

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043774

Permit being assessed: AC0121201

For: Trefil Quarry, held by Tarmac Trading Limited

At: Trefil, Tredegar, Gwent, NP22 4HF.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 13/03/2024, between 10:45 and 11:25.

Parts of permit assessed: All Permit

NRW Lead Officer: Gavin Summerhill, accompanied by: Gavin Dodd.

Report sent to: Alec Hall, Production Manager, on 22/03/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C2 Significant	5. The suspended solids concentration (dried at 105 degrees celsius) shall not exceed 100 milligrams per litre.
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C2 Significant	5. The suspended solids concentration (dried at 105 degrees celsius) shall not exceed 100 milligrams per litre.
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	6. The effluent shall at no time contain any matter other than matters specifically authorised or limited by numerical conditions in this consent, to such an extent as to cause the receiving waters to be poisonous or injurious to fish or the spawning ground, spawn or food of fish.

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	- Carry out a full inspection on the Trade Effluent Plant. - Produce an investigative report. - Submit an action plan that will bring the Trade Effluent Plant back into compliance with the permit.	24/04/2024
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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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

Site Report

On Wednesday 13th of March 2024 Myself and Gavin Dodd visited Tarmac Trading Limited, Trefil Quarry, Tredegar NP22 4HF to carry out a permit inspection on their Trade Effluent Plant. Permit Number AC0121201. We arrived on site at 10.40. The weather conditions were foggy with heavy rain. Our Site inspection commenced at 10.45.

Observations

We proceeded to identify the location of the Trade Effluent Plant settling bays. Please see Photo 1 below.

Trade Effluent Plant (Photo 1)



After identifying the location of the Trade Effluent Plant settling bays we checked the sample point location. The sample point was an outlet from the final settlement bay at NGR SO 12106 13100. Please see Photos 2 and 3 below.

Sample Point (Photo 2)



Sample Point NGR (Photo 3)



We visually checked the stages of treatment of the Trade Effluent Plant settling bays and confirmed that the plant was not operating as designed. The water discharging from the outlet was heavily discoloured. Please see Photo 4 below.

Settling bays not operating as designed (Photo 4)



We proceeded to check the storage location of any liquids or chemicals on site. We confirmed that all liquids/chemicals were stored in a safe and correct manner within a bunded area. The containers of liquid were confirmed as vehicle shampoo wash used to wash down the cement lorries at a 50/50 diluted mix. Please see Photo 5 below.

Storage location of Liquids/Chemicals (Photo 5)



We proceeded with a general walk around the site. Please see Photos 6,7 and 8 below.

General site photo (Photo 6)



General site photo (Photo 7)



General site photo (Photo 8)



General walk around the site confirmed fire extinguishers and spill kits were in place.

At this point we had a discussion with Robert Rees regarding recent samples taken by Natural Resources Wales. We advised Mr Rees that the sample results confirmed breaches in the permit.

The first breach was on the 13th February 2024.

Solids, suspended at 105 C - Max limit = 100 milligrams per litre - Result value = 682 Milligrams per litre. Please see Photo 9 below.

First breach (Photo 9)

Initial CCS	EM Team	Station No.	Station Name	Permit No.	Permit Holder	Sampling No.	Sampling Date/Time	Reason	Parameter/Det	Parameter/Det Name	Limit1 Type	Limit1	Sign/Qualifier	Result Value	Unit	Parameter Remarks
1e	Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly & Newport Environment Team	43130	Trefil Quarry	AC0121201	Tarmac Trading Limited	240025401	13/02/2024 10:52	CA	0135	Solids, Suspended at 105 C	Max	100		682	milligram per litre	Confirmed by repeat analysis,,

The second breach was on the 28th February 2024.

Solids, suspended at 105 C - Max limit = 100 milligrams per litre - Result valve = 1720 Milligrams per litre. Please see Photo 10 below.

Second breach (Photo 10)

EM Team	Station No.	Station Name	Permit No.	Permit Holder	Sampling No.	Sampling Date/Time	Reason	Parameter/Det	Parameter/Det Name	Limit1 Type	Limit1	Sign/Qualifier	Result Value	Unit	Parameter R
Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly & Newport Environment Team	43130	Trefil Quarry	AC0121201	Tarmac Trading Limited	240030807	28/02/2024 15:05	CA	0135	Solids, Suspended at 105 C	Max	100		1720	milligram per litre	

Mr Rees advised that there has been an influx of cement lorries on site due to the ongoing Heads Of The Valley Project. A company named Extrudakerb have been using the site up to 14 times per day over recent months and due to the nature of the concentrated cement mix required for specialised use the lorries need to be thoroughly washed out on site during each visit. Mr Rees believes this could be the reason for the very high Solids, Suspended levels from the recent sample results.

We proceeded to check the discharge point at NRG SO 1190 1286. Discharge to the Nant Trefil. We could not locate the discharge point to the Nant Trefil at NGR SO 1190 1286.

We left site at 11.25.

Breaches of permit condition:

- **5. The suspended solids concentration (dried at 105 degrees celsius) shall not exceed 100 milligrams per litre.**

Justification

Sample results taken by Natural Resources Wales on the 13th February 2024.
Solids, suspended at 105 C - Max limit = 100 milligrams per litre - Result valve = 682 Milligrams per litre.

- **5. The suspended solids concentration (dried at 105 degrees celsius) shall not exceed 100 milligrams per litre.**

Justification

Sample results taken by Natural Resources Wales on the 28th February 2024.
Solids, suspended at 105 C - Max limit = 100 milligrams per litre - Result valve = 1720 Milligrams per litre.

- **6. The effluent shall at no time contain any matter other than matters specifically authorised or limited by numerical conditions in this consent, to such an extent as to cause the receiving waters to be poisonous or injurious to fish or the spawning ground, spawn or food of fish.**

Justification

Sample results taken by Natural Resources Wales identify very high levels of Solids, suspended at 105 C (1720 milligrams per litre) and very high levels of PH at (11.92) could cause the receiving waters to be poisonous or injurious to fish or the spawning ground, spawn or food of fish.

Action required by date specified:

- Carry out a full inspection on the Trade Effluent Plant.
- Produce an investigative report.
- Submit an action plan that will bring the Trade Effluent Plant back into compliance with the permit.

The above actions are required by the 24th April 2024.

Other advisory comments:

- Please identify (submit a map and photographic evidence) the discharge point at National Grid Reference SO 1190 1286.

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:

Gavin Summerhill (Environment Officer)

gavin.summerhill@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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.

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 only relating to the activity assessment
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

If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend non-compliance for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. These will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

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 Installation of monitoring boreholes

WQ D: Information

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance 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 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at 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.