

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043314

Permit being assessed: BP0101301

For: Rhydyfelin Waste Water Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 4QB.

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

On 05/12/2023, between 11:40 and 12:14.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 2.1.1; 2.2.1; 3.1.1; 3.2.1; 3.3.1; 3.3.3; 3.3.4

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

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 09/02/2024.

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-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 | Confirm whether a storm overflow exists at Rhydyfelin WwTW. | 11/03/2024 |

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 site inspection at Rhydyfelin Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) (permit number: BP0101301) 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.

Summary

The site inspection commenced at 11:40 hours on the 05 December 2023 and concluded at 12:14 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 Rhydyfelin WwTW consists of a rotating biodisc which processes domestic effluent only. The site operator visits the site twice weekly and the population equivalent for the site is 478.

Treatment Process

A pumping station at Rhydyfelin WwTW receives flows from two/three sewer lines. The pumping station's foul well is shown in photograph 1 below. As can be seen from the photograph, the foul well is exceptionally deep with plentiful storage.



Photograph 1: Pumping station foul well

During the site inspection, a covered chamber was identified on the watercourse side of the foul well at approximately SN 59082 79040. It could not be determined during the site inspection whether this chamber acted as an inspection chamber for an inlet pipe or storm overflow. As Rhydyfelin WwTW has no storm discharge permit, NRW ask DCWW to confirm whether a storm overflow exists at Rhydyfelin WwTW by no later than the **11 March 2024**.

Two foul pumps periodically pump sewage from the foul well up to the WwTW inlet. A monitor situated above the foul well, believed to be shown in blue in photograph 1, notifies the pumps when to start and stop. An MCERTS flow meter with visual display, as shown in photograph 2 below, also records flows pumped to the inlet.



Photograph 2: MCERTS flow meter visual display

Photograph 3 below shows flows passed forward to full treatment at Rhydyfelin WwTW inlet. The photograph was taken at a time when the foul pumps were in operation. When the pumps are not in operation, no flows pass forward to full treatment and the inlet appears empty. As historic structures have been utilised as part of the current treatment process, an overflow exists at the inlet as shown in photograph 4 below. This overflow is believed to return flows to the pumping station foul well rather than to storm, however as above, NRW ask DCWW for confirmation as to whether a storm overflow exists at Rhydyfelin WwTW by no later than the **11 March 2024**.



Photograph 3: Rhydyfelin WwTW inlet



Photograph 4: Overflow at inlet

Flows passed forward to full treatment are directed into a rotating biodisc as shown in photograph 5 below. The discs were found to be rotating unhindered at the time of the inspection and biological media were clearly present on the discs. Prior to exiting the biodisc, flows enter a final settlement area. The biodisc is said to be emptied every 12 weeks.



Photograph 5: Rotating biodisc at Rhydyfelin WwTW

Flows exiting the biodisc enter a further settlement tank which again incorporates a structure that predates the current treatment process. This final settlement tank is shown in photograph 6 below.



Photograph 6: Final settlement tank

Following final settlement, flows pass a final effluent sampling point as shown in photograph 7 below. At the time of the inspection, the final effluent appeared clear with no significant trace of oil or grease visible as required by condition 3.1.1.



Photograph 7: Final effluent sampling point

Final effluent from Rhydyfelin WwTW discharges into the Afon Ystwyth. As shown in photograph 8 below, the outfall appeared clear at the time of the inspection with no discolouration or sewage fungus noted within the watercourse.



Photograph 8: Final effluent outfall into the Afon Ystwyth

Final comments

We wish to thank the DCWW Operatives for accompanying the NRW Officers at the time of the above site inspection. 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 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.