

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0048868

**Permit being assessed:** AN0314801

For: NORTH LAGOON N1 TOWER COLLIERY, held by TOWER REGENERATION LIMITED.

At: NORTH LAGOONS N1, TOWER COLLIERY, TREHERBERT ROAD, HIRWAUN, CF44 9NZ.

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

On 10/07/2025, between 10:00 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: All

**NRW Lead Officer:** Ceri Malone, accompanied by: Natalie Wrangham, Scott Hand.

**Report sent to:** Mike Dunleavy, TRL Operator, on 17/07/2025.

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

| Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)                        | Assessment result | Permit condition |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management               | Action only (X)   |                  |
| WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities             | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site                         | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques             | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records                         | Assessed (A)      |                  |

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

### 2. What action is required?

| Criteria | Action needed   | Complete by |
|----------|---|-------------|
| WQ-A1    | Inform NRW of any actions taken with the proposed removal of the Siltbuster. Provide updates on the silt fence installation and any other mitigation or monitoring taken to reduce suspended solids in the discharge. | 31/12/2025  |

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

### Site drainage at Tower Colliery North Lagoons N1 (AN0314801)

#### Site Report

10:00AM

A compliance visit to inspect the site drainage at Tower Colliery North Lagoons (AN0314801) was completed on 10/07/2025. A Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Environment Officer, Senior Officer and Team Leader were in attendance along with a Tower Regeneration Limited (TRL) operator. The weather was dry and hot with very little rain over the week prior.

We first checked the site catchment which appeared to match that specified in 2.2.1 of the permit. The operator described seeding of parts of the catchment on 09/07/2025 (*photograph 1*). This is the second seeding attempt this year to increase grass growth and as a result infiltration, hopefully reducing sediment heavy loads entering the settlement lagoons. Reduced grass growth so far this year was stated to be due to a lack of rain.



*Photograph 1: Varied Grass Growth in the Catchment*

Silt fencing was being installed in areas of the Old Ponds catchment (AF3032201) to reduce sediment transport. We were informed that areas of this catchment would also be silt fenced over the next month. Drainage channels were checked which were feeding the lagoons. The lagoons were checked at 11:15 and had been drawn down to allow capacity for the next rainfall event (*photograph 2*). The overflow channel was checked with no

discharge at the time of our visit. A Siltbuster unit is in use on the site for suspended solids removal from the lagoons prior to discharge. The dosing is adjusted and maintenance completed by Siltbuster rather than TRL staff. The operator described the potential for removal of the Siltbuster unit this year. We advised that sufficient silt management should be in place and proven to be effective in line with the permit conditions (particularly in periods of heavy rainfall) before its removal.



*Photograph 2: Lagoon*

At 11:52 we checked the discharge/monitoring point which was at NGR SN 94809 05440 as described in Tables S3.2 and S3.3 of the license (*photograph 3*). No discharge was occurring at the time of our visit. An on-site water management records system has been produced with incorporated daily monitoring of suspended solids from the discharge point. A turbidity meter is used and calibrated routinely against lab tested samples for suspended solids.



*Photograph 3: Discharge/Monitoring Point*

**Action required by dates specified:**

Inform NRW of any actions taken with the proposed removal of the Siltbuster. Provide updates on the silt fence installation and any other mitigation or monitoring taken to reduce suspended solids in the discharge.

**Contact details:**

If you have any other queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details: Ceri Malone, Environment Officer, [Ceri.Malone@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:Ceri.Malone@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.