

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043489

Permit being assessed: BP0316301

For: Gower Lodge (Swansea) Ltd, held by GOWER LODGE (SWANSEA) LTD

At: Ty Seren, Cefn Styfle Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3QS.

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

On 15/02/2024, between 10:00 and 10:40.

Parts of permit assessed: Permitted Activities

NRW Lead Officer: Gareth Martin.

Report sent to: Alan Bunney, Capital & Maintenance Manager , 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-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D1 - Information - Records	Assessed (A)	

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

2. What action is required?

No action required.

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

We visited Ty Seren at 10am on 15/02/24 and met with an engineer from the company contracted by the operator (Gower Lodge (Swansea) Ltd) to manage the sewage system at Ty Seren.

The following conditions of the permit were assessed:

1.2 & 1.3 - Place of Discharge & Sampling Point Requirements

The discharge was found to be at the correct grid reference detailed in the permit, discharging to a small tributary of the Afon Lliw via a partial soakaway. The discharge point, which is also the sample point, is the end of a 225mm PVC pipe which is gated off for safety reasons but is readily accessible for sample collection if required.

1.4 - Volume

Although this could not be assessed, based on the current residency of the property the current discharge is likely to be well below the maximum permitted discharge of 8.2 cubic metres per day.

1.6 - Composition

Sample results collected by Natural Resources Wales (most recently collected on 11/12/23) indicate that the discharge from the site is compliant with the requirements in the permit, which sets limits for Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Ammonia and Suspended Solids. Privately conducted analysis via your maintenance subcontractor corroborate this. The last time sample results breached the permit condition was 26/09/2022 where an elevated Suspended Solids result was detected. My understanding is that this was due to repair work to replace 2 pumps within the system which took place on 29.07.22. The results from the most recent NRW sampling (11/12/23) are as follows:

	BOD (mg/l)	Ammonia (N) (mg/l)	Suspended Solids @ 105c (mg/l)
Permitted level	20	20	30
11/12/23 @ 9:15	5.07	1.84	12

1.9 & 1.10 - Works Operation & Maintenance

During the inspection it was apparent that all of the tanks of the treatment plant were functional, well maintained and in good condition. The length of pipe visible at the discharge point was also seen to be in good condition and clear of any kind of sewage debris or sewage fungus. The discharge itself appeared clear.

We were informed that the system is maintained by a local drainage and waste management company, who conduct a 6 monthly cleaning/desludging and sample collection and analysis at 2 sample points (discharge and downstream of the discharge), as well as an annual cleaning of the pipework that leads to the discharge point. Samples collected during these visits are analysed for Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Ammonia, Suspended Solids and Phosphate.

During the inspection the engineer noticed that the level of solids in the first tank may have been too high and discussed the possibility of increasing the cleaning/desludging programme from every 6 months to every 3-4 months. This demonstrates a good level of care and diligence by the specialist contractors.

1.11 - Recording & Reporting

The company contracted to maintain the sites sewerage system were able to provide copies of sample results, service and maintenance history, etc.

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.