

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0043653

**Permit being assessed:** BC0010601

For: Cwmgwili Sewage Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG  
At: Track Off Road Linking A483 to Heol Lotwen, Cwmgwili, Carmarthenshire, SA14 6PP.

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

On 13/02/2024, between 11:00 and 11:30.

Parts of permit assessed: All

**NRW Lead Officer:** Gavin Thomas, accompanied by: Joseph Callard.

**Report sent to:** CARS Mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 05/03/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
IR3A - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	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 audit carried out by Natural Resources Wales Environment officers who were accompanied by a Senior Operative, Performance Manager and Regulatory Compliance officer from Dwr Cymru..

The weather was heavy rain with heavy rain also experienced in the days leading up to the visit.

### **General Observations**

Officers were taken through the works from the inlet, through the treatment system, before finishing at the final effluent sampling station, the discharge point into the Afon Gwili was not inspected due to the distance from the site and the access being through a wet marshy field.

The site is a Sewage Treatment works that processes residential effluent and has telemetry in place for monitoring. The permit for the site is for the discharge of secondary treated sewage effluent and for the discharge of settled storm sewage.

### **The Process**

The inlet flow runs through a metal channel with a weir that overflows in storm conditions and flows into the storm tanks. The flows were high enough to be overflowing at the time of the visit due to weather conditions. The inflow to the works was reading 12.61l/s from a meter on site.



Figure 1 Storm overflow from channel and into the tank below.

The storm tank had plenty of storage capacity at the time of the visit and no storm sewage was discharging from the tank.



Figure 2: Storm tank

Next to the storm tank where 3 historic tanks that contained discoloured grey water. The site operatives said that these tanks were no longer in use.



Figure 3 Historic tanks containing discoloured water

The flows then entered into the primary settlement tank. The sludge is pumped into holding tanks at the works and removed by tanker.



Figure 4 Primary settlement tank

The effluent then entered a percolating filter bed made up of stone media. The rotation arms were moving free and unhindered. During the visit, the filter beds seem to work effectively with no sign of ponding or dry patches with no obvious leakages.



Figure 4: Filter bed

Following the filter bed treatment, the flows enter a final settlement tank. The final tank seemed to work effectively at the time of the visit with no signs of built-up sewage fungus.



Figure 5: Final Settlement tank

The outflow from the works was measured at 9.50l/s from a meter at the final effluent point.

**Breaches of permit condition:**

No breaches were recorded during this inspection.

**Advisory comments:**

The historic settlement tanks looked to contain discoloured water and we would be concerned if this was to escape to the environment. If these tanks are no longer in use, it would be better if they were infilled and decommissioned. No deadline will be set for this comment.

End.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.