Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043598

Permit being assessed: AW1005301
For: Talgarth Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Track Off Bronllys Road (A479), Talgarth, Brecon, LD3 0HH.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.
On 15/02/2024, between 11:10 and 12:00.
Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.
Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 26/02/2024.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
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?

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

This was a pre-planned OSM site inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales Officer Robert Harding. I was shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives
Bryan Barrell- Senior Operations

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

General Observations
The STW is a filter bed works with four filter beds serving a population equivalent of approximately 3000. It is staffed seven days per week and has telemetry in place. The site has a storm discharge consent which now falls under this consolidated permit.

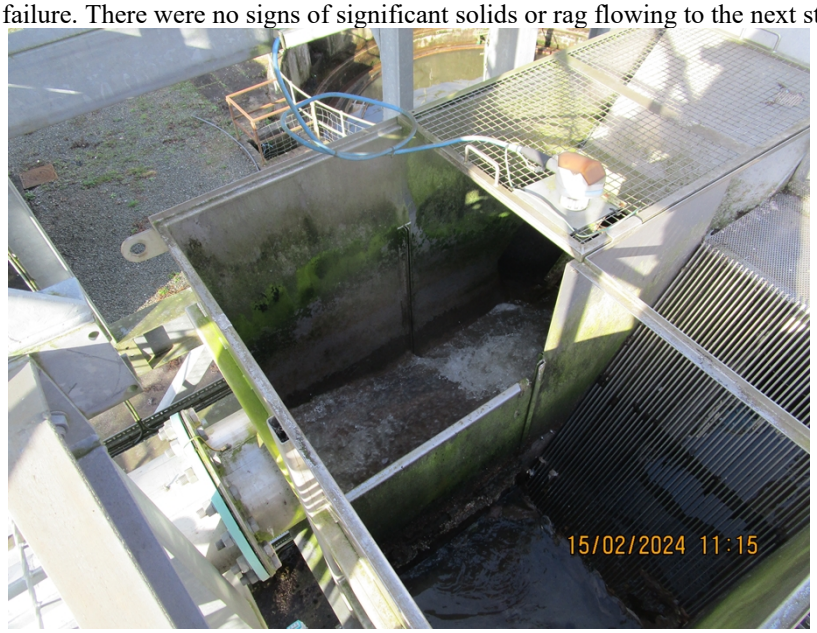
Inlet and Storm

The incoming flow to the site arrives in an intel wet well, where two pumps are in place to pump flows to the inlet of the works. There is a separate pump at a higher level for when incoming flows reach storm discharge levels. At the time of inspection, the storm pumps were above the water level and the works was not running to storm. In regular operation the incoming flow is pumped up to the inlet point, where telemetry is in place to monitor flows.

The UWWTW crude influent influent sample point (56073) was clearly labelled and accessible.

The flow heading to the inlet point runs through a MAGFLOW for monitoring of flows, the same is in place for the storm system. The systems appeared operational at the time of attendance and screens were clearly displaying flows.

At the head of the works an Archimedes screw screen removes rag and large solids, this is also surrounded by a 6mm mesh screen. This was clearly operation and clear of blockages. There is a bypass screen (to the right) which is approximately inch in aperture, this issued when maintenance is required on the mechanical screen or in the event of a failure. There were no signs of significant solids or rag flowing to the next stage of treatment.



The storm weir at the works is via two cones in the chamber following inlet screening. The weirs are at a set level and will only discharge once the inlet floes reach the specified level. The flows into eh works at the time were below the storm discharge level and the site was not running to storm. There was some rag present on the storm weir which suggests that there had been a recent discharge into the storm channel. There is EDM equipment in place to monitor flows, which appeared in working order and was clearly marked and visible.

There is a single storm tank, which was nearly full at the time of inspection. The storm tank has an automatic return to the head of the works. The automatic return operated when the incoming flows to the works fall below the specified level. There had been heavy rainfall in the preceding days so it is likely flows would have remained above the automatic return level.

Ferric Dosing

The flows from the inlet receive ferric dosing before heading into the primary settlement stage of treatment. This is achieved by adding a liquid ferric solution to the influent via a pipe in the dosing chamber. The dosing system was clearly operating at the time of inspection.

Primary Settlement

The primary settlement consists of two cylindrical settlement tanks, with rotating sludge scrapers. Both tanks appeared in good working order and there were no signs of significant solids carrying over from either. Each settlement tank has individual monitoring in place.

After leaving the settlement tanks, flows pass into a filter feed well, where it is then pumped up to filter distribution chambers with COPA sacks in place. The flow is split and sent to the four filter beds on site. 40% to the newer filter bed at the top of the site, and 20% each to the remaining older style filter beds.

Filter Beds

There are four filter beds on site consisting of a stone media, for all filters rotation is hydrologically powered. Each of the filer bed arms were moving freely any unhindered, I did not observe any blocked distribution points or signs of ponding within the filter beds

There newer filter bed at the top of the site appeared in good working order with no signs of excessive vegetation or ponding on the filter surface.

The three smaller filter beds had higher levels of vegetation build up on top of the filter media. I questioned about the vegetation management, and was advised that they are periodically cleared, there is a health and safety concerns with doing so. This is because the filter beds are raised and there is no guard rail. The vegetation does not appear to be hindering the operation of the filer beds currently, however this should be monitored and managed as it could lead to problem within the treatment process. It would be advisable to reduce the vegetation coverage before warmer weather increases vegetation growing speeds.

The outfall from the filter beds had some foam/scum present on the surface, but this was not excessive. This could

suggest higher nutrient levels within the effluent.

Humus Tank

The works has three round humus tanks with rotating scum scrapers (Brush). There were no signs of solids passing over from the settlement tanks. The rotating brushers were clearly operational. There were no signs of significant solids passing over to the outfalls of the tanks. Monitoring equipment is in place on the humus tanks in case of any issues.

Outfall and Sampling point

The final effluent from the humus tanks passes through a Magflow flow meter, which appeared to be operating as required and accessible for inspection. The sample point is clearly marked with appropriate signage including the sample point number. The effluent within the inspection point appeared clear of any solids or signs of polluting matter.

The UWWTW final effluent sampling point (51094) was clearly marked and available

The outfall into the river has previously been damaged by a storm even. The banking behind the outfall chamber collapsed and washed away during storm Dennis (February 2020). The concrete housing for the outfall was also damaged and swept downstream. As such the site is not currently discharging via the location stated on the permit. This has been raised within a previous compliance report. Since the previous inspection there appears to have been further erosion of the banks around the outfall location. DCWW are looking into solutions to prevent erosion and to repair the outfall chamber.

I observed no signs of negative impact on the receiving watercourse around the outfall. The river was running high following recent rainfall

General Comments

The works visually appears in good working order and well maintained.
In terms of works operation, it appears the treatment process is producing effluent within consented limits. The site has back up generators in the event of any power failures on site.

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.