

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044037

Permit being assessed: AN0115601

For: Penybont Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Near Dolswydd Caravan Park Off A44, Penybont, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5UB.

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

On 26/03/2024, between 12:10 and 12:30.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 16/04/2024.

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-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 permit variation which came into effect on 25/01/2024, bringing into effect further water quality emissions limits. The additional emissions limits have resulted in the works now falling under Operator Self-Monitoring tier 3 sampling requirements.

The treatment process was previously undertaken by using a contained Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) system, which is still in place. However, the treatment process is now undertaken using additional systems which have been installed and are a temporary treatment system.

RBC (Inlet)

The flows into the works arrive at the RBC unit, which currently only operating as a storage tank before the flows are pumped up to the first stage of the treatment process. DCWW operatives confirmed that the RBC no longer has any outlet to the environment.

SAF System

The influent is pumped up from the RBS into a Submerged Aerated Filter (SAF) system. The system is a self-contained tank which has a submerged filter media, which provides a contact area for bacteria within the tank. The effluent passes over the contact media allowing the bacteria to breakdown the sewage accordingly. Air is blown into the tank to create an aerated environment which helps encourage biological activity. The effluent from the SAF system is then discharged into a Lamella Filter for the final stage of treatment.

Lamella Filter

The lamella filter on site is a raised system, which contains a series of angled filter screens, which the flows pass through as it travels through the tank. The plates screens provide areas for bacterial contact and can be removed individually for maintenance or replacement. There are retention boards at the inlet and outfall ends of the Lamella unit to hold back solids and promote solids settling down into the sludge. The flows within the unit are rotated slowly to encourage contact with the filter screens, to encourage further biological breakdown of the sewage.

The retention boards act in the same way as would be expected with a final settlement tank. At the time of inspection, the Lamella systems was clearly operational. The effluent entering the outfall channel appeared clear of any significant solids and there were no signs of sewage fungus build up within the channel.



Outfall and Sampling point

The effluent sampling point is currently located on an above-ground down pipe from the Lamella unit. The sample collection point has a manually operated valve to start /stop the discharge. This has been recently installed, as required in the recent permit variation.

The location of the sample point is currently open to the elements, if left open wind may blow the effluent passing through out onto the ground. However, if leaving the sample point closed this will result in solids building up within the pipe. It was discussed on site that this could lead to problems within the samples taken. DCWW are currently looking at different options for the sample point however it is likely the valve will need to be left slightly open to prevent solids build up. And then let the effluent flush through before collecting a sample.

The effluent within the sample chamber appeared to be flowing clear of any solids or signs of polluting matter.



The outfall into the river Ithon 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 preventing the effluent reaching the main watercourse, and there were no signs to suggest effluent had been sitting within the channel before entering the 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 good working order, and there were no signs of concern overserved. DCWW are still in the process of investigating options for a permanent treatment system.

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.