

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044023

Permit being assessed: AW1004001

For: Llanyre Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Off the A4081, Unnamed Road to Castle Collen, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6ET.

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

On 26/03/2024, between 10:55 and 11:25.

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-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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. I was 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 08/02/2024, bringing together the STW and Storm discharges, as well as bringing into effect water quality emissions limits. As a result of the updated permit, the site now falls under Operator Self-Monitoring tier 3 requirements.

Inlet and Storm

The incoming flow comes into the works via gravity, and the treatment process is gravity powered. At the inlet there are two macerators, only one of which is running at any time. The macerator in use was clearly operating as expected. There were no solids or rag present within the inlet following the macerator.

The storm weir on site is a hard-set storm weir, where flows can only spill over into the storm channel once the inlet level reaches the specified level. There is a level sensor in operation within the inlet channel at the storm weir, which appears to be being used to record when the works is running to storm.

The flows were well below the storm weir setting in place and there were no flows entering the storm channel. The storm channel appeared clear of debris or blockages. There is no additional screening, as all flows pass through the macerator before the storm weir.



There is a single storm tank, which was contained water at the time of inspection. The storm sewerage will be returned to the head of the works manually when the incoming flow is low enough. There is a monitor in place within the outfall channel to record when the storm tank is discharging to the storm discharge point (to environment). There was no indication that any flow was leaving the works via the storm at the time of inspection as the level within the tank was below the overflow level.



Primary Settlement

The primary settlement tank at the works is an undercover square shaped tank, with a lower outlet height for retaining solids, similar in design to a septic tank. Overall, the settlement system appeared to be operating effectively. There were no signs of significant solids in the outfall chamber from the primary settlement tank.

The outfall from the primary settlement tank flows down to the filter bed via three open brick chambers, on asking the purpose of these chambers, DCWW staff were not entirely sure as it was older infrastructure. It appears that by design they may potentially aid the treatment process, by reducing solids as they potentially will slow the effluent down. Overall, there were no signs of significant solids passing through to the next stage of the treatment process.



Filter Bed

The works contains a single filter bed of stone media. The rotation arm was moving free and unhindered. The rotating arm appeared to be distributing effectively over the filter media.

There were signs of ponding on the filter bed surface in several places. At the time of inspection this did not appear to be preventing the effluent entering the filter media. This should be monitored as ponding cause problems within the treatment process and may lead to improperly treated effluent as a result.

The outfall from the filter bed appeared to be flowing clear and there were no signs of sewage fungus growth or solids passing over to final settlement.



**** Advisory ****

The brickwork around the filter bed is visibly in poor condition, in several areas appeared cracked and leaking. It appeared that currently, any leakage from the walls of the filter is entering the outfall channel and is not leaking to the ground. This has previously raised following an inspection in 2021 (CAR NRW0039060).



Humus Tank

The humus tank on site is a single circular tank with retention boards to hold back solids. This appeared to be operating effectively and there were no signs of solids or sewage fungus within in the outfall channels.



Outfall and Sampling point

There is a new sample point which has been installed at the works, following from the variation of permit bringing in a set sampling requirement. The sample point was labelled with a temporary sign, which was clearly visible and appeared suitable until a permanent sign is installed. The outfall/sampling chamber appeared clear and effluent was flowing freely. There were no signs of solids or contaminants within the effluent.



Advisory

At the time of inspection, it became apparent that the new sample point has been installed in a chamber after the storm discharge joins with the process effluent. The storm discharge at this works is made from the same outfall location and enters the outfall channel via a pipe in a chamber before the sampling chamber. At the time of inspection, the storm outfall pipe was not discharging into the outfall channel.

Currently if a sample was taken when the storm discharge was in operation, this would mean the effluent sampled would have storm effluent mixed in with it. This therefore would have a potential impact on the sample results, by increasing nutrient loading within the sample.

I do not believe this currently represents a noncompliance against the permit requirements. However, it would be advisable to move the sample point location to a point before the storm discharge enters the outfall channel, to ensure an indicative sample can be taken during storm events. This was discussed with DCWW operatives whilst on site, who are aware of the problem and are currently investigating changes which can be made.

The outfall into the river was not inspected on this occasion, as recent rainfall made access to the riverbank unsuitable.

Advisories

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1. The filter bed clearly requires some maintenance. There are several areas where there are signs of leakage through missing cement/grout. If left without repair there is a risk that the tank could fail, causing a pollution to ground. As the leakage seen was contained within the process channel, I have on this occasion not classified this as a breach of permit, however if the situation deteriorates it will likely lead to noncompliances.
2. Either relocate the sampling chamber to before the storm discharge joins the outfall channel. Or alternatively, reroute the storm discharge to join the outfall channel after the sampling point. The currently location of the new sampling chamber may result in storm discharges being mixed in with the effluent sample.

In terms of works operation, as the works appears to be operating as required.

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.