

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0041086

Permit being assessed: BP0311201

For: VISITOR CENTRE, held by NATURAL RESOURCES BODY FOR WALES

At: BWLCH NANT YR ARIAN, PONTERWYD, ABERYSTWYTH, CEREDIGION, SY23 3AD.

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

On 23/01/2023, between 14:00 and 14:30.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: Hayley Evans, NRW Team Leader, Facilities, North, on 09/02/2023.

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-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

This was a pre-planned site inspection undertaken at Bwlch Nant yr Arian Visitor Centre's Package Treatment Plant (PTP) (BP0311201) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officer Bethan Lewis. Bethan was accompanied by Paul Oakes, Team Member 3 in NRW's North Facilities Team.

The site inspection commenced at 14:00 hours on the 23 January 2023 and concluded at 14:30 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry, however the visitor centre

had been closed for several days during the previous week due to snow, reopening to the public on the 22 January 2023.

The PTP serves the visitor centre only, which includes the toilets and café.

On arrival, Bethan was accompanied to the PTP as shown in photograph 1 below. From ground level, the PTP is viewed as several chambers. Other than the final effluent sample point, no chambers were opened as part of the site inspection.

The site was found to be kept clean and tidy. All chambers were easily accessible, with no signs of encroaching vegetation. The PTP is said to be inspected regularly for any signs of encroaching vegetation, and NRW employ a third party to remove sludge and undertake maintenance.

Although not a permit breach, a sewage odour was noticed in the vicinity of the initial chambers, furthest from the discharge point. The odour dissipated quickly with distance from the initial chambers and was not noticeable at the point of discharge. NRW may wish to monitor this odour, particularly into the coming warmer summer months which are likely to coincide with a greater number of visitors to the site, and a greater volume of sewage being treated by the PTP.



Photograph 1: Package Treatment Plant (PTP) at Bwlch Nant yr Arian Visitor Centre

During the site inspection, Bethan requested to view the effluent sample point, as shown in photograph 2 below. After some effort, the cover of the effluent sample point was opened using tools found at the visitor centre. These tools were not dedicated tools for opening the chamber cover. If not already available, it is recommended that NRW keep dedicated tools for opening the PTP chambers within easy access of those requiring access to the PTP

chambers, particularly in emergency situations.

On opening the effluent sample point, the PTP was not found to be actively discharging to ground at the time of the inspection as the level of effluent in the chamber was below what was believed to be the outfall pipe. The lack of discharge may be explained by the fact that the visitor centre was closed to the public for several days during the previous week.

No significant trace of visible oil or grease was found within the final effluent, and no sewage fungus or odour was observed.



Photograph 2: Effluent sample point

Final effluent from the PTP is discharged to ground beneath a walking path in the direction of a nearby bike skills park. No pollution was observed within this area.

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.