

From:

To:

Subject: FW: Gwaelod y Garth Incident - TCG 12:30 31/07/26

Date: 31 July 2026 13:27:57

Sorry, forgot to copy you in again.

From:

Sent: 31 July 2026 13:27

To:

Cc:

Subject: Gwaelod y Garth Incident - TCG 12:30 31/07/26

All,

See update below.

Agreed to transition to recovery phase. Lead agency now confirmed as the Local Authority.

South Wales LRF TCG 12:30 31/07/26

Police

Investigation has been handed over to HSE.

Officers attended site this morning. Confirmed meeting , HSE.

Staff from the Operator have been allowed on site..

Police are demobilised.

Breedon Group ()

Geotechnical specialist on site currently.

Area assessed this morning and will be again this afternoon.

Quarry not operating. And will not until it is safe to do so.

HSE currently engaged with site safety manager.

Confirmed they will undertake the assessment of the slopes above the

public highway. Will mobilise technical staff on site and confirm with the Council later today re timescales.

Liaising with the local community and offering support, including covering costs. Council have offered to support.

HSE ()

A brief assessment has deemed the site safe.

Primary responsibility for the investigation sits with HSE, under Health and Safety at Works Act and Quarries Reg - these are criminal offences.

Works underway with staff member on site this morning.

Further staff on standby to assist with the investigation.

Working to confirm quarry site can move into recovery phase.

References to the Garth Iron Mine workings and general request for any information partners might have.

Council ()

Closures still in place. Mud, rock and vegetation debris noted.

Two issues preventing opening:

Need immediate assessment of stability of the banks/slopes above the public highways, including upper slopes which was the source of the water.

Advised they cannot clean and clear the roads until all sampling activities (by NRW) have been undertaken, as part of wider investigations. HSE advised they had no further sampling requirements.

Suggested a new, minor stream now a feature, seeming to emanate from the same source as the flood waters.

NRW ()

Land which was the source of the issue confirmed to be owned by Breedon Group, quarry operator.

No significant concerns on water quality reported, but sampling results still outstanding.

NRW officers have entered the quarry and have initiated investigations relating to contamination, which will feed in to/coordinate with HSE.

NRW to confirm to Cardiff Council that material can be removed from the public highway.

DCWW

Requested update on removal of debris and will engage local staff. Keen to mitigate against potential impacts to waste system (treatment etc.). Council confirmed they intend on taking material off site.

Not aware any supply issues - no issues reported.

PHW

With regards to potential public health impacts, they referred to general guidance and advice materials, which have already circulated.

Acknowledged that they had not seen any test results as yet and requested sight as soon as possible.

Thanks,

From:

Sent: 30 July 2026 20:30

To:

Cc:

Subject: Gwaelod y Garth Incident - TCG 19:00 30/07/26

Hi All,

See update below.

NSRD had advised that they will be issuing an updated Awareness and Monitoring Alert.

South Wales LRF TCG 19:30 30/07/26

SWFRS

SWFRS operational element has ceased. All assets have been removed.

Intend on handing over.

Commented that a significant volume of flood water reached the river Taff via storm drainage and direct flow/seepage.

Police

Cordons in place. One road remains closed. Queried stability of adjacent slope/bank above the road.

Investigative colleagues are picking up the incident. Looking to engage with the HSE.

Council

Community Centre is in use/is available. Housing officers on site still and are supporting one house who has requested support.

Council to leave contact details at the community centre. They are not sure if people have left the scene and may require support once they have returned.

No update on stability of the bank above the road, and suggested intentions to investigate.

Mining Remediation Authority ()

Confident it is not coal mining related.

Engineer has attended site. Confident that there are no impacts to the Category D tip but it will be inspected again tomorrow just as a precaution.

Anecdotal references to a known underground reservoir in the area.

NRW ()

Suggested Mineral Planning Authority remit, the Council.

Officers have been on site and identified an adit/shaft (Location: memory.junior.bubble). At the location, there appears to have been recent activity which may have included removal of a gate.

Water has flowed across NRW land. Engineers to attend site tomorrow morning to make assessment.

Water quality results not due until Friday/Saturday

Significant discolouring in the Taff noted.

Anticipated impacts to wildlife/biodiversity in the Taff.

Comms

Plans for a joint multi-agency statement in hand.

Preference is to move away from 'flash flooding references' and instead towards something along the lines of 'potential breach of (subsurface) water body/ water course'.

Next meeting at 12:30.

Thanks,

From:

Sent: 30 July 2026 18:13

To:

Cc:

Subject: Gwaelod y Gareth Incident - TCG 17:00 30/07/26

All,

Quick read-out from the TCG at 17:00. I'll attend the next meeting at 19:30.

I understand NSRD colleagues will issue a follow-up Aware and Monitoring Alert.

On that basis, I will hold off from sending up any Ministerial briefings.

South Wales LRF TCG 17:00 30/07/26

Location: Gwaelod y Garth

Not a major or critical incident. SWFRS have led the response.

Residents describe an explosion which was followed by flood waters. Blast works believed to have disturbed a sub-surface lake or flooded mine workings.

Localised flooding incident affecting 15 properties of which 13 evacuated (cut out fuse removed). Reports of reduced impacts to more properties in the area.

Those evacuated have been taken to a local community centre.

Flood water is subsiding. Water has been redirected to sewers and watercourses.

Significant amount of silt and debris in the area.

Moving to the recovery phase. SWFRS are looking to hand over to partner agencies when appropriate.

Worst affected properties are flooded up to 1m

Currently concerned with the structural integrity/stability of the quarry itself.

HSE notified as it is a quarry operation falling under the Quarries Regs, 1999.

Emergency response winding down.

HSE are on site but are yet to comment.

Cardiff Council ()

Contacted shortly before 15:00

Supported response with road closures, cleansing vehicles for initial cleanup etc.

Concerns for vulnerable residents.

Housing colleagues on their way to the scene to advise whether they can return or need temporary accommodation

MRA ()

Records show it is a limestone quarry

Recorded ironstone workings in the area.

Acknowledged a Category D disused coal tip in the area which they will investigate.

NRW

Monitoring upstream and downstream.

Taff looking discoloured with reports of visible impacts to the river down to Cardiff Bay.

Prioritisation to mitigate pollution wherever possible.

Expect some minor impacts e.g. dead fish

Comms – Joint comms strategy planned (Fire, Police, Council, NRW and MRA)

Summary

Flooding incident under control and entering recovery phase

Risks relating to the quarry and mine workings remain unknown

SWFRS to leave assets on scene pending HSE and MRA update on mining