

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043513

Permit being assessed: AW1002001

For: Garth Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Llais Yr Afon, Garth, Llangammarch Wells, Powys, LD4 4AF.

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

On 30/01/2024, between 12:24 and 12:45.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding, accompanied by: Laura Gregory.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 19/02/2024.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	C4 No impact	3.3.4 - Accessible monitoring points shall be provided and maintained to enable the emissions monitoring programme and the environmental or other monitoring to be carried out at the monitoring points specified in table S3.4 of schedule 3 and shown marked on the site plan in schedule 7.
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-B2	1. Provide clarification regarding the exact location of the final effluent sampling point at Garth WWTW. If the location is not as specified in the permit, a variation to the permit will need to be requested to accurately represent the sampling location	31/07/2024

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 OSM site inspection carried out by Natural Resources Wales Officers Robert Harding and Laura Gregory. We were shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives Gerard Green- Senior Operations

The weather during the visit was overcast with intermittent showers. We were shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The site is an unmanned filter bed works. A new permit came into effect at this site on 14/12/2023 replacing the previous descriptive permit and adding additional emissions limits. This works now contains OSM tier 3 sampling requirements.

Inlet and Primary Settlement

The incoming flow comes into the works from a nearby pumping station and arrive directly into the primary settlement tank. There is no screening in place at the works, as all flows receive maceration at the nearby pumping station.

The primary settlement tank at the works is a square shaped tank, with scum boards for retaining solids. Overall, the settlement system appeared to be operating effectively. There were no signs of significant solids entering the outfall channel and solids were being retained behind the boards.

The outfall from the primary settlement tank leads to a syphon chamber, the purpose of which is to control flows so there is enough hydrological pressure for the rotating filter bed arms to rotate and operate effectively. The syphon was operating as required during the inspection.



Filter Bed

The works contains a single raised filter bed coating stone media. At the time of inspection, the filter arms were rotating intermittently, discharging when the syphon discharged. There were a couple of blocked outlets on the filter arms, however these were not excessive in number, and did not appear to be preventing distribution across the filter media. There was some ponding present on the surface of the filter bed whilst the arms were distributing flows. This may be as a result of recent heavy rainfall in the area but should be monitored if the ponding persists.

The filter bed at the works appeared to be operating effectively and effluent flowing from the filter, appeared clear at the time of inspection. The outfall of the filter bed is directly into the Humus/Final settlement tank of the works.



Final Settlement

The final settlement tank on the works is a small rectangular tank with a retention board on the outfall end to slow down flows and prevent solids passing over. The final settlement system appeared to be operating effectively and foam present within the tank was being held back from the outfall. The outfall channel had a slight presence of sewage fungus around the edges and on the base of the outfall channel, this may indicate a high ammonia content. This was not excessive and was not considered a sign of noncompliance at this point. There are currently no ammonia limits in place for this works.



Outfall and Sampling point

*****Noncompliance****

There currently is no clear sampling point at the works, at the location stated within table S3.4 of the permit. Which is therefore a noncompliance of condition 3.3.4 of the permit, which states the following.

“3.3.4 - Accessible monitoring points shall be provided and maintained to enable the emissions monitoring programme and the environmental or other monitoring to be carried out at the monitoring points specified in table S3.4 of schedule 3 and shown marked on the site plan in schedule 7”.

The sampling location listed within the S3.4 and site plan from schedule 7 show the sampling point as being located within the filter beds of the works. This location could not be used for a final effluent sample, as this point is before the final settlement of the treatment process. This has been assigned a category 4 noncompliance as there is likely no likely impact to the receiving environment, as it is still possible to sample the effluent at the outfall. If there is an alternative sampling location which is to be used, a permit variation will be required to accurately represent the sampling location.

The outfall on the works discharges via a pipe into Afon Dulas nearby. The outfall into the river was not visually inspected on this occasion.

Additional Comments

In terms of works operation, the works appears to be working order and operating as required. The DCWW representative assisting us for the day was covering sites outside of their normal operational area.

Actions required- by 31/07/2024

1. Provide clarification regarding the exact location of the final effluent sampling point at Garth WWTW. If the location is not as specified in the permit, a variation to the permit will need to be requested to accurately represent the sampling location.

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.