

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044020

Permit being assessed: AW1000701

For: Builth Wells Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Off Hay Road (A470), Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3BP.

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

On 26/03/2024, between 09:45 and 10:35.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 15/04/2024.

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-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	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 OSM site inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales Officer Robert Harding. I was shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives.

GM- Catchment Manager

BB- Senior Operations

GL- Pollution Prevention Technician

ZW– Regulatory Compliance Officer

The weather during the visit was overcast following overnight rain. We were shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The STW is a filter bed works with a permitted storm discharge. The works received a new consolidated permit which came into effect on 28/02/2024, bringing together the STW and Storm discharges, as well as bringing into effect further water quality emissions limits. The site is attended daily by operatives but is not a manned site. There is telemetry in place for monitoring when unmanned. There is an additional activated sludge treatment system and storage tanks on site, which are used when Builth Wells holds The Royal Welsh Show. During the visit this equipment was not in use and storage tanks were empty.

Inlet

The flow into the site is via gravity sewer, there are combined sewers in the area and into the works. There is a CSO/ Storm discharge at the site which was previously permitted separately (WQD009903), but now is contained within the new consolidated permit. The storm well and sort tanks are located underneath the pumping building on the works, this was not visually inspected during this visit. There is an EDM sensor located within the storm wet well.

The flow to the inlet point runs through an MCERTS (Magflow) meter, for monitoring of flows, the same is in place for the storm system. The systems appeared operational at the time of attendance and screens were clearly displaying flows. The UWWTW influent sample point is located at the inlet, this was clearly labelled and accessible.

The flows into the treatment process are pumped up to the head of the works and pass through a 6mm mechanical step screen. The screen was fully operation and appeared to be working effectively at the time of inspection. There were no signs of substantial solids or rag passing forward to the next stage of treatment.



Primary Settlement

The primary settlement tank on site is a circular designed tank, with retention boards and a rotating half bridge containing a sludge scraper and brush. The primary settlement system appeared in good working order and there were no signs of significant solids carrying over into the outfall channel. Monitoring equipment is present on the primary tank.



Filter Bed

The works contains two circular filter beds containing stone media. The rotation arms for both filters were moving free and unhindered. The effluent distribution points on both filter beds were clear of any debris and effluent was being effectively spread onto the filter media. There were no signs of pooling or dry tracks within the filter media and no excessive vegetation growth on the surface of the filters. Overall, the filter beds appeared in good working order. er.



Humus Tank

The works has a single round humus tank with half-bridge with brush on the outfall channel. There were no signs of solids passing over from the settlement tank. The rotating brush was clearly operational and keeping the outfall channels clear of any debris or vegetation build up. The effluent within the outfall channel was flowing clear at the time of inspection.



Outfall and Sampling point

The final effluent from the humus tank passes through a MCERTS (Magflow) flow meter, which appeared to be operating as required and accessible for inspection. The sample point is clearly marked with appropriate signage including the sample point number. The UWWTW effluent sample point was clearly labelled and accessible.

The effluent within the sample chamber appeared to be flowing clear of any solids or signs of polluting matter. There was some moss growth within the outfall chamber, however this did not appear to be having any impact on the effluent within the chamber.



The outfall into the river Wye was checked. The outfall is situated in a location slightly back into the bank and is not directly into the main flow of the river. This did not appear to be hindering the effluent reaching the main watercourse, and there were no signs to suggest effluent had been sitting within the channel before entering the main river. The watercourse at the time of inspection was running clear of any signs of discolouration or sewage fungus, both around the outfall and downstream of the outfall location.



General Comments

The works appears in very good working order, and there were no signs of concern overserved. Visually the works appears well maintained.

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.