

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049671

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: Other, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2508691).

On 20/09/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: Permitted activities

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: Connor Flynn, Technical Project Manager, on 15/10/2025.

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	C3 Minor	1.1.1(a) – General management
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	3.1.1 – Emissions to water
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	3.1.2 – Emissions to water
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	C3 Minor	4.3.1 – Notifications
WQ-D2 - Water Quality - Information - Reporting	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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-A1	Ensure all management systems and plans are implemented as a priority. Evidence of improvements in line with these plans shall be provided to NRW as a matter of urgency.	22/10/2025
WQ-C1	Ensure all site drainage is treated and discharged via the consented discharge point only.	29/10/2025
WQ-C1	Review treatment and management methods to ensure the emissions limits specified by the permit are adhered to. Effluent sampling shall be undertaken and evidence produced showing this compliance is being achieved.	29/10/2025
WQ-D3	Inform NRW of all instances of all malfunction, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident, or emission of a	29/10/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	substance as specified in the requirements of condition 4.3.1 in future.	
WQ-D2	Provide NRW with a copy of RSK's report following the visit on the 25/09/2025 when available.	29/10/2025
WQ-B3	Provide evidence that the actions outlined in RSK's 30th of August 2025 letter have been completed, as per the operator's self-imposed deadlines. Justification of any incomplete works shall be required.	22/10/2025

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

Incident Report & Investigations - WIRS 2508691: Taylor Wimpey (Cwrt Sirhowy) Silt Discharge.

This report details Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) investigation into an incident report received on the 20/02/2025 at Taylor Wimpey's Housing Development (Cwrt Sirhowy), Blackwood, reference number WIRS 2508691.

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) investigated this report in conjunction with Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) local flood authority's principal engineer (MG). I did not visit the site personally. All evidence was gathered by MG and was assessed by myself remotely.

The details of the incident are outlined below.

Permit and Site Details

This site is a residential development (construction) and holds an environmental permit for the discharge of trade effluent consisting of site drainage, reference number EPR-CB3598HY. The permit was issued on 05/07/2022.

The discharge shall be made via Outlet 1 at ST1787698160. An effluent sampling point shall be maintained at ST1776898254 and a permanent means of access shall be provided to enable sampling/monitoring to be conducted in relation to the emissions.

Limits for these emissions are as follows:

- Maximum rate of discharge: 45l/s
- Suspended solids: 50mg/l

- pH: 6 to 9
- Visible oil or grease: No significant trace present

The site was and is currently operational, with construction works ongoing at the time of writing.

Report Details

NRW received a report on the 20/09/2025 of contaminated water from Taylor Wimpey's site (Cwrt Sirhowy) running onto the local highway (Figures 1&2). The reporter (MG, CCBC) had been provided with the evidence of the discharging from local residents.



Figure 1 – Evidence of polluted discharge provided to CCBC by local residents on the 20/09/2025.

It was reported that the water was flowing towards a highway gully that discharges directly to the Cwmgelli brook and then in turn to the River Sirhowy, shown as Gully 5 – SMH4 – SMH5 in Figure 2 (provided by CCBC).

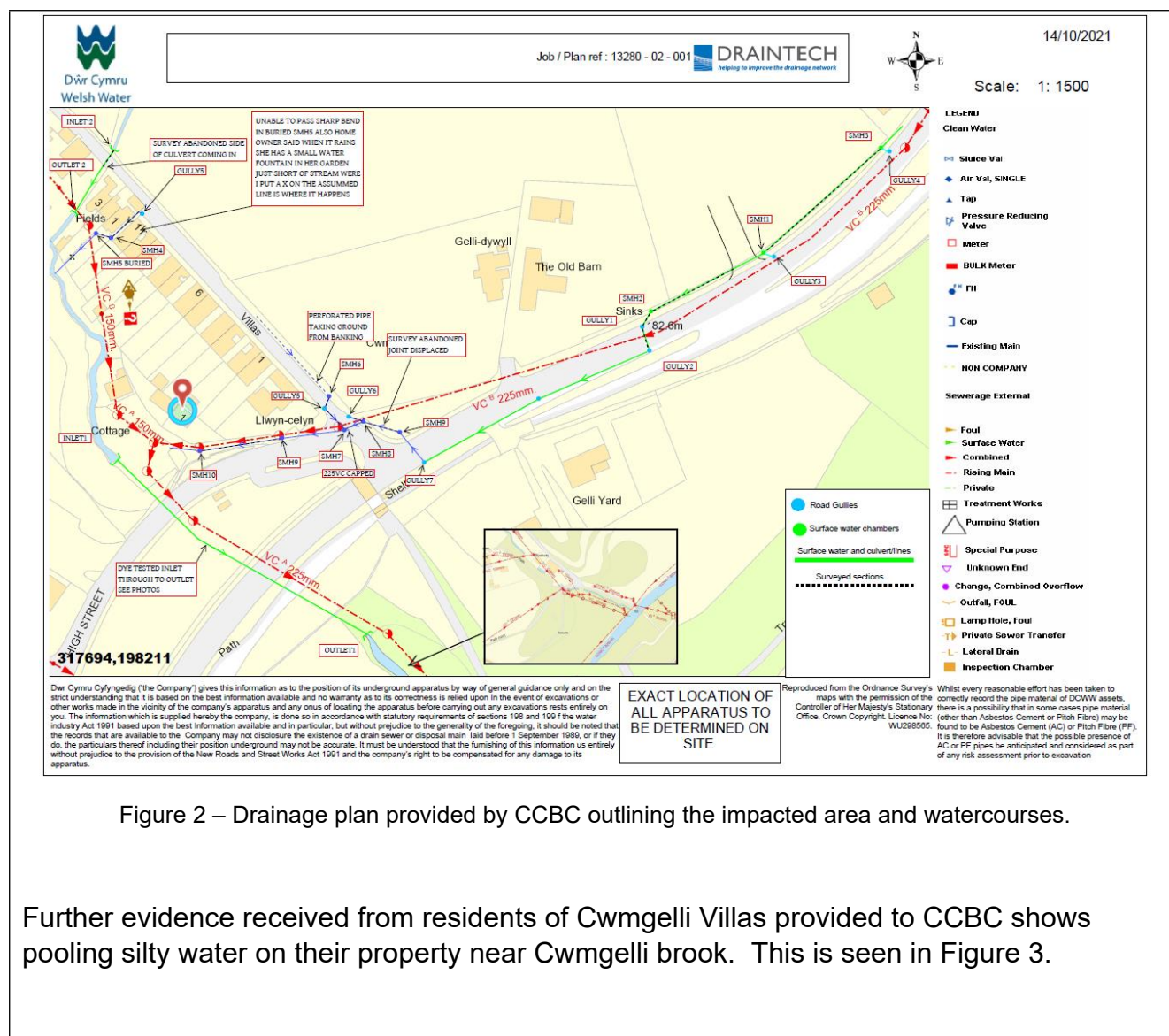


Figure 2 – Drainage plan provided by CCBC outlining the impacted area and watercourses.

Further evidence received from residents of Cwmgelli Villas provided to CCBC shows pooling silty water on their property near Cwmgelli brook. This is seen in Figure 3.



Figure 3 - Evidence from residents of Cwmgelli Villas showing polluted water pooling near Cwmgelli brook.

MG contacted TW directly in relation to the impacts of this discharge. The primary investigation into this report was conducted by CCBC, as outlined below.

CCBC Investigations & Response

Prior to this incident report, it is noted that MG contacted Taylor Wimpey on the 19/09/2025 outlining the discussions held with the site regarding mud/soil being washed from the site onto the surrounding highway network. Actions were set regarding remedial actions to site boundary protections and water management systems. Updates were requested on the progress of these actions.

However, MG subsequently contacted Taylor Wimpey on the 21/09/2025 after receiving the report that initiated this investigation. It is noted, at the time of MG contacting Taylor Wimpey on the 21/09/2025, no evidence was provided that the actions set in previous correspondence had been completed. As such, MG stressed the unacceptable nature of the offence reported and highlighted the risk to the public, local infrastructure and local environment. Copies of the surface water and silt management plans were requested, along with the outcomes from the last monitoring visit undertaken by RSK.

MG noted that the issue had also been raised with NRW as an environmental incident.

Taylor Wimpey's response to this investigation was led by the Technical Project Manager for Taylor Wimpey South Wales (referred to hereafter as CF).

Taylor Wimpey's Response

Initial Response – Email from CF on the 22/09/2025

In their initial response, CF apologised for the errors that lead to the breach of polluted water discharging from the site. It was noted that Taylor Wimpey were acting proactively to address the shortcomings in their drainage strategy and that works were commencing to ensure the relevant surface water management features are correctly installed and implemented to alleviate any further issues. This will be undertaken in line with the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP, created by RSK in Aug 2024) as outlined in Figure 4. The latest inspection letter from RSK were provided, details of which are assessed below. It was also stated that RSK were on site that day (22/09/2025) reviewing the current setup.

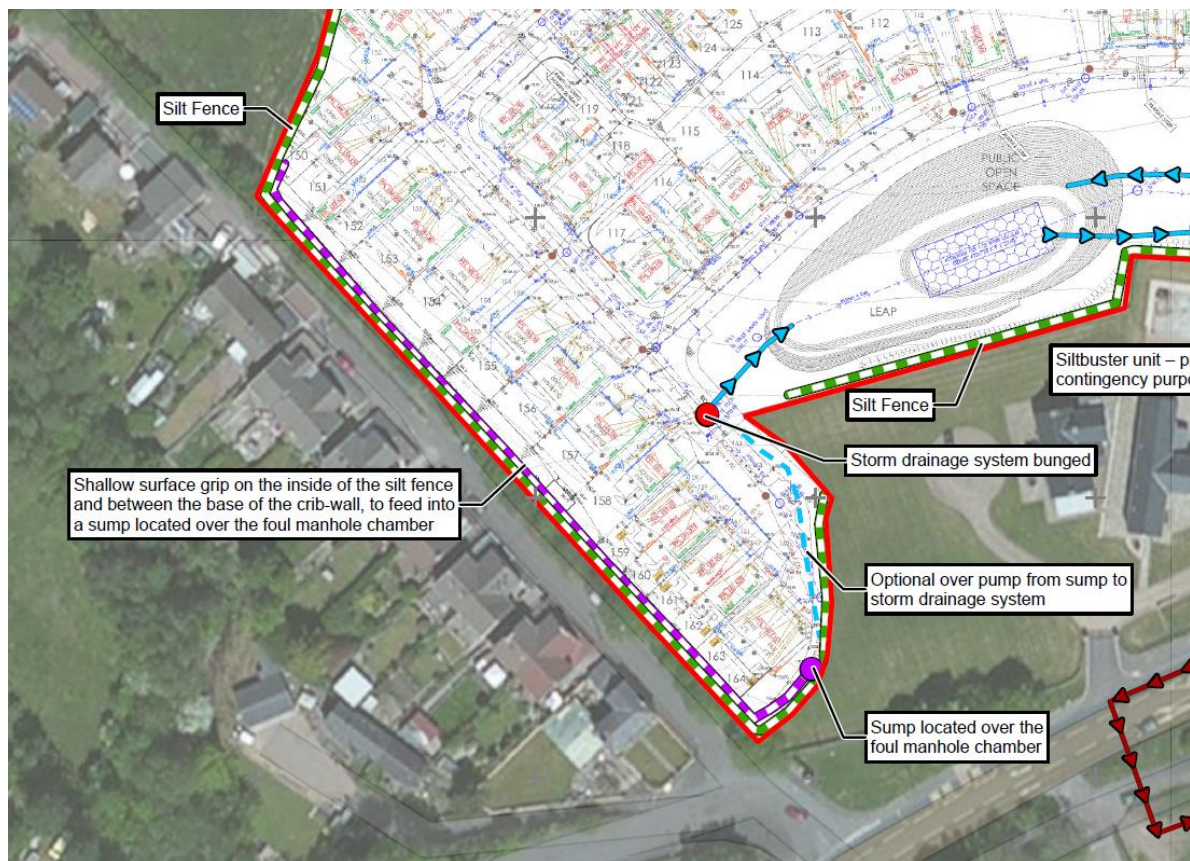


Figure 4 – The site's Aug 2024 SWMP as provided by Taylor Wimpey.

Follow up response – Email from CF on the 24/09/2025

CF contacted MG to inform them that the shallow surface grip noted on the RSK report has been formalised correctly following the storm event over the weekend. Evidence in the form of site photos (Figure 5) were provided showing this completed work. It was noted that RSK

were returning to site on the 25/09/2025 to review current practices to ensure compliance with the latest SWMP.



Figure 5 – Evidence provided by TW showing the works completed on the shallow surface grip.

It is noted that MG was unable to attend site alongside TW and RSK on the 25/09/2025 so requested a copy of RSK's visit report once available.

At the time of writing, these reports have not been supplied. As such, I have actioned that they are supplied to NRW as a matter of urgency. See below for details.

RSK Reports Shared by CF

1. RSK SWMP for Cwrt Sirhowy dated August 2024

This document is the third iteration of the SWMP for the site produced by RSK. It outlines the risks, sensitive receptors, control/mitigation measures, monitoring, recording, maintenance and emergency procedures associated with the site operations. It included guidance and recommendations on the best practices to ensure these aspects of the development are implemented effectively.

This is a comprehensive document with a clear road map of how Taylor Wimpey should and could have operated the site to ensure the discharge on the 20/09/2025 could have been prevented and/or restricted as to not have the observed off-site impacts.

2. RSK monthly inspections letter dated 15th of August 2025:

No remedial actions were highlighted, only continued monitoring, general management of site infrastructure and routine cleaning operations.

However, the following was highlighted regarding the requirements of the site's environmental permit:

Discharges of surface water are continuing to be made via the off-site discharge point covered by the site's Environmental Permit (EPR/CB3598HY). Sampling and laboratory testing of treated water, prior to discharge, is required to comply with the environmental permit.

This is evidence that Taylor Wimpey knew and were reminded of their environmental responsibilities and requirements prior to the incident that occurred on the 20/09/2025.

3. RSK monthly inspections letter dated 30th of August 2025

This letter highlighted numerous actions (outline below) regarding recommendations which should be implemented as a priority action to prevent a situation developing into a real and imminent risk to the surrounding environment.

Evidence of risks identified and actions for completion as highlighted by RSK:

1. Remove sediment from Pond B to maintain infiltration and volume capacity.



2. Remove stockpile when practicable.



3. Ditch to be lined with silt protection matting



4. Bury localised sections of fence.



5. Remove debris build at litter grate to maintain flows.



6. Remove stockpile when feasible.



7. Storm water for the eastern half of the site that is now fully occupied, should be allowed for drain without diverting water to the Siltbuster set up. Remove bung to allow water to discharge per the drainage design.



This is evidence that Taylor Wimpey were aware of the imminent risk these aspects of their site posed to the surrounding environment. They knew the risks and were given an actions list, but the discharge still occurred due to these actions not being completed.

In all, the reports supplied by RSK show a clear display of negligent management by Taylor Wimpey despite being given the appropriate tools and guidance to ensure discharges from site did not occur. This has been scored accordingly, details of which can be found below.

Response from CF on the RSK actions – Email from 30/09/2025.

Following the visit on the 25/09/2025, Taylor Wimpey responded to MG noting the following

self-imposed deadlines in response to the actions outlined in RSK's 30th of August letter.

Actions deadlines (as set by Taylor Wimpey):

1. This will be completed by W.E 10th October.
2. We're currently in talks with IG for removal of this to another development, MMP currently being updated.
3. This will be completed by COP 1st October. We will send pictures once completed
4. This will be completed by COP 1st October.
5. This will be completed by COP 1st October.
6. This will be completed by COP 1st October.
7. This will be completed by W.E 10th October.

Due to these self-imposed deadlines now being expired at the time of writing, I have actioned that evidence of these completed actions be supplied to NRW as a matter of urgency. See below for details.

Conclusions and Decision

From the evidence provided it is not clear that an environmental impact has occurred, however discharges such as this poses a significant risk to the local aquatic environments if it were to enter the watercourses. As such, an Advice and Guidance (A&G) letter has been issued in this instance.

However, several breaches of the sites environmental permit have been identified during the investigation which have been highlighted below. This will be logged on our internal compliance system, with any further breaches of this nature requiring enforcement escalation.

While A&G has been issued on this occasion, it is key to note that I issued a Warning Letter to the site in October 2023 for impact to the Afon Sirhywi from contaminated site drainage. As such, the next level of enforcement appropriate for the site is a formal legal caution if an impact to the Afon Sirhywi is evidenced in future.

Breaches of permit conditions

Below are the permit breaches that were identified during this investigation.

1. CATEGORY 3 BREACH – PERMIT CONDITION 1.1.1(a) – General management

The operator shall manage and operate the activities:

(a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks

of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints

The operator showed negligent management of the site's surface water infrastructure despite holding a detailed SWMP and continued updates, recommendations and actions to complete from an external contractor on improvements.

Please see report content for further justification

2. CATEGORY 3 BREACH – PERMIT CONDITION 3.1.1 – Emissions to water

There shall be no point source emissions to water except from the sources and emission points listed in schedule 3.

The discharge observed was made at a location not permitted by the permit (ST17876 98160). Instead, it was made around 320m to the North West on a residential street (Cwmgelli Villas), around ST17586198256. This is a clear breach of the above permit conditions.

Please see report content for further justification

3. CATEGORY 3 BREACH – PERMIT CONDITION 3.1.2 – Emissions to water

The limits given in schedule 3 shall not be exceeded.

While no formal evidence samples were collected, it is clear based on visual assessments alone that the suspended solids content of the discharge are in exceedance of the 50mg/l limit consented by the permit.

Please see report content for further justification

4. CATEGORY 3 BREACH – PERMIT CONDITION 4.3.1 – Notifications

Natural Resources Wales shall be notified without delay following the detection of:

(a) any malfunction, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident, or emission of a substance not controlled by an emission limit which has caused, is causing or may cause significant pollution;

(b) the breach of a limit specified in the permit; or

(c) any significant adverse environmental effects.

Natural Resources Wales was not informed of the incident on the 20/09/2025 by Taylor Wimpey despite it being a requirement of the above permit condition.

Please see report content for further justification

Actions required by dates specified

1. Ensure all management systems and plans are implemented as a priority. Evidence of improvements in line with these plans shall be provided to NRW as a matter of urgency.

Deadline: 22/10/2025

2. Ensure all site drainage is treated and discharged via the consented discharge point only.

Deadline: 29/10/2025

3. Review treatment and management methods to ensure the emissions limits specified by the permit are adhered to. Effluent sampling shall be undertaken and evidence produced showing this compliance is being achieved.

Deadline: 29/10/2025

4. Inform NRW of all instances of all malfunctions, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident, or emission of a substance as specified in the requirements of condition 4.3.1 in future.

Deadline: 29/10/2025

5. Provide NRW with a copy of RSK's report following the visit on the 25/09/2025 when available.

Deadline: 29/10/2025

6. Provide evidence that the actions outlined in RSK's 30th of August 2025 letter have been completed, as per the operator's self-imposed deadlines. Justification of any incomplete works shall be required.

Deadline: 22/10/2025

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

No other advisory comments.

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@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.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.