Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0053240

Permit being assessed: AC0096401

For: BIRDPORT LIMITED CORPORATION ROAD, **held by:** Bird Port Ltd

At: BIRDPORT LIMITED, CORPORATION ROAD, NEWPORT, WALES, NP19 0RE.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 13/10/2026, between 10:00 and 10:55.

Parts of permit assessed: Permit compliance

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Damian Walsh, Port Director, on 14/10/2026.

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	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	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-B1	Submit to NRW a variation to update the consented sample point for the system to be located at ST3299985151.	14/11/2026
WQ-A1	Provide a photo of the discharge point outlet during low tide as evidence of location and condition for the benefit of NRW.	14/11/2026

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 Inspection Report

This report details the site inspection made by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the 13/10/2026 to Bird Port Ltd (trading as Port Harcon Shipping Company Limited), permit reference number EPR/AC0096401.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Bird Port at 10:00 for a water quality permit compliance inspection where I met with the Port Director (DW). The weather was clear after a period of rain.

General Observations

The site is a commercial port on the banks of the River Usk estuary. There is a port office on site which contains the welfare facilities for the site operators. The facility is serviced by a sewage treatment system which is permitted to discharge biologically treated sewage effluent to the estuary.

The discharge limits of this permit are descriptive, with the only composition condition being the works shall be operated so as to prevent any matter being present in the effluent which will cause the receiving water to be poisonous or injurious to fish etc. In addition, the discharge volume is limited to 10m^3/d with the discharge/sample point consented to be located at ST32908516.

The site was operational at the time of the inspection.

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Initial Discussion

This was my second inspection of the site, with the previous inspection highlighting numerous issues with the sewage treatment system on site, ultimately concluding that the system was non-operational and not fit for purpose. This was highlighted in the previous compliance assessment report form; please see CAR_NRW0050498 for full details and associated actions. As such I began this inspection by discussing the updates provided by DW during the improvements works and the current status of the system.

DW stated that the site now has a new sewage treatment system which was finalised and brought into service ~3 weeks prior to the inspection. I was informed of this via email at the time which included the plans and details of the system which I assessed as being appropriate. The capacity of the system is more than sufficient for the ~15no personnel on site and the manufacturer's warranty and maintenance instructions are held by DW on site. The on-site foul drainage channels have been updated and replaced where needed due to evidence from the commissioned drainage survey showing several defects. Regarding the conditions for a sampling point, DW noted that a new final effluent chamber has been established which can be used as a new sampling point. Finally, the discharge point has

not changed with the new system utilising the existing outfall.

I am very pleased with the effort and progress achieved by the site. It is clear that proactive and effective steps have been taken to resolve the previously highlighted breaches. It is clear evidence of responsible management and operation of a water discharge permit.

I had no further points to discuss so we proceeded to inspect the site infrastructure.

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Site Infrastructure

At the time of the inspection the site was undergoing significant improvement works to establish concrete areas. As a result, the general site conditions were mixed with areas of bare earth present in preparation for concrete pouring etc. However, there were no large areas of standing water present and there was no evidence of off-site impacts resulting from the construction activities. I had no concerns as a result. These conditions can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – The general site conditions as observed during the inspection.

As noted, the foul drainage channels have been updated, with the damaged internal structures being replaced, but the general length and location remaining the same. Two chambers on site were lifted to assess their condition, with Figure 2 showing the condition at the time of the inspection. The internal structure looked to be in a very good condition with no cracks or defects present. There was good effluent flow towards to treatment

system with minimal obstructions, however I did note the presence of some grit/silt build up present. I advised that the clearing of these lines should be added to the site's maintenance regime to which DW agreed. All wastes should be removed and disposed of as contaminated sewage material via a registered waste carrier to a permitted waste site. This is listed in the advisory comments section below. No concerns were noted.



Figure 2 – On site foul drainage channels as observed during the inspection.

The new treatment system is located in the same place as the old one (~ST3301885158), with the previous building having been demolished and a contained, underground package treatment plant installed in its place. Prior to inspecting the system itself, I observed the above ground infrastructure which consisted of some electrical systems and a vent pipe. All of these components were newly installed and in good operational condition, with no issues noted at the time of the inspection. This can be seen in Figure 3.



Figure 3 – The above ground sewage treatment system infrastructure as observed during the inspection.

The treatment plant itself (as noted above) is a below ground self-contained system and consists of a primary settlement tank, filtration and aeration chambers. On lifting the chamber covers it was evident that the system was in good operational order with the pump running and good dispersal of aeration. While the settlement tank was holding some solid material there was plenty of capacity present at the time of the inspection. There were no concerning noises or vibrations present that would indicate a fault on the system. These observations are evidenced in Figure 4. On enquiring about the maintenance of the system, DW noted that it had not yet been de-sludged, but this would take place as necessary. I advised that the site implement a bi-annual de-sludge to begin with, increasing to a quarterly if required based on volume. This can be dynamically assessed going forward. I had no concerns regarding the treatment system or its operation.



Figure 4 – The treatment system containing the settlement tank and aeration chambers as observed during the inspection.

Treated effluent from the system is discharged to a final effluent chamber located at ST3299985151. This is the point that DW noted could be used as a new sample point. As such, I have included an action to vary the permit to update this new sample point for the benefit of any operational staff requiring access to take a sample. Please note, this variation process may take an extended period. As it is an administrative change to the paperwork this will not impact the site's ability or consent to discharge treated effluent, so no change in operations are required while the variation process is underway. Regarding the condition of the chamber, it appeared to be in a very good condition with no cracks or defects present. There was a clear inlet and outlet to the chamber with the treated effluent within showing good water quality, no perceivable solids carried over and no noxious odour present. I am happy to assess the system as treating the effluent to a sufficient quality to discharge. I raised no concerns. These observations can be seen in Figure 5.



Figure 5 – The final effluent and new sampling point as observed during the inspection.

Finally, I attempted to observe the discharge point to the River Usk Estuary but due to it being high tide at the time of this inspection the outlet was submerged and not visible, as seen in Figure 6. DW noted that they could provide photographic evidence of the outlet at a later date to which I agreed. This is noted as an action below.



Figure 6 – The tidal River Usk Estuary (receiving watercourse) as observed during the inspection. The discharge point outfall was submerged at the time.

No further observations were made during this inspection.

Final Discussion

I outlined my observations and actions to DW who raised no further questions or requests. I thanked DW for their proactive and effective management of the site's foul drainage and treatment system, commending their cooperation and efforts to undertake the required work and communication with me at every stage in a timely manner. I am very happy with the quality and extent of the works.

I left site at 10:55.

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Breaches of permit conditions

No breaches of permit conditions were recorded during this inspection. Please see a list of actions below.

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Actions required by dates specified

1. Submit to NRW a variation to update the consented sample point for the system to be located at ST3299985151. This can be done online via: https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/water-discharges-and-septic-tanks/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater/change-vary-an-existing-permit-for-a-discharge-of-trade-or-mixed-effluent/?lang=en.

Deadline: 14/11/2026 – The completion date of the variation process cannot be estimated at this time, so please provide updates as an when you can.

2. Provide a photo of the discharge point outlet during low tide as evidence of location and condition for the benefit of NRW.

Deadline: 14/11/2026.

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.

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Other advisory comments

1. Include clearing the foul drainage lines to the site's maintenance programme and dispose of all waste via a registered waste carrier. Please retain all waste transfer notes as evidence of completion.
2. Implement a de-sludge/cleaning regime for the treatment system, beginning with a biannually, increasing to quarterly if required.

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.