

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0042862

Permit being assessed: BP0054601

For: BISHOPSTON STS BRANDY COVE LANE, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: BISHOPSTON SEWAGE TREATMENT WKS, BRANDY COVE LANE, BISHOPSTON, SWANSEA, .

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

On 23/11/2023, between 09:00 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Parts of Nature, Volume, Composition, Works Operation

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett, accompanied by: Gareth Martin, Hamish Osborn.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrcymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 24/11/2023.

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-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	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	Please ensure that the NGR outfall location provided in the current application for a UMON3/4 permit variation is correct. See comments for more information.	08/12/2023
WQ-B2	Please confirm that the end of the outfall is now protected and inspections of the outfall pipe are included in your maintenance programmes. See comments for more information.	26/01/2024

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

The purpose of this Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) is to record our observations during an inspection at Bishopston Sewage Treatment works and any non-compliances identified during the visit.

This CAR relates to the final effluent discharge permit. A separate CAR has been issued for the storm effluent discharge permit. Ref: CAR_NRW0042863

Our site visit started at the inlet to the works and ended at the point of discharge from the works.

The weather was dry. There had been light rain the evening before.

New MCERT Flows Passed Forward (FPF) monitors have been installed to measure all incoming flows and the flows being discharged to the storm tanks in preparation for the imminent UMON3/4 monitoring permit requirements. At Bishopston, the inlet has been modified to allow accurate monitoring to take place.

All flows pass through a 6mm 2-dimensional automatically cleaned screen. The screen was operating well with no obvious carry over into the primary settlement tanks. Screenings are collected and removed from site. In the event of a total screen breakdown the flows are diverted via a 6mm bar screen.

Below the screens an automatic Penstock valve controls the flows passed forward for full treatment. Any flows in excess of 33 l/s are diverted to the storm tanks. The channel was clear of any debris and the Penstock appeared to be in good working order.

Flow readings can be seen in the main control room. At the time of the visit the flows were in the region of 7 l/s.

Primary treatment is via one primary settlement tank which appeared to be in good working order. The weirs looked quite corroded but this should not impact on treatment. Desludging to the sludge storage tank is done manually with the works being visited daily. The sludge is tankered away to Gowerton STW for further treatment before going for anaerobic digestion at Afan AD plant.

The flows then pass through the aeration lanes and final settlement tanks for secondary treatment. All blowers appeared to be operating normally. Very low flows during dry weather can impact on the activated sludge process at this works. This can have a negative impact on the quality of the final effluent. Measures have been put in place to mitigate against this including recirculation of flows from the final settlement tanks back into to the primary tanks.

The effluent is subject to UV treatment before passing through the sample chamber. The UV plant was operating at the time of the visit.

A sample of final effluent was collected for inspection in a turbidity tube. The effluent was clear with a reading of <10 NTU.

The final effluent leaves the works and flows by gravity to an outfall into Brandy Cove. This outfall is also used for storm discharges.

The NGR for the outfall in the current permit is different to the NGR in the storm permit. I believe that the NGR for the storm permit is more accurate. It looks like the final effluent outfall NGR has been used in the UMON permit application.

Action

Please ensure that the NGR outfall location provided in the current application for a UMON3/4 permit variation is correct.

We did not inspect the outfall at the time of our visit because it is not visible for the majority of its length and the tide was not suitable to inspect the discharge point at the end of the pipe. However, in the past there have been significant blockages of the outfall pipe caused by stones and sand getting washed up the outfall. This has resulted in ruptures of the outfall pipe, pollution incidents and non-compliances.

Action

Please confirm that the end of the outfall is now protected and inspections of the outfall pipe are included in your maintenance programmes.

We did not identify any non-compliances or areas of concern during our visit to Bishopston STW.

Thank you.

End

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.