

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040964

Permit being assessed: BH0063801

For: LLANDYGWYDD HOUSING SITE, held by CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION C C
At: LLANDYGWYDD HOUSING SITE, CARDIGAN, CEREDIGION, WALES, SA43 2QX.

Type of assessment carried out: Check Monitoring/Sampling, Reason: Routine.
On 13/10/2022.

Parts of permit assessed: Nature and composition of discharge

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

Report sent to: Cari Barker, STW Project Manager, on 20/02/2023.

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	C2 Significant	(I) Nature and composition of discharge
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C1 Major	(I) Nature and composition of discharge
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C2 Significant	(I) Nature and composition of discharge

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	Confirm next steps in rectifying the sample exceedances at Llandygwydd STW.	14/04/2023
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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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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

A routine final effluent sample collected from Llandygydd Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (BH0063801) on the 13 October 2022 was found to contain 64mg/l suspended solids; 102 mg/l Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD); and 21.9mg/l ammoniacal nitrogen. Llandygydd STW's permit states that the discharge shall contain no more than 30ppm (mg/l) suspended solids; 20ppm (mg/l) BOD; and 8ppm (mg/l) ammoniacal nitrogen. As the suspended solids and ammoniacal nitrogen exceedances were both more than twice the absolute limit, a category 2 non-compliance has been recorded for both above. As the BOD exceedance was more than four times the absolute limit, a category 1 non-compliance has been recorded above. Whilst the permit has no limit for phosphorus, it is worth noting that the concentration of phosphorus within the sample was also found to be high at 7.81mg/l.

These are not the first set of sample results for Llandygydd STW where exceedances have been identified. The following Compliance Assessment Reports (CAR) each discuss other exceedances which have occurred at Llandygydd STW between 2018 and 2022:

- **CAR_NRW0034340**: Suspended Solids (67mg/l), BOD (>118 mg/l), and Ammoniacal Nitrogen (26.7mg/l) exceedances related to sample collected on 09 April 2018; and BOD (33.6mg/l) and Ammoniacal Nitrogen (8.42mg/l) exceedances related to sample collected on 05 October 2018.
- **CAR_NRW0034531**: BOD (39.7mg/l) and Ammoniacal Nitrogen (9.25mg/l) exceedances related to sample collected on 10 January 2019.
- **CAR_NRW0035534**: Suspended Solids (51.5mg/l) and Ammoniacal Nitrogen (9.18mg/l) exceedances related to sample collected on 19 July 2019.
- **CAR_NRW0036020**: Suspended Solids (47mg/l), BOD (82.7mg/l), and Ammoniacal Nitrogen (18.2mg/l) exceedances related to sample collected on 03 October 2019.
- **CAR_NRW0037368**: Suspended Solids (65mg/l), BOD (81.7mg/l), and Ammoniacal Nitrogen (17.2mg/l) exceedances related to sample collected on 25 November 2020.
- **CAR_NRW0040996**: Suspended Solids (36.5mg/l) and BOD (29mg/l) exceedances related to sample collected on the 30 March 2022.

During a telephone conversation with NRW Officer Bethan Lewis on the 07 December 2022, Cari Barker, STW Project Manager at Ceredigion County Council (CCC), explained that the most recent exceedances were still believed to relate to a suspected fly-tipping incident which occurred in 2018. During this incident, it is believed that oil discharged into the sewer system by a third-party, caused bacteria at the STW (critical for biological treatment) to die. Although CCC carried out a thorough clean of the STW immediately following this incident, sample exceedances have persisted at Llandygydd STW, despite the full recovery of bacteria. In an attempt to resolve these exceedances, it was explained that CCC had enlisted the services of both the manufacturer and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW), who have both visited site to assess the treatment process (Biodisc). To date, both have been unsuccessful in identifying the cause of the sample exceedances.

Given the number and degree of sample exceedances recorded above, NRW Officers Bethan Lewis and Ffion Quan arranged to visit Llandygwydd STW on the 19 December 2022. As shown in photograph 1 below, final effluent discharging into the unnamed tributary of the Afon Teifi from the STW appeared clear on this day. The NRW Officers did not notice an odour and did not observe sewage fungus within the receiving watercourse. Whilst the sample exceedances recorded above are therefore of concern, it is not believed that the STW is having a continuous significant or major environmental impact on the receiving watercourse.



Photograph 1: Final effluent outfall at Llandygwydd STW on 19 December 2022

Given that (1) the sample exceedances recorded above are not believed to be having a continuous significant or major environmental impact on the receiving watercourse; and (2) CCC have already undertaken work to resolve these exceedances; CCC have been issued with a warning only for the category 1 and category 2 sample exceedances recorded on the 13 October 2022. In order to rectify these permit breaches however, NRW ask CCC to confirm their next steps in rectifying the sample exceedances at Llandygwydd STW by no later than the 14 April 2023. These steps may range from undertaking further investigations at source i.e via inlet sampling, to replacing the treatment process entirely. These decisions are for CCC to make, however NRW are willing to work alongside CCC where needed to achieve a resolution.

Please note that NRW are entitled to re-evaluate their enforcement response if it appears that sufficient steps are not taken within a reasonable timeframe to resolve the sample exceedances at Llandygwydd STW.

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.