

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050118

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: Report/Data Review, Reason: Incident Response
(Incident number: 2510621).

On 10/12/2025, between 13:00 and 14:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Site Operations

NRW Lead Officer: Gavin Dodd.

Report sent to: Luke Winter , Site Manager , on 07/01/2026.

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	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	C3 Minor	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).

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	Condition 3.1.2 Emissions to Water- The limits given in schedule 3 shall not be exceeded.
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	C3 Minor	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	Ensure that no further connections are made to the private surface water line	Already completed
WQ-B2	Ensure no further connections are made to the surface water line	Already completed
WQ-C1	Ensure routine checks of the bund are undertaken to maintain effectiveness	Already completed
WQ-D3	Report any future permit breaches to NRW's Incident Communications Centre immediately	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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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

As part of responding to an incident of silt pollution from the 1st December, I (Officer Gavin Dodd) attended the Taylor Wimpey site at Cwrt Sirhowy on 10th December 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 upwelling from the ground in a garden near the Taylor Wimpey site at Cwrt Sirhowy on the 1st December; this report was substantiated by photos 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 NRW attendance on the 10th December. Following the site visit (and investigations by DCWW and CCBC), it was determined that the discharge was caused by Taylor Wimpey pumping silt laden, contaminated water into a private surface water line next to the DCWW combined line. The site believed that they were connected to the DCWW combined sewer, but it was found on 5th December that it had connected to the private surface water line instead. This line was unable to cope with the increased flows and damaged caused to it resulted in the silt discharge. Taylor Wimpey are liaising with DCWW and CCBC to connect to the combined sewer as the long term solution. In the interim, bunds were placed in the surface water chamber external to the site and silt water is instead being pumped to the holding pond on site and then to the existing foul network (permitted by DCWW).

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.



Fig 1: Silt discharge from ground upwelling on 1st December



Fig 2: Silt deposits around upwelling on 10th December



Fig 3: Bund in place in private surface water line where TW had connected

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 1st December 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

- 1.) Ensure no further connections are made to the private surface water line.
- 2.) Carry out routine checks on the bund in the line to ensure it remains effective.
- 3.) Ensure that any future breaches of permit conditions are reported to NRW's Incident Communications Centre immediately.

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 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.