

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043750

Permit being assessed: BF0169101

For: YSTRADGYNLAIS WWTW OFF WIND ROAD, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: YSTRADGYNLAIS WWTW, OFF WIND ROAD, YSTRADGYNLAIS, SWANSEA VALLEY, .

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

On 07/03/2024, between 10:05 and 10:50.

Parts of permit assessed: Whole permit

NRW Lead Officer: Chris Gurney, accompanied by: Robert Harding.

Report sent to: Mark Mason, Catchment Performance Manager, on 02/04/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	C3 Minor	1.1.1
WQ-B2 - Operations - The site	C4 No impact	1.1.1
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	C4 No impact	3.3.1

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B2	Remove or modify penstocks to ensure no accidental closures	06/09/2024
WQ-B2	Improve operations to minimise grass growth on filter media	21/04/2024
WQ-B3	Install MCERTS Flow monitor for FE discharge	06/09/2024

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

I attended the works on the 7th March 2024 with my colleague Rob Harding, the weather was dry and bright.

On site we were met by MM and DB, both from DCWW, and proceeded to the head of the works.

The flow into the site appeared to be unhindered, however there were several penstocks 'downstream' of the storm weir setting that might cause a storm discharge if not fully opened. These will need further consideration and ideally removal or at least modification to ensure no accidental storm discharges.

The primary settlement appeared to be operating satisfactory, both tanks operating as designed while we were on site.

There was a unit on site for treatment of the re-circulated effluent, a High Surface Area Filtration (HSAF) unit, which we were advised was for additional treatment of the recirculated material before re-entering treatment.

Flows then were split across 4 filter beds, all of which had a degree of grass growth across the media, as well as some ponding. The arms were all functioning as designed with no obvious blockages or missed areas. We were advised one of the filter beds was due for maintenance in the coming few weeks. I advise additional maintenance should be undertaken across all the beds to minimise grass growth before it impacts on the treatment.

Both Humus tanks appeared in adequate condition with no sign of significant carry-over, though some sewage fungus was visible. The discharge then flowed through the final sampling location before discharging off-site, which we were advised was not accessible. The final sample point was clearly signposted, however there was no clear sample location for the inlet at the head of the works. There was also no flow meter installed for the final effluent.

The 2 large sludge tanks were both showing signs of aging but were bunded and secure so not causing any concerns at this stage.

The meters were clearly labelled and the maintenance schedule clear and legible.

Summary of Recommended Actions:

- Remove or modify the penstocks on the inlet to ensure no accidental closures resulting in storm discharges.
- Clear the grass from the filter beds before it impacts on treatment.
- Install an MCERTS flow meter for the final effluent discharge.

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.