

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0049927

**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: Incident Response (Incident number: 2510038).

On 12/11/2025, between 11:00 and 13:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Site Operations

**NRW Lead Officer:** Gavin Dodd.

**Report sent to:** Luke Winters, Site Manager, on 26/11/2025.

### 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	C2 Significant	Condition 1.1.1 (a) General Management- The operator shall manage and operate the activities 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
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	C2 Significant	Condition 2.2.1 The Site- The activities shall not extend beyond the site, being the land shown edged in green and the discharge shall be made at the point marked on the site plan at schedule 7 to this permit and as listed in

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
		table S3.2 (discharge points).
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C2 Significant	Condition 3.1.2 Emissions to Water- The limits given in schedule 3 shall not be exceeded.
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	C2 Significant	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.

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	Update site drainage management plans and provide these to NRW to ensure compliance with permit conditions immediately and in the future	23/12/2025
WQ-B2	Ensure any discharge of treated site drainage is to the site's consented discharge point only. The site management must ensure treatment facilities for site drainage (such as the silt buster) are kept on site in order to remain compliant with permit conditions.	23/12/2025
WQ-C1	<p>1.) Produce a full report on the precise cause of the overspill and provide this to NRW.</p> <p>2.) Implement improvements to the site's silt management system and provide details on this to NRW.</p> <p>3.) Update site drainage management plans and provide these to NRW to ensure compliance with permit conditions immediately and in the future</p>	23/12/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-D3	Ensure that any future breaches of permit conditions are reported to NRW's Incident Communications Centre immediately	23/12/2025

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.

**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

As part of responding to an incident of silt pollution, I (Officer Gavin Dodd) attended the Taylor Wimpey site at Cwrt Sirhowy on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The site holds an active permit (ref EPR-CB3598HY) for the discharge of trade effluent consisting of site drainage, discharging to the River Sirhowy. The limits for this discharge are:

- Maximum rate of discharge: 45l/s
- Suspended solids: 50mg/l
- pH: 6 to 9
- Visible oil or grease: No significant trace present

At the time of the visit, construction works were ongoing.

#### **Incident Details**

NRW received a report of a discharge of silt from the Taylor Wimpey site at Cwrt Sirhowy that occurred on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> November; this report was substantiated by video footage taken at the time of the discharge. The silt-laden, contaminated water was confirmed to impact the Cwmgelli Brook which is a tributary of the River Sirhowy.

The discharge had ceased by the time of attendance by NRW on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. Following a visit to the site, it was determined that the discharge had been caused by a blockage in the foul line which was being used to pump silt to DCWW foul network; this blockage caused contaminated water to bypass silt mitigation structures and discharge overland at ST 17643 98217. The overspill was managed initially by tankering and then by diverting water to the holding pond on site. A silt buster was previously on site, but as the

management plan for site drainage is now to discharge to the DCWW foul network, the silt buster has been removed. No treatment of site drainage was being undertaken at the site.

This discharge from the site was in breach of the site's permit conditions. In addition to allowing untreated, contaminated water to discharge from a location besides the consented discharge point, Taylor Wimpey also failed to notify NRW that an unauthorised discharge had occurred.



*Figure 1: Photo showing discharge from TW site on 11th November*



Figure 2: Holding pond on site



Figure 3: Location where silt mitigation failed and silt discharge occurred

### **Breaches of Permit Condition**

**1.) Condition 1.1.1 (a) General Management-** *The operator shall manage and operate the activities 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.*

**Justification:** The management system on site was not sufficient to minimise the risk of pollution

**2.) Condition 2.2.1 The Site-** *The activities shall not extend beyond the site, being the land shown edged in green and the discharge shall be made at the point marked on the site plan at schedule 7 to this permit and as listed in table S3.2 (discharge points).*

**Justification:** The discharge on 11<sup>th</sup> November was not made to the site's specified discharge point at ST17876 98160

**3.) Condition 3.1.2 Emissions to Water-** *The limits given in schedule 3 shall not be exceeded.*

**Justification:** No formal samples were taken of the discharge, but it is evident from the

footage of the discharge that the limit of 50mg/l for suspended solids was being exceeded.

**4.) 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.*

**Justification:** The discharge from the site was not reported to NRW by Taylor Wimpey management.

#### **Actions Required by Dates Specified**

1. Produce a full report on the precise cause of the overspill and provide this to NRW.
2. Implement improvements to the site's silt management system and provide details on this to NRW.
3. Update site drainage management plans and provide these to NRW to ensure compliance with permit conditions immediately and in the future.
4. Ensure that any future breaches of permit conditions are reported to NRW's Incident Communications Centre immediately.
5. Ensure any discharge of treated site drainage is to the site's consented discharge point only. The site management must ensure treatment facilities for site drainage (such as the silt buster) are kept on site in order to remain compliant with permit conditions.

**The deadline for the above actions is 23rd December 2025**

#### **Advisories**

While it is understood that it is the intention of the Taylor Wimpey management to discharge site drainage to the DCWW foul network going forward, this should be confirmed with DCWW and evidence of consent stored on site. It would be beneficial to have treatment facilities for site drainage (such as the silt buster) on site in the event that an

issue with the foul line occurs again.

**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: Gavin Dodd, Environment Officer, gavin.dodd@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk, 03000 65 3193.

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.

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.