

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040431

Permit being assessed: CG0352801

For: FORESTRY COMMISSION CENTRE, held by Natural Resources Wales
At: MAESGWM, GANLLWYD, DOLGELLAU, GWYNEDD, LL40 2HY.

Type of assessment carried out: Audit, Reason: Routine.

On 14/09/2022, between 13:30 and 14:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Whole permit

NRW Lead Officer: Simon Roberts.

Report sent to: Hayley Evans, Team Leader - Facilities North, on 26/09/2022.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

No action required.

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.

At this time, we do not intend to take any further action.

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

On the 14th September 2022 NRW took a formal sample from the Maesgwm STW final effluent sample point as part of an internal audit.

NRW had previously attended a site visit on the 18th of August 2022, during which point the final effluent sampling point could not be found. In addition, during the site visit on the 18th of August 2022 the sewage treatment works was found to be overgrown with vegetation, with vegetation having grown in the filter bed. This was seen to prohibit the mechanical arm of the filter bed. Left unmaintained this could impact the final effluent quality.

By the time of the site audit on the 14th of September 2022 the site had been maintained with the vegetation having been cut back as necessary.

Access had been provided to the final effluent sample point, and a final effluent sample taken (sample reference 25405). The final effluent sample looked clear and had no discernible odour.

The result of the final effluent sample taken on the 14th of September 2022 are as follows:

	Sample Results	Permit Limits
BOD	3 mg/l	40 mg/l
Suspended Solids	6 mg/l	60 mg/l
COD	14 mg/l	N/A
Ammonia	0.5 mg/l	N/A

The results of the final effluent sample taken on 14th September 2022 are therefore compliant with conditions in discharge permit CG0352801.

Although the sample results are compliant with permit conditions and no breaches have been recorded, we would recommend that the following issues are addressed:

- We would recommend that the site is kept regularly maintained, with vegetation cleared back and not allowed to grow within the filter bed.
- We would recommend that any trees that have taken root within the filter bed are dealt with appropriately and removed - any root infiltration could cause issues with leakage and the structural integrity of the filter bed
- A copy of the site 'routine checklist' was made available to the auditing officer. We note that the checklist requires a 'visual check of effluent'. We would recommend that this be altered to clearly state that a 'visual check of final effluent' (i.e. from final effluent sampling point) is undertaken, as this would be the effluent that is actually discharged to the receiving watercourse.
- Condition 3.3.1 of permit CG0352801 states that "Permanent means of access shall be provided to enable sampling/monitoring to be carried out in relation to the emission points specified in schedule 3 tables S3.1, S3.2 and S3.3 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency". As stated during a site visit on the 18th of August 2022 the final effluent sampling point could not be found at the time. Please ensure that the access to the final effluent sampling point is maintained and clearly visible to auditing officers.

Please note any reference within the CAR/ permit to the Environment Agency means Natural Resources Wales.

--

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.