

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049194

Permit being assessed: CB3598HY

For: Taylor Wimpey Cwrt Sirhowy, held by TAYLOR WIMPEY UK LIMITED

At: Cwrt Sirhowy, Cwmgelli, Blackwood, NP12 1DA.

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

On 14/08/2025, between 14:10 and 15:05.

Parts of permit assessed: Site infrastructure and permitted activities

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Toni Taylor, Technical Director, 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)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-B4 - Water Quality - Operations - Improvement programme	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 a digital copy of the daily pump volume record.	04/09/2025
WQ-D1	Provide a copy of the water sampling records undertaken by RSK for the 6 months prior to this visit.	04/09/2025
WQ-B1	Provide a copy of the SWMP for the site.	04/09/2025
WQ-A1	Replace the inspection chamber cover to ensure no contaminated runoff enters and discharges off site.	28/08/2025
WQ-A1	Remove the pipe from the silt buster while currently not in use.	28/08/2025
WQ-B4	Begin the process of varying the permit to include active treatment of site drainage via the silt buster system. Please note that lead times on permit variations can be extensive.	04/09/2025

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 Visit Report

This report details the site visit made by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the 14/08/2025 to Taylor Wimpey, Cwrt Sirhowy, Blackwood permit reference number EPR - CB3598HY.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Cwrt Sirhowy at 14:10 for a water quality permit compliance visit where I met with the Technical Director (TT) as well as several other Taylor Wimpey representatives (MT, LW & LR). The weather was clear and dry during the visit.

General Observations

The site is a housing development currently being constructed by Taylor Wimpey (TW). At the time of the visit a portion of the development was occupied, with all requisite services in place.

The site's water quality permit consents the discharge of trade effluent consisting of site drainage. The rate of discharge shall not exceed 45l/s and shall be discharged to an unnamed tributary of the Sirhowy River via an outlet at ST1787698160. The effluent sampling point shall be located at ST1776898254.

The following discharge limits shall not be exceeded:

- Suspended solids: 50mg/l
- pH: 6 to 9
- Visible oil or grease: No significant trace present

The site was operational at the time of the visit, with construction of residential properties ongoing.

Initial Discussion

On my arrival I was met by several TW representatives and began with a brief discussion regarding site operations and water management. It was stated that water management on the site is undertaken by RSK, both on the occupied areas and the ongoing construction areas. This includes water quality monitoring, of which I requested to be sent an example. I also requested a copy of the site's Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for

reference as it is a requirement of condition 1.1.1(a) of the permit. It was stated that this document is reviewed and updated as needed.

In addition, daily pump volume records are kept noting the volume (in m³) as well as notes on rainfall conditions and if the pump was activated. A physical copy of these notes was shared with me during the meeting, but I requested a digital copy for storage on the NRW system.

Regarding operations on site, it was noted that the vast majority of surface water is isolated and contained on site. No major malfunctions or changes to working practices have occurred since the permit was issued.

We then proceeded to investigate the infrastructure outlined in the permit.

Site Infrastructure

Prior to observing the consented sample point, I queried the presence of a silt buster system that were situated near the site office. MT noted that these systems were kept on site as a “precautionary measure” for use during wetter periods. It was admitted that there was an intention to use them during the winter months. As a result, I advised that a permit variation should be sought to include active treatment of site drainage if the long term intention is to utilise treatment as a regular management practice. I can provide guidance and consultation as required via NRW's Discretionary Planning Advice Service (DPAS). Further information on the services available can be found via the NRW website:

<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/advice-for-developers/our-service-to-developers/?lang=en>.

The sample point was observed and confirmed to be located at ST1776598258. This is compliant with the consented location. The point consisted of an open inspection chamber surrounded by a temporary fence. A pipe (which was noted to be directly from the slit buster) was in place at the time of the visit. This is evidenced in Figure 1. I advised that, although access is required, the inspection chamber should not be left open at all times due to the risk of untreated runoff entering the chamber and discharging. Additionally, I requested that the pipe be removed if not in use. There was no discharge occurring at the time of the visit.



Figure 1 – The sample point as observed during the visit.

We then proceeded to the discharge point. This is located across the main road and on land not owned by TW or part of the development boundary, at ~ST1787498168. While direct access was limited to the discharge point, this is not in breach of any conditions. The headwall and outfall steps were observed and appeared to be in good condition. It was unclear if there was any discharge at the time due to limited visibility and heavy vegetation growth. These observations are evidenced by Figure 2. The presence of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan balsam was noted.



Figure 2 – The discharge point as observed at the time of the visit.

No further on site observations were made. We returned to the site office for final discussions and comments.

Final Discussion

On returning to the site office I outlined my observations and comments as well as the forthcoming actions in this report. I re-iterated the need to undertake a variation to include active effluent treatment on site, to which it was stated that a draft variation was in place which could be finalised and submitted without delay. No further comments were made or questions asked.

I thanked all present and left site at 15:05.

Breaches of permit condition

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

Action required by dates specified

1. Provide a digital copy of the daily pump volume record.

Deadline: 04/09/2025

2. Provide a copy of the water sampling records undertaken by RSK for the 6 months prior to this visit.

Deadline: 04/09/2025

3. Provide a copy of the SWMP for the site.

Deadline: 04/09/2025

4. Replace the inspection chamber cover to ensure no contaminated runoff enters and discharges off site.

Deadline: 28/09/2025

5. Remove the pipe from the silt buster while currently not in use.

Deadline: 28/09/2025

6. Begin the process of varying the permit to include active treatment of site drainage via the silt buster system. Please note that lead times on permit variations can be extensive.

Deadline: 04/09/2025

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

If works are required near the discharge point (outfall across the main road from the site) please be aware of any biosecurity measures required due to the presence of Japanese Knotweed and/or Himalayan Balsam that may be present. Further information of biosecurity and invasive species risk assessments can be found via the NRW website: <https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/species-licensing/invasive-alien-species/?lang=en>.

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.