

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0042997

Permit being assessed: AW1004201

For: LLYSWEN STW CHURCH ROAD LLYSWEN, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: LLYSWEN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, CHURCH ROAD, LLYSWEN, POWYS, .

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

On 29/11/2023, between 10:00 and 10:30.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding, accompanied by: Chris Gurney.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 12/12/2023.

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	C3 Minor	2. The Discharge shall be made in the manner and at the place specified as: (a) discharging via a 150mm diameter pipe (b) discharging into River Wye (c) at National Grid Reference SO 13369 38152: (d) shown marked 'Consent Point' on Plan AW1004201 attached as Annex 1.
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B1	Investigate the root cause of repeated blockages of the pipe and possible solutions. Provide results of the investigation to NRW.	30/04/2024

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

This was a pre-planned OSM site inspection carried out by Natural Resources Wales Officers Robert Harding and Chris Gurney. We were shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives
Bryan Barrel- Process Technician

The weather during the visit was cold and overcast with intermittent showers. We were shown through the works from the inlet through to the outfall.

General information

The STW is a single filter bed works which is fed directly from the nearby pumping station. As a result, the works does not have a continuous flow into the works.

Inlet and Storm Weir

The incoming flow to the site is pumped up to the inlet point, where telemetry is in place to monitor flows. The inlet is clearly marked and was clear of blockages, there is no screening in place on the main flow channel, as the incoming flows are macerated at nearby the pumping station. Whilst on site some flow entered the works and it appeared macerated and clear of any large solids or rag.

There is a 6mm aperture screen in place for the storm channel with a rotating brush to clear debris/rag from the screen by returning it into the inlet channel. There is EDM equipment in place to monitor storm discharges. The flows were well below the storm weir setting in place and there were no flows entering the storm channel. The storm filter showed signs of debris but was clear of any blockages. There is a single storm tank, which was empty at the time of inspection. The storm tank has an automatic return to the head of the works.



Primary Settlement

The primary settlement tank at the works is a radial settlement tank with retention boards to retain solids within the main chamber. appeared to be operating effectively. There were no signs of significant solids passing into the outfall channel as the scum boards were clearly keeping solids contained. The outfall channel appeared clear of any debris and water was flowing freely. There is a COPA sack in place on the outfall between the primary tank and filter bed. There was material gathered within the sack and the flows were not being hindered from flowing, to the next stage of treatment.



Filter Bed

There is a single filter bed which containing stone filter media. The rotation arm was moving in a free and unhindered. The distribution points on the arm were clear of debris and water was flowing freely. The filter had some moss growth present on the surface of the filter bed in certain areas; however, this was not hindering the flow of liquid into the filter media. There were no signs of pooling present, and it was clear that efforts have been made to remove moss build from the filter bed. Overall, the filter bed appeared in good working order.



Humus Tank

The humus tank is a radial settlement tank with retention boards to retain solids, which appeared to be operating effectively. There were no signs of solids in the outfall channels. There is a thin covering of duckweed present on the surface of the humus tank, however this does not appear to be hindering its operation and is contained within the scum board. The outfall channel appeared to be flowing clear with no signs of concern.



Outfall and Sampling point

The final effluent from the humus tank passes through a MCERT Magflow flow meter, which was operational at the time of inspection (visual check of the meter display). The sample point is clearly marked with appropriate signage including the NGR. A list of permitted limits was always present for operatives to check whilst on site.

The inspection chamber at the time of inspection was full of effluent and there was some surface flooding on site present near the outfall chamber. We were advised that there is a reoccurring issue with the pipe between the works and the river, which occasionally becomes blocked below the farmer's field. This blockage of the outfall pipe causes effluent to back up into the works into the final effluent sample chamber and a nearby manhole. The MCERTS at the time was underwater, however was still showing flow passing through as required, I believe the MCERTS chamber has filled from above and is not affecting the MCERTS operating as required. To remedy this issue DCWW crews attend the site to jet out the line and remove the blockages. The jetting work was planned for the following day (30/11/2023). Once the line is cleared the flows can then flow back to the outfall as required.



**Noncompliance-**

As a result of the blockage to the downstream line, effluent has spilt onto the site compound and discharged on to the ground within the works. It is not possible to reasonably assure that all of the spilt effluent will return to the outfall and be discharged at the consented point. This therefore is a breach of permit condition 2 which states.

2. The Discharge shall be made in the manner and at the place specified as:

- (a) discharging via a 150mm diameter pipe*
- (b) discharging into River Wye*
- (c) at National Grid Reference SO 13369 38152:*
- (d) shown marked 'Consent Point' on Plan AW1004201 attached as Annex 1.*

This has been classified as a category 3 noncompliance, as this could potentially have a minor impact on the receiving environment. As the effluent hasn't been discharged at the consented point.

Action required by 30/04/2024

DCWW should now investigate the root cause of the repeated blockages to the pipe and assess possible solutions to prevent further backfill into the works. The results of the investigation should be provided to NRW by 30/04/2024

General Comments

The works can experience periods of low input, as the flow come from the nearby pumping station. There are automatic processes in place to re-circulate from the humus tank back to the head of the works. This is to keep movement through the works in periods of low flows. Other than the downstream pipe issues mentioned the works appears in good condition working order. There have been no indications of issues with the effluent quality.

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.