

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0042888

Permit being assessed: AA0001901

For: DEVAUDEN STW, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: DEVAUDEN STW, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN.

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

On 26/10/2023, between 11:45 and 12:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Whole permit

NRW Lead Officer: Peter Jones, accompanied by: Tracy Jones, John Benson.

Report sent to: Richie Ingles, Senior Process Scientist, on 30/11/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR1A - Management - General management	C3 Minor	10
IR1A - Management - General management	C3 Minor	11

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR1A	Carry out maintenance	05/01/2024
IR1A	Carry out maintenance	21/12/2023

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.

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

Routine site inspection of Devauden STW. Inspection carried out by Peter Jones and Tracy Jones. John Benson from DCWW was also present.

Weather: Overcast and dry.

Devauden STW is a small works discharging biologically treated final effluent to a tributary of the Pill brook. The total daily volume should not exceed 348 cubic metres per day and the discharge cannot exceed 4 litres per second.

The critical parameters are:

FFT 4 l/s

BOD 22 mg/l

Ammoniacal nitrogen 12 mg/l

Suspended Solids 60 mg/l

The last notification of permit exceedance occurred on the 06/04/2021.

Result BOD 27 mg/l

Result Ammonia 15.5 mg/l

Permit condition 6; BOD limit 22 mg/l, Ammoniacal nitrogen limit 12 mg/l

The flow enters the site and is passed to the Primary Settlement Tanks (PSTs). The tanks are below ground and the limited access to the site has made maintenance difficult. A build-up of sludge in the PSTs is resulting in solids being carried through to the filter beds. A failure to clean out and manage the PST is a breach of condition 11 of the permit:

On each occasion that the sewage treatment works is not under normal operating conditions for the reasons in condition 10 of the permit. The discharger shall use its best endeavours to mitigate any adverse effect and shall notify the authority (Natural Resources Wales) by telephone as soon as practicable and confirm in writing within 14 days of the occurrence of such conditions. That notification shall include a full description of the abnormal operating conditions and their impact on the operation of the works.



Discharge from PSTs.

From the PSTs the flow is split into two filter beds. There is a considerable growth of moss and leaf litter on top of the filter bed medium. Ponding of effluent is also visible on both filter beds. The moss and leaf litter should be regularly removed from the filter beds. The filter bed medium should also be managed to prevent the ponding of the effluent. Given the excess solids entering the filter beds this should be done on a regular basis. Failure to maintain the filter beds is a breach of permit condition 11.



Filter beds - moss growth, leaf litter and ponding on filter medium.

There was a build up of sludge in the humus tanks. To remove sludge the tanks are flushed, and the effluent is pumped back to the black plastic tank located close the intake for the works. The lambs tails in the humus tanks have been located directly under the walkaway crossing the humus tanks. This has made cleaning them very difficult. Consideration should be given to relocating he lambs tails to allow the site operator safe access to maintain them.



Current location of lambs tails.

The flow meter, for the outlet showed a reading of 1.2 l/s. The final effluent sampling point is clearly marked.

Contact details:

If you have any queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details:

Telephone number: 07760443974.

E-mail: Peter.A.Jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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.