

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0043213

**Permit being assessed:** AN0419501

For: ABERTHAW WWTW W ABERTHAW BARRY, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG  
At: ABERTHAW WWTW, WEST ABERTHAW, BARRY, CARDIFF, CF62 4JA.

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

On 16/01/2024, between 10:50 and 11:25.

Parts of permit assessed: Relevant conditions

**NRW Lead Officer:** Harry Warburton, accompanied by: Hannah Jenkins, Alexander Grainger.

**Report sent to:** CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 12/02/2024.

### 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	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Management - General management	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	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-A1	Clean the emergency bypass screen frequently, particularly after heavy rainfall events.	29/02/2024
WQ-A1	Clear the vegetation growth in the primary settlement tank near the rotating bridge.	29/02/2024

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

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 Environment officer Harry Warburton, accompanied by fellow officers Hannah Jenkins and Alexander Grainger attended Aberthaw West sewage treatment works, permit AN0419501, to conduct a site inspection where we met Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water operators. This was following on from an earlier visit to Aberthaw East STW. The weather at the time was dry with near freezing temperatures, this was the same for the days prior.

The site consists of an inlet screen, a storm tank, sludge holding tanks, primary settlement tanks, filter beds, secondary settlement tanks and a sample point. Discharge is via a long sea outfall so this was not inspected.

### Inlet screens

The site consists of a mechanically rotating, self-cleaning screen which appeared to be in good operation. There is an emergency bypass screen that was blocked with RAG which will require cleaning. The height of this bypass screen seems inadequate to deal with the storm flows that it is designed to screen, any significant flows would over top this screen



**Storm tank**

Aberthaw West operated under a separate storm permit AN0419401. The storm tank practically empty during the visit, however had been full and discharging in the week prior due to heavy rain. The tank is said to be self-cleaning and emptying, where any residual storm water is pumped out of the sump at the bottom and back to the inlet to be recirculated.

**Primary settlement tanks**

Following the inlet screens the effluent goes to the primary settlement tanks, there are two of these in operation. These appeared in good order with no evidence of rising sludge, the sludge settles in the tank which is then fed to the sludge storage tank. Within the tanks there was some litter that had not been previously screened and vegetation growing next to the weir which may impact the rotating bridge.



### **Filter beds**

There are two large percolating filter beds, both filter beds arms had a good rotation and even distribution over the filter media, there was no excessive vegetation growth on the filter media either.



### **Secondary settlement tanks**

There are two secondary settlement tanks. Both looked all clear with no carry over of solids over the weir and no rising sludge.



### **Sample point**

The sample point is well signed and adequate to take a representative sample of the final effluent.



### **Actions**

- Clean the emergency bypass screen frequently, particularly after heavy rainfall events.
- Clear the vegetation growth in the primary settlement tank near the rotating bridge.

Please provide photographic evidence of these actions once completed.

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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.