

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043078

Permit being assessed: BN0002601

For: Pont-ar-Gothi & Nantgaredig Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Track Off Llannon Road, Next to 'Cothi House', Pont-ar-Gothi, Carmarthen, SA32 7NG.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2302845).

On 22/12/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: Condition 2.3 Operating Techniques

NRW Lead Officer: Daniel Howells, accompanied by: James Slowgrove.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 22/12/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR2C - Operations - Operating techniques	C3 Minor	2.3.2 (a) - Discharge can only occur due to rainfall and/or snowmelt
IR2C - Operations - Operating techniques	C3 Minor	2.3.2 (b) Off -line storage only to be used in rainfall and/or snow melt and emptied after such rainfall events as soon as possible.

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR2C	Monitor discharge/flows to ensure that condition complied with.	05/01/2024
IR2C	ensure that works are operated in compliance with licence conditions.	05/01/2024

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.

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

Incident (WIRS 2302845) received by NRW on the 18th April 2023, outfall from Pontargothi sewage works was reported to be operating despite no rain in area. Report to NRW indicated sewage debris had been discharged and that this had been a re-occurring situation.

DCWW confirmed that a discharge was taking place with root cause identified as a break/fracture in the gravity sewer under a river crossing resulting in increased flow through the works. Ammonia samples taken by DCWW were low and only minor impact downstream likely. The increased flows through the works were largely made up of river water rather than sewage so discharges were diluted. The storyboard asset performance history showed that the flows increased through the works from the 9th March indicating the issue to be likely from that date on until the 18th April 2023, when tankers were used at the site.

Condition 2.3.2 authorises discharge specified in table S3.3 of the permit can occur only during rainfall and/or snowmelt. The above discharge was taking place outside of this condition.

DCWW Capital partners to install slip-line in sewer to ensure river water remains separate from the sewer system. Works proposed for May 2023 according to storyboard from DCWW. We request an update on these works and any further findings be detailed to the Carmarthenshire Environment Team e-mail inbox (carms.environmentteam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) by the 5th January 2024.

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.