

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044009

Permit being assessed: BC0017801

For: Carway Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Track past 'Gorwel', Off B4317, Carway, Carmarthenshire, SA17 4HE.

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

On 05/03/2024, between 12:00 and 13:00.

Parts of permit assessed: 1,3, 7, 14

NRW Lead Officer: Keiran Jones, accompanied by: Joseph Callard.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 12/04/2024.

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

| Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria) | Assessment result | Permit condition |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities | 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 05/03/2024 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 the day before on 04/03/2024.

General Observations

The site is a Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) that processes sewage effluent. The permit (BC0017801 01) for the site at the time of visit was for the discharge of tertiary treated sewage effluent. Subsequent to our inspection a variation of the assets permit has been issued which alters the treatment requirement from tertiary to secondary. Final effluent from the site is discharged into

an unnamed tributary of the Gwendraeth Fawr.

The current treatment process at the WwTW consists of filtering, primary settlement, secondary treatment through a percolating filter bed and final settlement/removal of humus before discharge to the receiving watercourse.

A sand filter is soon to be brought into operation on the site to facilitate further secondary treatment.

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

The site is visited approximately 2-3 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 is then screened through a rota screen on the inlet channel, with a bar screen also available for use in another channel parallel to the inlet channel. The screenings are deposited into a wheelie bin for collection.



Figure 1: An image of the inlet channel with a rota screen and bar screen on the side channel.

There is a storm overflow weir following screening in the inlet channel. The storm overflow

discharge is covered by a different permit (BP0361501 01) and will be covered by a separate CAR form.

Effluent then moves to the Primary Settlement Tank (PST). The tank is oversized for the requirement of the works and this causes sludge to rise to the top of the PST rather than settling at the bottom. Sludge is pumped out of the tank and transferred and stored to a sludge tank which is periodically emptied.



Figure 2: An image of the PST.

Effluent moves from the PST to a splitting tank. Effluent flows through copa sacs and onto a percolating filter bed for secondary treatment. There is another disused biofilter on the site which is disused, so all the effluent that enters the splitting tank goes to the same filter bed which is in operation. The weir that used to direct flow to the disused biofilter has been blocked off.



Figure 3: An image of the splitting tank.

The distribution arms in the percolating filter bed were in good working order, however there was vegetation growth and pooling on the surface of the biofilter media, which may impede on the system's efficacy.



Figure 3: The top image shows the percolating filter bed with distribution arms in operation. The bottom image shows pooling on the surface of the biofilter media.

Effluent then goes onto a Humus Tank before passing through the Final Effluent sample point and being discharged to the receiving watercourse.



Figure 4: An image of the humus tank.

There is substantial water infiltration on site. At the time of the visit water was leaking from a manhole and making its way into the humus tank. Dwr Cymru stated that it was rainwater. Continuing infiltration on site could lead to operational issues in the future and could potentially lead to permit breaches.



Figure 5: An image of a manhole at the site with leaking rainwater.

Advisory Comments

- Address the water infiltration issue on site.
- Maintain surface of the filter bed to ensure ponding does not occur.

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.