

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044646

Permit being assessed: AB0056501

For: READYMIX BATCHING PLANT TRAM RD, PO, held by Breedon Trading Limited
At: Pinnacle Construction Materials, Tram Road, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, Caerffili, NP12 2JF.

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

On 02/07/2024, between 10:05 and 11:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Site Operations

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Matt Daughtrey, Area Production Manager, on 25/07/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	C3 Minor	2 - The discharge shall be made in the manner and at the place specified as via a 152mm diameter pipe to the River Sirhowy at ST1806095890.

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-D1	Undertake a permit variation to change the name of the site from "Readymix Batching Plant" to "Breedon Blackwood".	08/08/2024
WQ-B1	Undertake a permit variation to change the sample/discharge point from ST1806095890 to ST1800095600. This can be done via: https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/installations/apply-to-vary-change-a-permit-for-installations/?lang=en .	08/08/2024

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 Visit Report

This report details the site visit made on the 02/07/2024 at 10:05 to Readymix Batching Plant, now known/trading as Breedon Blackwood, permit reference number EPR-AB0056501.

NRW Officer Elis Nuttall attended Breedon Blackwood at Tram Rd, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, NP12 2JF for a permit compliance inspection where he met with Matt Daughtrey, Area Production Manager. The weather was warm and dry at the time of the visit.

Site Observations

General Observations

The site is a concrete production and mixing facility, producing concrete for use by local businesses and individuals. Their consent in relation to the permit under inspection is to discharge Trade Effluent in the form of site drainage resulting from rainfall to the River Sirhowy.

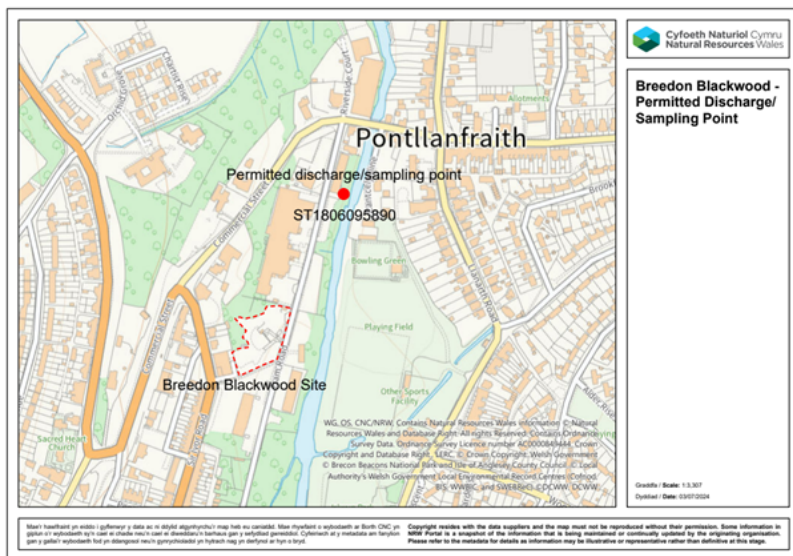


Figure 1 – Map outlining the permitted discharge/sampling point for the site discharge as stated in EPR permit ref AB0056501. The site is highlighted by the red dashed line.

Their discharge conditions stipulate a limit of 100mg/l of suspended solids and that the effluent shall not contain matters that cause the receiving waters to be poisonous or injurious to fish or the spawning ground, spawn or food of fish. The discharges shall be made via a 152mm diameter pipe to the River Sirhowy at ST1806095890. See Figure 1 for the location of this listed permitted discharge/sample point in relation to the site.

The site was operational at the time of the visit.

Site Infrastructure

Office Discussion

Prior to conducting a site walkover to assess infrastructure and conditions, a discussion of site operations and history was conducted with the Area Production Manager. The site remains a concrete mixing plant, providing materials for construction to local businesses as well as direct to individual consumers.

It was noted the last NRW compliance visit to site was conducted in 2014, with breaches recorded for discharge source and sample point accessibility. There was no record of if these actions were addressed at the time.

On discussing the site operations it was stated by the Area Production Manager that the discharge in question does not primarily contain site drainage, and it is mostly the upwelling groundwater from a disused mine shaft. This ground water is directly pumped from the ground and into the discharge, bypassing the on site settlement lagoons, but is sometimes used in process on site during times of water shortages.

The Area Production Manager noted that the name of the site and operator on the permit (Ready Mixed Concrete (Wales) Ltd.) is no longer accurate and that the site is now known as "Breedon Blackwood". A desire to change this was stated to reflect the current operations on site, which EN noted would require a Permit Variation to undertake. This is noted as an action in the sections below. A request was also made to provide the operators with a copy of the permit (as they did not have one) for their internal record keeping and compliance purposes. This was provided by EN on returning to the office after the visit.

On outlining the visit plan to the Area Production Manager, it was noted that the discharge point outlined in the permit (as seen in Figure 1) is not where the site discharge is made. It was described that the discharge enters a culvert which discharges to a local surface water culvert which subsequently discharges to the Sirhowy much further downstream than the listed discharge point. This would be investigated during the site walkover.

Site Walkover

The site walkover commenced by the operators showing EN where they stated their site drainage discharges to. It was noted that the site drainage (primarily pumped groundwater from the disused mine shaft) enters a culvert on site which discharges to a local culverted surface water line. The last point where solely site drainage is present (prior to mixing with external water sources) was noted to be an inspection chamber at ST1799195685 (amended to ST1798195696 on return to office due to inaccuracies in site recording techniques). This chamber is seen in Figure 2. This chamber was not opened at the time of the visit to confirm the quality of the effluent.



Figure 2 – Site visit photo: Inspection chamber at ST1798195696 noted as the last point site drainage is present before mixing with external water sources.

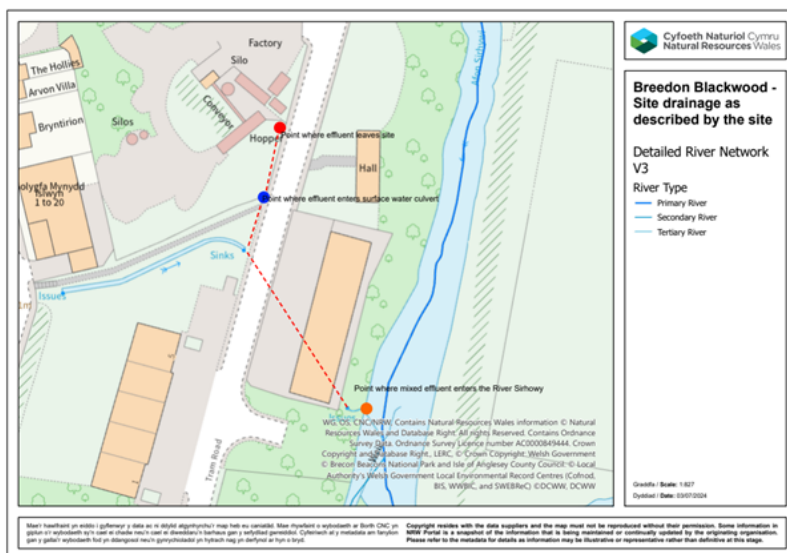


Figure 3 – Map outlining the site drainage as described by the site operators. Note this is an approximation based on the description provided and not an exact drainage map.

On checking the mapping system it is assumed it subsequently discharges to the River Sirhowy at approx. ST1801195634. This discharge point is approximately 260m downstream from the discharge point listed in the permit. Figure 3 is a map that outlines the apparent drainage setup as described by the site operators. It is clear that there is a discrepancy between the permitted discharge point and the reality of the situation on site. This will need to be addressed via a permit variation. Please see the actions section below for details.

The listed discharge point location was checked (ST1806095890) but no discharge or pipe were seen at this location at the time of the visit. Figures 4 and 5 evidence this observation.

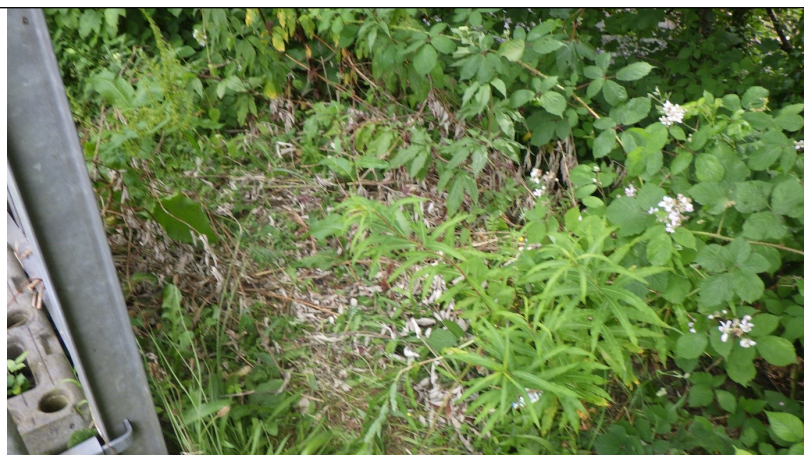


Figure 4 – Site visit photo: Listed discharge/sampling point (ST1806095890) as it appeared at the time of the visit. No discharges or pipes were seen.



Figure 5 – Site visit photo: A view of the River Sirhowy from the permitted discharge/sampling point. No discharges or pipes were seen.

The site water management system was checked. It was noted that the majority of site drainage water is recycled and used for production/processing of concrete on site. This includes rainwater as well as washdown water. It enters a settlement tank where suspended solids settle and water is abstracted as needed. Operators stated the only time water is pumped out of the tanks and discharged off site is during periods of site closure during the Christmas holidays. During the visit this system appeared to be working as designed with no off site runoff or pollution noted. This is evidenced in Figure 6.



Figure 6: Site visit photo – Settlement tanks on site at the time of the visit working as designed.

The mine water upwelling was located and observed at ST1798795721. As stated, the water is pumped directly out of the disused shaft and is discharged off site via a culvert. This was the only discharge at the time of the visit. The quality of the discharge was visually checked and it appeared clear without any visible suspended solids, oils or other pollutants. There was some orange staining on the pipework as expected from the accumulated deposition of iron ore from the mine water, but there did not appear to be particulate iron in the discharge itself. This is evidence in Figure 7.



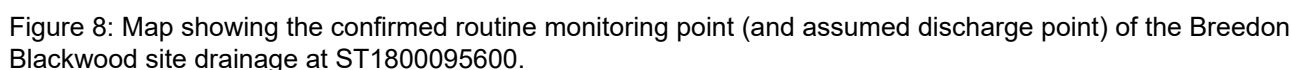
Figure 7: Site visit photo – The discharge of pumped mine water observed during the visit.

The general site conditions were good with no excessive build up of sediment or debris. Haulage routes were clear and clear signposting was in place.

A brief discussion was held with the Area Production Manager to confirm the discrepancy in the listed/permitted discharge point and the actual discharge point. This was confirmed and EN noted that NRW will investigate the cause of the discrepancy and if a variation would be appropriate to reflect the reality of discharges from the site. No further questions were asked by the Area Production Manager.

Officer Elis Nuttall left site at 11:30.

On returning to the office EN confirmed with a senior officer that the listed/permitted discharge point is no longer sampled by the NRW routine monitoring staff due to an unresolved blockage in the line. Samples are now taken from a point located at ST1800095600, as seen in Figure 8. As such, I advise that the operators submit a permit variation to reflect this point as the true/accurate discharge point for the site. Please see the list of actions below.



Below are the permit breaches that were identified during the site inspection.

The discharge shall be made in the manner and at the place specified as follows:-

Discharge via: 152mm diameter pipe

Discharge to: River Sirhowy

At OS Grid Ref: ST 18060 95890

As shown marked: CONSENT POINT on attached plan no. RMC/TR/1.

As noted in the report and agreed with the site operators, the listed consented discharge point does not reflect the reality of the situation on site. Whilst posing a low environmental risk for day to day operations, this will need to be rectified so an accurate record of operations is available. Please see the actions list below.

Other advisory comments:

It is advised that the permit is varied to change the site name from “Readymix Batching Plant” to “Breedon Blackwood”. This will reflect the current trading name of the site and avoid any possible confusion in future. Please see the actions list below.

Action required by dates specified:

1. Undertake a permit variation to change the sample/discharge point from ST1806095890 to ST1800095600. This can be done via:
<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/installations/apply-to-vary-change-a-permit-for-installations/?lang=en>.

Deadline: 08/08/2024

2. Undertake a permit variation to change the name of the site from “Readymix Batching Plant” to “Breedon Blackwood”. This can be done in conjunction with the above action.

Deadline: 08/08/2024

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.

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 654 651.

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 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.