

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043001

Permit being assessed: NB3897TP

For: LLANBLETHIAN SEWAGE PUMPING STATION, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: LLANBLETHIAN, VALE OF GLAMORGAN, WALES, CF71 7FA.

Type of assessment carried out: Audit, Reason: Routine.

On 06/12/2023, between 12:00 and 12:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 2, 3

NRW Lead Officer: Charlotte Rhodes.

Report sent to: Mark Mason, Catchment Performance Manager, on 15/02/2024.

1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	C4 No impact	2.3.1(a)(b) & 3.2.1(a)
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C4 No impact	3.2.3

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B3	What is the configuration between the Storm and Foul pumps at site? Does Foul switch off when Storm is engaged? If so, why?	01/03/2024
WQ-B3	Please clarify: is there emergency overflow at this site? If not, why not?	01/03/2024
WQ-B1	There is an active permit in place for storm-only discharge at this site, including associated monitoring. If no longer needed, please surrender this permit at the earliest opportunity or put in a request to alter it as necessary	01/03/2024
WQ-C1	The permitted sample point must be accessible in accordance with Condition 3.2.3	01/03/2024

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

Officers C Rhodes and H Jenkins visited as part of routine inspections on 6th December 2023, accompanied by the relevant DCWW Catchment Performance Manager, Process Scientist, Operator and Operational Supervisor. This followed a visit to Cowbridge Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) earlier the same day, for which this site is a terminal Sewage Pumping Station (SPS), permitted for release of combined sewer flow during storm events only.

Weather was dry and cold with intermittent rain during the week preceding.

Site Report

Conditions 2.3.1(a)(b) - It was discussed that this site does not discharge at present, and neither does Brookfield Park SPS nearby, with both pumping all flows to Cowbridge WwTW since the Capital scheme 2-3 years ago. As such, the permitted storm discharge may no longer be relevant - please review and **see actions** below.

At the time of visit, the Storm pump was in action and Officers noted that the Foul may switch off when flows reach Storm level, however **please verify this**. The flow being pumped to Cowbridge WwTW was recorded as 90 l/s.

There was an outfall at the Pumping Station, therefore Officers asked if there is an Emergency Overflow available if the Combined Sewer Overflow is not in use, but this remains unclear. **Please clarify this**.

Condition 3.2.1(a) - EDM was not in place at this asset at time of visit, due to the reasoning given above. During a recent incident-related data request it was confirmed at EDM is not available for this asset. This therefore breaches permit Condition 3.2.1(a) which states *"The operator shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales, undertake the monitoring specified in the following tables in schedule 3 to this permit: (a) point source emissions specified in tables S3.1 [Discharge of storm sewage via outlet 1, start and end times, whenever a discharge occurs as of 31/03/2018]"*

Condition 3.2.3 - The discharge point was visible over fencing at the edge of the site at the permitted location but was not fully accessible for sampling. This therefore breaches Condition 3.2.3 which states *"An accessible sample point shall be provided and maintained to enable sampling/monitoring of emissions to be carried out at the monitoring point specified in table S3.4 of schedule 3 and shown marked on the site plan in schedule 7."*

Further information required:

- What is the configuration between the Storm and Foul pumps at site? Does Foul switch off when Storm is engaged? If so, why?
- Is there emergency overflow at this site? If not, why not?
- There is an active permit in place for storm-only discharge at this site, including

associated monitoring. If no longer needed, please surrender this permit at the earliest opportunity **or** put in a request to alter it as necessary.

- The permitted sample point must be accessible in accordance with Condition 3.2.3.

Advisory comments

Although not conditioned in the permit, it is considered best practise to also clearly label sample points.

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.