

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049187

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 13/08/2025, between 13:02 and 14:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Site infrastructure and permitted activities

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Alec Hall, Production Manager, on 21/08/2025.

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)	

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	Provide sampling records for the 6 months prior to this site visit as evidence of effluent quality.	Already completed

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 by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the 13/08/2025 to Trefil Quarry, Trefil permit reference number EPR-AC0121201.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Trefil Quarry at 13:02 for a water quality permit compliance visit where I met with the Production Manager (AH). The weather was clear and dry at the time of the visit.

General Observations

The site is a concrete plant located to the North of the village of Trefil in Caerphilly County Borough operated by Tarmac Trading Limited. The permit gives consent for the site to discharge site drainage and treated trade effluent from the concrete batching process.

This discharge shall be made at the outlet from the final settlement lagoon (~SO1210113103) at the point specified on the site plan. The receiving watercourse is Nant Trefil. The maximum volume of effluent discharged shall be dependant on rainfall. The suspended solids concentration shall not exceed 100mg/l. The effluent shall at no time contain any matter that will cause the receiving watercourse to be poisonous or injurious to fish or the spawning ground, spawn or food of fish.

The site was operational at the time of the visit.

Initial Meeting

After undertaking a site induction, a brief discussion was held regarding the site's operations and maintenance. It was noted that NRW served an improvement notice around a year prior to the visit. This was in response to increased work volume due to demand from the major Heads of the Valleys roadworks. The most recent compliance visit from NRW was conducted on 10/09/2024. No breaches were recorded and no actions set.

Regarding major changes to operating techniques, the site has recently received a refurbishment of the water recycling system. Silt buster servicing and water testing regimes are now in place, with results and notes recorded on discharge sheets. I saw an example of these testing results in the meeting, but requested a record of the last 6 months results to be shared as evidence of compliance. This is reflected in the actions list below.

It was stated that while the sample point (at ~SO1210113103) is continually accessible, the discharge point to Nant Trefil is not. However, the permit does not state the discharge point is required to be accessible, only the sample point. This point was observed and assessed during the visit, further details of which are outlined below.

We then proceeded to inspect the site infrastructure.

Site Infrastructure

AH gave me a run through of site operations and where the associated site runoff emanates and flows. The majority of water on site is used during the concrete production process, the runoff of which enters on-site drainage channels which flow to the primary/dirty settlement pit. This is evidenced in Figures 1 & 2.



Figure 1 – The production area and water runoff as observed during the visit.



Figure 2 – Water from production flowing through drainage channels towards the settlement pits as observed during the visit.

In addition to production runoff, further water is captured from the washing out of concrete mixers which is undertaken by operators on a hard, impermeable surface as seen in Figure 3. This water is also channelled into the settlement pits for re-use in the production process.



Figure 3 – Wash out water from a mixing vehicle entering the settlement pit via drainage channel as observed during the visit.

Both settlement pits were observed during the visit.

Water enters the dirty pit (Figure 4) before it is pumped back to the production area for re-use. While the water within this pit was heavily silted and discoloured at the time of the visit, AH stated the company attempts to recycle all water on site and only discharge via their consent point during periods of heavy rainfall. Water from the dirty pit can overflow into the end pit if needed.



Figure 4 – The dirty/primary settlement pit as observed during the visit.

The end pit was observed, with no inputs from the dirty pit entering it at the time of the visit. As a result, the water within it was relatively clear, with a layer of settled sediments visible at the bottom of the pit. There were no discharges being made from this pit at the time of the visit. Evidence of these observations can be seen in Figure 5. It was noted that when the dirty pit receives increased input due to rainfall, it weirs over into this end pit with only the required volume being returned to the production process. The excess water is then treated via a small silt buster unit (which can be seen in Figure 5) which then discharges the water directly via the consent point and flows off site.



Figure 5 – The end settlement pit and silt buster system as observed during the visit.

The discharge/sample point was observed to be located a ~SO1210413103 which is compliant with the consented location noted in the site plan. It was noted that this is where both the site and NRW undertake their routine water samples. There was no discharge at the time of the visit, as seen in Figure 6. Due to a period of prolonged dry weather, AH could not confirm when the last time a discharge was made from the site. No water was observed leaving the site at any other location.



Figure 6 – The discharge/sample point as observed during the visit.

Due to the discharge point to Nant Trefil being inaccessible at the time of the visit (being located within a private garden/land) no further site observations were made during this visit. We returned to the site office for final discussions.

Final discussions

I ran through my observations with AH and outlined the one action for requested sampling information. I was shown an example of the site's own water sampling results which were sent to me during this meeting. I will mark this action as already complete. No further observations were made. I had no concerns about the site's operations or condition. No further comments were made or questions asked by AH.

I left site at 14:00.

Breaches of permit condition

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

Actions required by dates specified

1. Provide sampling records for the 6 months prior to this site visit as evidence of

effluent quality.

Deadline: Already completed.

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.

Other advisory comments

No advisory comments. Thank you for your time to allow me to conduct this visit.

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 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.