

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040843

Permit being assessed: CG0109401

For: TALYBONT STW, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: TALYBONT STW, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN.

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

On 06/12/2022, between 10:30 and 10:50.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

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

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 20/01/2023.

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	C3 Minor	F1
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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-B2	Recommendation for a future installation of an on-site visual display at Talybont STW.	13/07/2023
WQ-C1	Please investigate why there is a sewage fungus build up near the outfall.	10/02/2023

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.

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 audit carried out by Natural Resources Wales officers Ffion Quan and Bethan Lewis who were accompanied by Dwr Cymru operatives Sarah Mowlam and

Daniel Williams.

General observations

The audit commenced at 10:30 hours on 06 December 2022. The weather at the time of the visit was dry.

Offices were taken through the works from the inlet, through the treatment system before finishing at the outlet discharge point into the Afon Leri.

The sewage treatment works is a filter bed works consisting of two filter beds which process domestic effluent only. The site also has telemetry in place for monitoring and the site operator visits the site twice a week.

The population equivalent for the site is 553.

The process

The incoming flow to the works is pumped into the inlet and makes its way into one primary tank which is equipped with an air lift de sludger. The primary tank did appear to have some built up sludge but as discussed on site, the tank had not been cleaned since the previous week and was due to be cleaned on the day of the visit. Other than that, the inlet and primary tank seemed to work effectively.



The flows then enter the distribution chamber after the primary tank to be distributed to the two filter beds on site. Once distributed, the flows pass on to treatment. The works contain two circular filter beds containing stone media. The rotation arms are water wheel driven and were moving free and unhindered. During the visit, the filter beds seem to work effectively with no sign of ponding or dry patches with no obvious leakages to the filter bed walls.



There is one final settlement tank on site, which appeared to work effectively with no evidence of any sewage fungus present. There is also two sludge drying beds (holding tanks) at the works which gets tankered away when needed. Solids settle to the bottom of the tank and the remaining water gets pumped back into the inlet and re-enters the process.



The final effluent sampling point is clearly marked with appropriate signage including the sampling point number.



Issues - Non compliances

As per permit condition F1, *a continuous flow measurement and recording system, to a specification provided by the Agency, shall be provided and operated to record the total daily volume, and the instantaneous or 15-minute integrated flow every 15 minutes of sewage through the treatment works. An on-site visual display from which instantaneous or 15-minute integrated flow readings can be readily obtained by the Agency shall be provided and operated.* As discussed during the visit, there is a flow meter that captures the incoming flows into the STW at the nearby CSO but there isn't an on-site visual display located at the STW, as required by the site's permit. Due to this, a CCS category 3 has been given.

Action - NRW recommends a future installation of an on-site visual display at Talybont STW by the 13/07/2023, as discussed with Sarah Mowlam.

Issues - Action Only

It was noticed during the visit that there was some sewage fungus build up near the outfall. See photograph below.

Action - Please investigate causes of the sewage fungus build up and we recommend that this area is cleaned in order to establish if this is an ongoing issue at the works, by 10/02/2023.



I would like to thank Sarah Mowlam and Daniel Williams for their time during the visits.

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.