

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043199

Permit being assessed: AF4027601

For: EAST ABERTHAW STW EAST ABERTHAW, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: EAST ABERTHAW STW, EAST ABERTHAW, BARRY, VALE OF GLAMORGAN, .

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

On 16/01/2024, between 10:10 and 10:35.

Parts of permit assessed: Relevant

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-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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-C1	Provide images of the outfall that the operators had taken	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 16th of January 2024 Environment officer Harry Warburton, accompanied by fellow officers Hannah Jenkins and Alexander Grainger attended Aberthaw East sewage treatment works, permit AF4027601, to

conduct a site inspection where we met Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water operators. The weather at the time was dry with near freezing temperatures, this was the same for the days prior.

Aberthaw East is a descriptive permit due to its small catchment area and small serving population size. The site consists of an inlet, followed by septic tank, percolating filter bed, humus tank then outfall weir with sampling point.

The inlet grates were overlaid with mats, DCWW mentioned this was due to odour complaints in the nearby village, though the site did not have a potent odour when the mats were lifted. There was an intermittent smell of oil/diesel whilst on site, however this was not consistent and there was no evidence of any oil sheen at any of the process units, so does not appear to be from within the site.

The outfall was not observed during this visit due to difficult access. However it was mentioned that the operators had been attempting to clear an accessible path to the outfall so it can be inspected.

Inlet

The inlet was running clear and free flowing.



Septic tank

There appeared to be no carry over of suspended solids. The operators said the tank is desludged by a tanker frequently.

Filter bed

There was some vegetation growth on the filter media, however this did not appear to be having any impact on the level of treatment. The arms were not rotating at the time of inspection due to the tipping chamber not having enough effluent. The effluent that runs through the arms was frozen due to the low temperatures.



**Humus tank**

Following the filter bed is the final settlement humus tank. This appeared clear, however there was some evidence of solids on the surface, this did not appear to be flowing over the outfall weir.

Actions

- Provide images of the outfall that the operators have taken

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.