residential outdoor education experiences and training for young people. The centre has residential accommodation for up to 63 people, including staff, with additional capacity available through camping within the site grounds. The permitted discharge from the site's sewage treatment system is limited to 6.25 m³ per day and discharges to the Felindre Brook.

Purpose of Visit

This was a routine announced compliance inspection. Officers were met on site by the Centre Manager.

Weather Conditions

There had been sporadic periods of heavy rainfall within the 24 hours preceding the inspection.

Assessment Findings

Operations

The site operates a Bio-Bubble sewage treatment system. The system is subject to regular maintenance, including an annual full service. Records reviewed during the inspection confirmed that the most recent full desludge and pump-through was completed on 2 October 2025, with the next scheduled service booked for 16 October 2026.

The treatment system is fitted with an alarm warning light system located in the main office, providing staff with an alert mechanism in the event of any operational issues.

Monitoring

The Centre Manager was unable to accompany officers to the treatment plant during the inspection. Officers were therefore unable to locate the designated sampling point. The Centre Manager believed the sampling point to be in the location specified within the permit; however, it was not identifiable on site. Clear signage and labelling of the sampling point would assist future inspections and sampling activities.

Required Action

- Provide NRW with evidence confirming the location of the designated sampling point

by **31 October 2026**

Volume

Although the centre's website states that the facility can accommodate up to 63 people, the Centre Manager confirmed that typical group sizes are generally between 30 and 45 people.

The current permit limit of 6.25 m³ per day is broadly equivalent to a population of approximately 40 to 50 people. Should the site begin to operate consistently at or near its full residential capacity of 63 occupants, the existing permitted discharge volume may no longer be sufficient. In such circumstances, a permit variation to increase the authorised discharge volume may be required.

Required Action

- Review occupancy levels on a regular basis and apply to vary the permit if the site regularly caters for more than 50 people.

Discharge Point

The discharge point could not be accessed during the inspection due to dense vegetation surrounding the headwall. Officers were, however, able to assess the surrounding area. No evidence of sewage fungus, sewage debris, discolouration, or other signs of pollution was observed within the receiving watercourse.

Discharge Point



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.