

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043617

Permit being assessed: BA1002401

For: Hirwaun Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF44 9UN.

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

On 08/02/2024, between 10:00 and 11:30.

Parts of permit assessed: All

NRW Lead Officer: Natalie Wrangham, accompanied by: Hannah Jenkins.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrwymru, mailbox, on 04/03/2024.

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-D3 - Information - Notifications	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

Site Report

Present at the site inspection of Hirwaun Wastewater treatment works for permit ref BA1002401 were NRW officers Natalie Wrangham, and Hannah Jenkins and DCWW Catchment Performance Manager, Process Operator and Compliance Officer. It was raining heavily at the time of the inspection, and this had been the weather pattern for the proceeding days.

The site was discharging via the storm outfall at the time of the visit (see image 1 and 2) and all storm tanks were in use and had reached capacity. According to the permit the overflow weir setting is 26 litres per second and the flow into the works on the day of the visit was documented as 25.98 litres per second in the site diary. This is within acceptable error margins.

The storm tanks at this site do not hold a volume greater than the level shown in image 3 due to the level of the constructed weir inside the tanks. It does appear that the tanks could hold a greater capacity of storm waste, but this would involve a change to the engineered design of the tanks.



Image 1: Wastewater inlet with storm overflow weir



Image 2: Storm discharge into Afon Camnant



Image 3: One of 3 storm tanks at holding capacity

DCWW explained that the site receives the backwash effluent from the water treatment works into the head of the wastewater treatment works. This is captured by the meter at the intake. The screening at the head of the works is as per permit. The site treatment consists of a primary settlement tank, 3 Rotating Biological Contactors and a reed bed. No signs of staining or sewage fungus could be seen around the treated effluent discharge location, however the water level in the receiving stream was high (image 4).



Image 4: Treated effluent discharge

The MCERTS flow meters were within certification period and positioned correctly throughout the

site. The site displayed correct signage at all the sampling points.

The site diary was inspected as part of the visit and no issues found.

If you have any queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details: Natalie Wrangham, Senior Environment Officer, natalie.wrangham@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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.