

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040846

Permit being assessed: BG0027001

For: Cribyn Wastewater treatment works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Cribyn, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7HQ.

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

On 28/11/2022, between 10:00 and 10:40.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis, accompanied by: Ffion Quan.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 05/01/2023.

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)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C3 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	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

This was a pre-planned site inspection at Cribyn Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) (BG0027001) carried out by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers Bethan Lewis and Ffion Quan. The NRW Officers were accompanied by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW)

Operatives Daniel Williams (Senior Operator) and Sarah Mowlam (Operations Coordinator).

For observations concerning the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) at Cribyn WwTW (BG0027002), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR_NRW0040847.

Summary

The site inspection commenced at 10:00 hours on the 28 November 2022 and concluded at 10:40 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry and sunny, however regular showers had occurred over the preceding 24 hours.

The NRW Officers were taken through the treatment process from inlet to outfall, with Daniel Williams explaining how the works operated.

The WwTW is a single filter bed works which processes domestic effluent only. The site has telemetry in place for monitoring and the site operator visits the site once weekly.

The population equivalent for the site is 208.

Treatment Process

At the inlet to the WwTW, flows pass through a muncher as shown in blue in photograph 1 below. This muncher was not in operation at the time of the inspection, therefore sewage flowed directly into the primary settlement tank (PST) as seen on the left in photograph 1 and in photograph 2. In addition to being manually scraped when the operator is on site, sludge from the base of the PST is pumped into one of two sludge holding tanks located on site as shown in photograph 3. Only one of the two sludge holding tanks located on site is currently used to store sludge. Prior to the removal of sludge by tanker, top water from the sludge holding tank is decanted and returned to the PST for treatment.



Photograph 1: Muncher (blue) and Primary Settlement Tank (PST)



Photograph 2: Primary Settlement Tank (PST)



Photograph 3: Sludge holding tank

Following primary settlement, flows are treated via a single stone media filter bed as shown in photograph 4 below. This filter bed works by gravity and at the time of the inspection, the filter bed arms were rotating unhindered and the filter bed media appeared equally wetted with no signs of ponding. There were no major signs of leakages from the filter bed. A small amount of vegetation was visible at the surface, however this did not appear to have any impact on the treatment process. The DCWW operatives confirmed that vegetation would be removed from the filter bed as and when required.

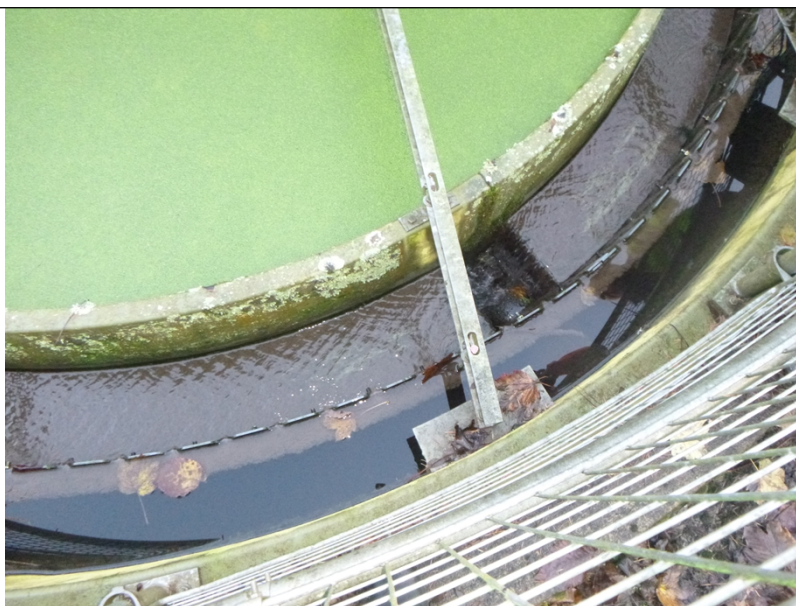


Photograph 4: Stone media filter bed

Following filter bed treatment, flows enter an old final settlement tank (FST) followed by a newer FST as shown in photograph 5. This FST is desludged manually once a week when the operator is on site. As the site relies on manual cleaning of the FST, a build-up of fungus was observed within the outfall channel of the FST at the time of the inspection, as shown in photograph 6. As this fungus would be removed during the FST's next clean, this was not of concern.



Photograph 5: Final Settlement Tank (FST)



Photograph 6: Outfall channel of final settlement tank (FST)

A final effluent sampling point is located on site, as shown in photograph 7. At this location there is also MCERTS flow monitoring with on-site visual display, as shown in photograph 8. At the time of the inspection, the flow measurement system was recording 1.82 l/s as exiting the works. Whilst there is no set limit within Cribyn WwTW's permit for 15-minute instantaneous or averaged flow, there is a 34.1m³/day dry weather flow limit. This was however not audited as part of the site inspection.



Photograph 7: Final effluent sampling point



Photograph 8: MCERTS flow measurement system

Final effluent from the WwTW enters the Afon Grannell via an open ended outfall pipe within the left-hand bank of the watercourse as shown in photograph 9 below. It was discussed during the site inspection whether this open ended outfall pipe results in river water backing up to the treatment works during high flows. The DCWW operatives were unaware of any such historic issues regarding this.



Photograph 9: Final effluent outfall into the Afon Grannell

Final Comments

We wish to thank Daniel Williams and Sarah Mowlam for accompanying the NRW Officers at the time of the above inspection. No non-compliances were identified during the inspection, however if DCWW wish to discuss the contents of this CAR, we encourage them to contact the NRW Officer noted above.

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales

established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.

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.