

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0040986

**Permit being assessed:** BE0075603

For: CUCKOO MILL PS . . ., held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: CUCKOO MILL PS . . ., . . ., . . ., . . ., . . .

**Type of assessment carried out:** Audit, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2300145).

On 08/01/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 1,2,3,4,5,9,10&11

**NRW Lead Officer:** Sarah Bennett.

**Report sent to:** CARS@dwrwymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 21/02/2023.

### 1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D3 - Information - Notifications	Assessed (A)	

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	Please investigate if 12 hours of DWF storage is available at the SPS before an emergency discharge commences. Report your finding to NRW.	28/07/2023

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

On the 08/01/2023 you notified us that there had been a failure of a valve on the rising main from Cuckoo Mill SPS which prevented sewage being pumped forward to Gowerton WWTW. This resulted in a discharge of sewage into the Afon Llan via the Emergency

Overflow.

The severity of the pollution was mitigated by the fact that the sewage being discharged was dilute due to high levels of storm water in the system and the river was in high flows.

I have assessed compliance with the relevant permit conditions with exception of Condition 5 which requires that in the event of an emergency, a minimum of 12 hours storage capacity shall be available before discharge commences, based on the design dry weather sewage flow. An action has been raised so that a more detailed assessment of this condition can be assessed by yourselves.

The summary of my assessment is as follows:

1. The discharge was covered by Condition 1 of the permit in that it was an emergency.
2. Only sewage that could not be practicably diverted via tankering was discharged. Opportunities to divert sewage further up the catchment could not be found.
3. The discharge occurred from the permitted location.
4. The discharge was screened with a COPA sack
5. **Not assessed at this time.** Please carry out the Action required in this report. Available hours of storage would have been reduced as the emergency occurred in storm conditions.
9. The alarm system alerted DCWW to the failure.
10. NRW was notified within 24 hours.
11. All reasonable steps were taken to minimise the duration of the discharge and its polluting effect.

I consider that the discharge was compliant with the conditions of the Emergency Permit.

Compliance with condition 5 will be assessed at a future date.

Ends

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.