

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0046674

Permit being assessed: AN0222302

For: TAFFS WELLL QUARRY HEOL GOCH, held by Breedon Trading Limited

At: TAFFS WELL QUARRY, HEOL GOCH, PENTYRCH, CARDIFF, CF15 9PN.

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

On 19/03/2025, between 09:45 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 4, 5, 6-9

NRW Lead Officer: Charlotte Rhodes, accompanied by: Alex Grabham.

Report sent to: Graham Warrington, Site Manager, on 21/05/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
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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	Site Manager to share records of sampling & outfall visits for the last 12-18 month period.	04/06/2025
WQ-C1	Please confirm if any of the abstracted water which is stored in the site water tank is later discharged to the outfall and River Taff.	04/06/2025

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

Introduction

On 12th March 2025 a **high level incident** was reported stating that "Heavily coloured, dirty, bright orange water entering the river Taff from what appears to be a side channel", logged as WIRS **2501628**, and was investigated by the on-call Officer the same day. The Officer found that although the discharge had ceased at the time of their arrival, there was silt staining at the discharge point of Breedon Taffs Well Quarry, and a considerable amount of sediment on the road surface around the quarry entrance, consistent in colour with the report and sediment observed on the site, which is highly likely to have entered road drains and been discharged within surface runoff. The attending Officer discussed this with the Site Manager, who advised that the quarry pump had been moved that morning and there were no planned discharges, but that a road sweeper was deployed twice a week which would be asked to do an extended clean the following day.

Following this, the incident was passed over to the local team for follow up, for which a compliance inspection was conducted as follows:

On 19th March 2025, Officers C RHODES and A GRABHAM met with Site Manager of Taffs Well Quarry, operated by Breedon, for a routine inspection of the site in respect its permitted discharge activity, reference: **AN0222302**. Weather at the time of inspection was mild and dry with no recent rainfall. Abstraction permit WA/057/0025/0015 was also inspected during this visit, see CAR_NRW0048102 for further details.

There is no record for the site having been previously inspected to assess compliance with the water discharge permit, but was visited on 12th February 2025 in conjunction with an incident, WIRS 2501628. Whilst it was not confirmed to be the source, a permit inspection was agreed necessary as best practice.

Permit context

As per **Condition 5**, the site discharges depending on rainfall. Consequently, at the time of visit the site was not discharging and had not done so for several days prior, hence a sample was not taken. The permitted limits described in **Conditions 6 to 9** are summarised as follows:

Parameter	Permit limit
Suspended solids	60 mg/l
pH	6 – 9
Visible oil or grease	No significant trace
Any other matter causing adverse environmental impacts	None

The Site Manager stated that the site has a contract with an external party to do monthly outfall visits, sampling when a discharge is present. **Action: Site Manager to share records of this for the last 12-18 month period.**

Site walkover

A site walkover then took place, primarily to assess the abstraction elements of the site in reference to CAR_NRWNRW0048102. Officers wish to thank the Site Manager for escorting them to both the quarry face and the permitted outfall. It was discussed that the reason the discharge is rainfall dependent, and not linked to the abstracted water, is because that is kept in an on-site water tank which is filled once or twice a day as necessary and thereafter primarily used to feed the wheel-wash facility, as well as dust suppression when required. Meters on site record the volume both entering the tank and heading to the discharge location – though the latter requires verification. **Action: Please confirm if the abstracted water which is stored in the site water tank is later discharged to the outfall and River Taff.**



Water holding tank

Discharge point

The site outfall (left) was not discharging at the time of visit, but the surface water outfall not linked to the site was (right). The location was noted as in line with **Condition 4**.



Outfall location: Left is quarry, Right is surface water.

There was then discussion around the WIRS earlier referred to, regarding the pathway of silted water entering the River Taff near this location. The outfall discharges into a waterbody which is separated from the main river by a brick wall, the purpose of which is unclear but is presumed to have historical context, within which any suspended solids settle out due to its mostly stagnant nature. The Site Manager, however, has witnessed that during heavy rainfall the main river often rises in level to overtop this brick wall and spill over into the separate channel, which then disturbs the sediment and provides a means of it spilling over into the main channel. It was speculated that when the discharge from this site is in action, it too may disturb settled sediment, however there was silt discolouration visible within the outfall pipe as pictured. The Site Manager intends to document and share this the next time the main river overtops into the separate channel.



Waterbody separated from main River Taff by a brick wall, confluence just past the edge of photo.

It was mutually agreed that in future, before pumping/discharge takes place photos will be taken of the outfall and of the material to be discharged, both in order to assist NRW in any future WIRS investigations and as best practice for the site. The discharge is checked visually prior to discharge from site and it was noted that there are working faces above the abstraction point so the site is not reliant on pumping if water does not pass the visual inspection.

Conclusion & actions

In summary, the site was found to be overall **compliant** with its discharge permit, though it must be noted that a sample was not taken due to there not being a discharge at the time of inspection. Hence, the below action and recommendations are given:

1. **Action:** Site Manager to share records of sampling & outfall visits for the last 12-18 month period.
2. **Action:** Please confirm if any of the abstracted water which is stored in the site water tank is later discharged to the outfall and River Taff.
3. **Recommendation:** prior to pumping/discharging in future, photos are to be taken of the material to be discharged and of the outfall as best practice and to assist NRW in investigations where required.

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.