

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040762

Permit being assessed: CG0341601

For: CRICCIETH STW FINAL, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: CRICCIETH STW, CRICCIETH, GWYNEDD, WALES, .

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

On 01/12/2022, between 14:00 and 15:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Whole permit

NRW Lead Officer: Simon Roberts, accompanied by: Eurn Roberts.

Report sent to: Victoria Collier, Catchment Manager North West Wales – Wastewater Treatment, on 15/12/2022.

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	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 Thursday the 1st December 2022, NRW officer Simon Roberts accompanied by Senior Officer Eurn Roberts carried out a OSM (operator self-monitoring) audit at Criccieth Sewage Treatment Works (Permit Id CG0341601).

NRW where accompanied by the DCWW catchment manger Victoria Collier and Ian Roberts, supervisor for the Dwyfor area.

The weather on the day of the visit was dry and sunny.

The site was visited as part of an audit on three sites around Criccieth, including Criccieth East Pumping Station and CSO on Criccieth Beach (to be arranged for a later date). Criccieth beach is a designated bathing water, which has seen its classification drop from 'good' to 'sufficient' for the 2022 bathing water season. The intention of the visit was to see the site, to ensure its compliant with its permit, and if possible, to reduce the frequency of storm discharges with the aim of achieving 'good' or 'excellent' bathing water classification for the beach during the 2023 season.

It was explained that sewage was pumped to the inlet from Criccieth West PS. Having reached the STW, the sewage passed through a grit trap, where an auger pushed any grit to the skips underneath.

The pass forward flow at Criccieth STW was 33l/s with the minimum storm storage capacity in the tanks being 317m³. The storm return re-entered the flow to the primary tanks once passed the flow MCERTS (to avoid double counting).

Criccieth STW had 2 primary tanks which was serviced by an automatic de-sludging process, before the flow was sent for treatment in 3 BAFF (Biological Aerated Floating Filtration) treatment systems.

We were shown the UV systems that treat the flow during the bathing season. This system was now offline for cleaning and maintenance, but might be required if the local community council inform DCWW if there is a prearranged 'christmas dip' at Criccieth beach.

Criccieth STW has 2 storm tanks, and it was explained that as soon as the flow into the works went under 12l/s the storm tanks automatically returned the flow from the storm for treatments.

It should be noted that the Criccieth STW storm tanks were close to capacity during the OSM visit.



Photo 1 - Criccieth storm tanks during OSM inspection

Is there anything that DCWW can do to hasten the emptying of the storm tanks? During the

site visit on the 01/12/22 both storm tanks appeared to be near capacity. The minimum storage capacity of the storm tanks according to permit CG0341602 is 317 cubic meters. It is appreciated that it would take a while for the storm tanks to empty after heavy rain, however NRW's rainfall gauge at Criccieth STW indicates that no heavy rain had occurred for more than 4 days prior to the visit. With the storm tanks still almost full it prohibits the tank's capacity to store as much storm sewage as possible, increasing the risk of discharge. Condition 2.3.1 (c). of Permit CG0341602 states that "The storage shall be emptied and its contents returned to the continuation flow as soon as reasonably practicable". Please ensure that this condition is adhered to and the storm tanks are emptied back into the works as soon as is practicable.



Photo 2 - Criccieth STW MCERTS & certificate

The MCERTs calibration was in date with a valid calibration certificate in place. Date of last calibration 11/05/2021.
Date of next calibration 11/11/2023.

NRW would like to thank Victoria and Ian for their time on the day.

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.