

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0043797

**Permit being assessed:** BC0016601

For: Trebanos Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG  
At: Pheasant Road, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4BR.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Audit, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2301765).

On 06/03/2023, between 09:00 and 17:00.

Parts of permit assessed: 3.1.1

**NRW Lead Officer:** Rhys Griffiths.

**Report sent to:** CARS Mailbox, CARS@dwrwymru.com, on 21/03/2024.

### 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 | C4 No impact      | 3.1.1            |

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

### 2. What action is required?

| Criteria | Action needed | Complete by |
|----------|---------------|-------------|
| WQ-C1    | None required | 24/03/2024  |

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

On the 6th March 2023 NRW received an early warning report (DCWW ref no: 316476341) from Dwr Cymru Cyf. which was subsequently elevated to a self-reported pollution incident (WIRS 2301765) following observations received from their Site Operative at Trebanos WWTW, concerning high turbidity in the effluent through the treatment process and with the final effluent being discharged to the River Tawe.

On the afternoon of the 7th March 2023 NRW Enforcement Officer Laura Phillips inspected the Final Effluent at the outfall to the River Tawe. as she was in vicinity on fisheries patrol.

Photos and videos were taken of the effluent as it entered the river, some discolouration was observed at the point of discharge and downstream along the left hand riverbank for approximately 10 metres or so. The discoloured and turbid appearance of the discharge of treated sewage effluent was greater than it would be normally for this site and it was visible in the receiving watercourse, as the river water was visually clear.

Water quality chemistry monitoring conducted by Dwr Cymru late afternoon on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 of the final effluent and River Tawe confirmed that the final effluent was well within numeric conditions for sanitary determinands despite the turbidity issue. Dwr Cymru's Process Science Team attended the works to investigate the cause of the elevated turbidity, the conclusion drawn was that low incoming flows, due to a dry period of weather, had led to septicity in the primary tanks, causing increased retention times within the primary tanks. To mitigate against this the activated sludge plant had been re-seeded with fresh bacterial *seed* from Gowerton WWTW, in order to boost the treatment process which, should lead to improved solids settlement, the frequency of de-sludging will also be increased. The final effluent quality and river water quality at the point of discharge would be monitored by Dwr Cymru over this period and until turbidity levels had settled down. A no-impact claim (ID 168) was submitted by Dwr Cymru in respect of this incident, based on the evidence submitted by Dwr Cymru and obtained by NRW, this was assessed and accepted by a panel of Officers from the Neath Port Talbot Environment Team.

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.