

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043886

Permit being assessed: BE0042501

For: CARMEL WWTW CARMEL, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: CARMEL WWTW, CARMEL, AMMANFORD, CARMARTHENSHIRE, SA18 3NZ.

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

On 27/02/2024, between 10:00 and 10:45.

Parts of permit assessed: See below

NRW Lead Officer: Megan Herbert-Evans, accompanied by: Joseph Callard.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 09/04/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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 27/02/2024 who were accompanied by a Senior Operative, Performance Managers (South West and Central catchments) and a Regulatory Compliance officer from Dwr Cymru.

The weather was dry at the time of the visit.

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 were not inspected due to the lack of access. The permit for the site is for the discharge of secondary treated sewage effluent only; there is a separate permit for the storm overflow on site (BP0361601).

The inlet flow runs through a screening system and then onto a primary settlement tank. Secondary treatment is achieved by a percolating filter bed. The rotation arms on the filter bed were moving free and unhindered.

Following the filter bed treatment, the flow enters a final settlement tank. There were signs of possible holes/leaks in the base of the weir where effluent was 'bubbling' up from the base rather than going through the settlement process. The effluent was clear and the issue did not seem to be having an impact on the final effluent at the time of visit.

Action: Survey final settlement tank and carry out repairs.



Figure 1: Final settlement tank with visible 'bubbling' coming from the base of the weir.

DCWW Operatives did mention that due to its location/set up, this site struggles with surface run off entering/flooding the site during heavy rain, particularly near the final settlement tank. There was a flow of surface water flowing through the site at the time of the visit. Fungal growth was visible in sections of this surface water flow indicating nutrient input however there was no obvious source/cause at the time of visit. The flow was not reaching the watercourse at the time of visit and was not causing pollution.

Action: Investigate what is causing the fungal growth and carry out repairs if needed



Figure 2: Flow of surface water flowing through site.



Figure 3: Fragments of fungus visible in surface water flow.

Thankyou for your time during the visit.

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.