

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0039707

**Permit being assessed:** BA1015401

For: WICK SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG  
At: OFF AROSFA EWENNY ROAD, WICK, VALE OF GLAMORGAN, SOUTH EAST  
WALES, CF71 7QA.

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

On 08/03/2022, between 11:30 and 13:25.

Parts of permit assessed: All

**NRW Lead Officer:** Alex Grabham, accompanied by: Hannah Jenkins, Chloe James.

**Report sent to:** Matthew Roberts, Catchment Performance Manager Central Catchment, on  
19/04/2022.

### 1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-A1 - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-D1 - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	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	How often the inlet screens are cleared?	23/05/2022
WQ-D1	Please provide copies of the transfer notes for the past 2 screenings disposal and sewage sludge transfer offsite	23/05/2022
WQ-B1	Explain how Dwr Cymru cyf intent to address the unpermitted storm activity?	23/05/2022
WQ-B1	How often is the storm tank returned to full treatment?	23/05/2022
WQ-B1	While onsite the inlet began overtopping into the storm tank which appeared to be after the Humus tank pump began to operate. Please explain why this happened? How often does this occur?	23/05/2022
WQ-B1	Please could it be confirmed whether there is a separate discharge point for the storm tank?	23/05/2022

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

Routine site inspection completed on 8 March 2022 conditions fine and dry.

OSM monitoring data was checked before attending site and was compliant.

#### Inlet/Screens

While onsite there was a steady flow of effluent entering the treatment plant. Debris was present on the screen. Please could you tell me how often this is cleared?

#### Primary Tank

The primary tank was seen while on site and appeared to be operating correctly.

#### Trickling filter

While onsite the Trickle filter arms appeared to be working correctly and the beds appeared to be in good condition with evidence onsite that they had recently been cleared of vegetation.

#### Humus Tank

The Humus tank was seen while onsite and appeared to be operating correctly.

#### Final effluent/Sample point

While onsite the final effluent was seen and appeared to be running clear. A marked sample point was seen.

#### Storm tank

The storm tank is currently unpermitted. EDM data submitted for 2021 shows 147 spills for a duration of 1792.75 hours. How does Dwr Cymru cyf intend to address this?

Please also explain the following:

How often is the storm tank returned to full treatment?

While onsite the inlet began overtopping into the storm tank which appeared to be after the Humus tank pump began to operate. Please explain why this happened? How often does this occur?

Please could it be confirmed whether there is a separate discharge point for the storm tank?

#### Outfall

We visited the outfall during the inspection, the outfall pipe was submerged due to the water level in the stream. However, no ragging was visible. There was evidence of some nutrient enrichment however this could not be attributed to the outfall at the time of the visit due to external site conditions.

#### Documentation

While onsite the Final and recirculation flow meters were seen. Both flow meters were clearly labelled and had in date Mcert stickers.

A site diary was seen while onsite showing regular site attendance.

Please provide copies of the following:

- Past 2 rag removal transfer notes
- Past 2 sludge removal transfer notes

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.