

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043812

Permit being assessed: BJ0078701

For: BROAD OAK WWTW FE BROAD OAK CARMS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: BROAD OAK WWTW FINAL EFFLUENT, BROAD OAK, CARMARTHENSHIRE, .

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

On 29/02/2024, between 10:30 and 10:45.

Parts of permit assessed: 1, 3, 8. (a) (ii), 9

NRW Lead Officer: Keiran Jones, accompanied by: Gavin Thomas.

Report sent to: CAR Mailbox, CAR Mailbox, on 02/04/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR2C - Operations - Operating techniques	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 on 29/02/2024 who were accompanied by a Senior Operative and Performance Manager from Dwr Cymru.

The weather was dry at the time of the visit with moderate rainfall in the early hours of the 29th and throughout the 28th.

General Observations

The site is a Wastewater Treatment Works that processes sewage effluent. The permit (BJ0078701 01) for the site is for the discharge of secondary treated sewage effluent. Final effluent from the site is discharged to the Nant Lash.

Officers were taken through the works from inlet, through the treatment system, before finishing at the final effluent sampling station. The discharge point on the Nant Lash was not inspected due to the distance from the site and lack of access.

The site does not have a filter system at the inlet. The site also has no storm storage or storm overflow.

The site is visited approximately three times per week. The site logbook was checked and no ongoing issues at the site were identified.

The Process

Effluent enters the site at the inlet and flows into a Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) system housed within a plastic tank.

Primary settlement of sludge takes place within a channel on the periphery of the RBC tank. Settled sludge is pumped out of the system for a tanker to remove it from the site. Sludge is removed from the system every three months.



Figure 1: An image of pipes used for desludging.

Effluent then undergoes secondary treatment by flowing through the RBC. The RBC's appeared to be in good working order during the time of visit.



Figure 2: An image of a RBC facilitating secondary treatment of effluent. The channel in front of the RBC is used for primary settlement.

The concrete base the RBC tank is built upon has cracked which could cause subsidence of the treatment system and negatively impact its operation and ability to treat effluent in the future.



Figure 3: An image of the concrete base the RBC tank is built upon..

After flowing through the RBC, effluent enters a final settlement tank where any remaining small particles settle to the bottom.



Figure 4: An image of the final settlement tank following on from RBC treatment.

Following final settlement, the final effluent is then discharged from a pipe which provides a final effluent point. The final effluent then goes on to be discharged into the Nant Lash.

The final effluent has a suspended solids monitor which gave a reading of 9.4 mg/l at the time of visit which is within the permit limit of 20mg/l.

Groundwater infiltration into the Final Effluent chamber was visible.



Figure 5: Two images of the Final Effluent sampling point.

Advisory Comments

- Monitor and maintain the concrete base around the RBC tank.
- Monitor and reduce if possible groundwater infiltration into the Final Effluent chamber to reduce the volume being discharged into the Nant Lash.

--

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.