

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043804

Permit being assessed: BN0018001

For: Cwrt Henri Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Track past 'Ael Y Bryn', Cwrt Henri, Carmarthenshire, SA32 8SA.

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

On 29/02/2024, between 10:55 and 11:15.

Parts of permit assessed: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.1

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	C3 Minor	2.3.1 (b) Discharge shall not be macerated and should pass through screens.

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR2C	Install screen on storm overflow instead of using macerator.	31/05/2024

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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 (WwTW) that processes sewage effluent. The permit for storm discharge to the Afon Dulas (BP0316701) has been consolidated with the permit for the WwTW (BN0018001) which requires effluent to undergo secondary treatment before discharge to the Afon Dulas.

Officers were taken through the works from inlet, through the treatment system, before finishing at the final effluent sampling station. The WwTW and storm discharge points on the Afon Dulas were not inspected due to the lack of access.

The site is visited by Dwr Cymru approximately 3 times a week. The site logbook was checked and no ongoing issues at the site were identified.

The Process

Sewage effluent enters the works at the inlet. Effluent then goes through a macerator which converts organic and gross solids into a slurry. Condition 2.3.1 (b) states that a macerator should not be used on site for the storm discharge. A screen should be installed instead (table S3.3).

The storm overflow is located adjacent to the inlet and has Event Duration Monitoring. There are no storm tanks in the works and effluent that goes to storm is discharged into the Afon Dulas.



Figure 1: The image on the left shows the inlet to the works. The image on the right shows the macerator.

Following maceration, effluent enters a primary settlement tank (PST). The sludge settles at the bottom of the tank and is pumped into a holding tank which is emptied on a weekly basis.

There is an overflow pipe on the PST which is connected to a disused filter bed.



Figure 2: An image of an overflow pipe situated in the PST.

Effluent moves from the PST into a percolating filter bed for secondary treatment. The filter arms were in good working order. There was extensive vegetation growth and pooling upon the biofilter media, which may impede the system's efficacy.



Figure 3: An image of the percolating filter bed.

The brickwork on the percolating filter bed has cracks in it. There were no observable leaks at the time of the visit but the cracks could lead to effluent leaking out of the system in the future.



Figure 4: An image showing a crack in the brickwork of the percolating filter bed.

Effluent enters a humus tank/final settlement tank following secondary treatment. The Final Effluent then passes through the sampling point and is then discharged to the Afon Dulas.



Figure 5: An image of a humus tank/final settlement tank.



Figure 6: An image of the final effluent sampling point.

Advisory Comments

- Block pipe which connects PST to disused filter bed.
- Manage the vegetation and pooling on the surface of the percolating filter bed
- Monitor and maintain percolating filter fed brickwork.

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.