

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043205

Permit being assessed: BP0055805

For: SWANSEA DOCKS , , , held by ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS

At: SWANSEA DOCKS , , , , , , , , , ,

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

On 18/01/2024, between 12:25 and 12:50.

Parts of permit assessed: Permitted Activities

NRW Lead Officer: Gareth Martin, accompanied by: Catherine Tucker, Daniel Wood .

Report sent to: Christine Nelson, Environment Manager , on 31/01/2024.

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	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
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-B1	Environmental Permitting Regulations (2016) does not permit a discharge to water from a Septic tank. Please clarify whether the Harbour office is served by a Septic tank or a Packet Treatment Plant	01/09/2024
WQ-B2	Investigate access to the permitted sampling point and confirm that it is accessible and staff are aware of its location	01/04/2024

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

We visited ABP Harbour office, Swansea on 18th January 2024 to conduct a compliance assessment of the permitted discharge from the offices Septic tank, arriving at 12:25 and leaving site at 12:50.

The following conditions were assessed:

1. The discharge shall consist only of treated sewage effluent from the sewage treatment plant, which consists of septic tank with filter, serving the Harbour office, Swansea Docks.

You confirmed that the septic tank serves only the Harbour office. The permit is for a septic tank with filter, a member of staff on site confirmed that the system was still a septic tank but a site plan suggested it could have been replaced with a Package Treatment Plant. I raised that although the permit allows a septic tank discharge directly to a watercourse, this is no longer compliant with the Environmental Permitting Regulations (2016) (EPR 2016) which states that septic tanks must discharge to ground. To remain compliant with EPR 2016 a septic tank should be replaced by a Package Treatment Plant or capped and used as a cess pit. The permit would also need to be varied to reflect any changes.

The site plans attached show a number of other septic tanks which appear to be connected to the same drainage system and outfall as Permit BP0055805. These discharges would also not be compliant with EPR 2016.

ACTION- Please confirm whether the Harbour Office is currently served by a septic tank or a PTP and also, whether there are other septic tanks connected to the system and/or outfall.

Once we have received this information we can discuss what should happen next and what the different options might be.

2. The discharge shall be made in the manner and at the place specified

Although the discharge point could not be accessed it was seen to be in the correct location, confirmed by the site plans you provided.

3. The maximum volume of effluent discharged shall not exceed 11 cubic metres per day.

Although there is no requirement to measure and record flow, you confirmed that the office is only routinely used by 7 staff so it was taken that the discharge would be well below the permitted limit.

7. (c) Tanks shall be de-sludged at sufficient frequency and in such a manner as to prevent problems with rising sludge or excessive carry over of suspended solids

You confirmed that the tank was fully de-sludged around 3 years ago and is routinely emptied by GD Environmental, who sample the discharge at the same time. You informed us that this contract will be taken over by Socotec.

9. Adequate facilities shall be provided to enable representative samples of the discharge to be safely and conveniently obtained at any time.

You showed us to a series of manhole covers that would most likely be the sample point for the septic tank but could not confirm which, if any was the required manhole. The 3 points were all easily accessible but on site staff could not confirm which manhole was needed to access the sample point.

ACTION- Please investigate and clarify where the sample point is and that staff are aware of its location.

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.