

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0043229

**Permit being assessed:** BN0168801

**For:** CLARACH STW, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

**At:** CLARACH STW, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN.

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

On 05/12/2023, between 09:52 and 10:27.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 1; 2; 6; 7

**NRW Lead Officer:** Bethan Lewis, accompanied by: Heidi Markham.

**Report sent to:** CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, 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             | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-B2 - Operations - The site                         | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques             | 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?

No action required.

### 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 site inspection at Clarach Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (BN0168801) carried out by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers Bethan Lewis and Heidi Markham. The NRW Officers were accompanied during the inspection by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Operatives including an Operational Supervisor, Operations Coordinator and Performance Manager.

For observations concerning the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) at Clarach STW

(BN0168802), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR\_NRW0043230.

### **Summary**

The site inspection commenced at 09:52 hours on the 05 December 2023 and concluded at 10:27 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was cold but dry with sunshine and clouds. The previous day's weather consisted of some showers.

The NRW Officers were led through the treatment process from inlet to outfall, with the DCWW Operatives explaining how the works operated.

The treatment process at Clarach STW consists of a rotating biodisc which processes domestic effluent only. The site has telemetry in place for monitoring and the site operator visits the site once weekly. A plug in is available for a portable generator in the event of an electrical failure.

The population equivalent for the site is 75.

### **Treatment Process**

Sewage is gravity fed into Clarach STW. At the inlet to the works shown in photograph 1 below, flows are either diverted to storm through a vertical bar screen or are passed forward to full treatment. At the time of the inspection, the asset was not discharging to storm. As shown in photograph 1 below, a small amount of leaf litter was present within the inlet chamber. If not cleared, leaf litter has the potential to impact the treatment process and/or block the overflow bar screen. It is understood that since the site inspection, DCWW have cleared leaf litter from the inlet chamber.



*Photograph 1: Clarach STW inlet*

Flows passed forward to full treatment are treated via a rotating biodisc shown in photograph 2 below. Flows work their way through primary and final sections within the biodisc, with the quality of effluent said to improve throughout. At the time of the inspection, the discs were rotating unhindered and biological media were clearly present on the discs. The DCWW Operatives stated that the biodisc is emptied every 12 weeks and maintenance is undertaken on a 6 monthly and yearly basis in relation to the electrics and motor.



*Photograph 2: Rotating biodisc*

Flows exiting the biodisc pass through a final effluent sampling point as shown in photograph 3 below. Final effluent appeared clear at the time of the inspection with no signs of sewage fungus growth. Condition 6 of permit BN0168801 states that *"the rate at which the effluent is discharged shall not exceed 1 litre per second"*. There was no indication from the volume of effluent passing through the final effluent sampling point that this limit was being breached at the time of the inspection.



*Photograph 3: Final effluent sampling point*

Final effluent from Clarach STW eventually discharges into the Afon Clarach as shown in photograph 4 below. The outfall is constructed of concrete walls and apron. The outfall appeared clear at the time of the inspection. No sewage fungus or discolouration was noted within the watercourse.



*Photograph 4: Final effluent outfall into the Afon Clarach*

### **Final comments**

We wish to thank the DCWW Operatives for accompanying the NRW Officers at the time of the above inspection. No non-compliances were identified, however if DCWW wish to discuss the content of this CAR, we encourage them to contact the NRW Officer noted above.

*In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.*

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.