

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043725

Permit being assessed: BE0000206

For: PONTYATES WWTW PONTYATES LLANELLI, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: PONTYATES WWTW, PONTYATES, LLANELLI, CARMARTHENSHIRE, .

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

On 05/03/2024, between 10:30 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Permit conditions

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

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 24/04/2024.

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 sewage treatment does not have a storm overflow and all sewage is sent for full treatment in the works before being discharged.

Operation of the works

Flows into the works are first screened by a rotary screen, with a bypass channel in case of screen malfunction. Following the screen, a disused grit removal system was observed, site staff explained that this is no longer in use and grit is removed from here manually instead. Three former storm tanks are used for flow balancing and settlement before flows are split to two primary settlement tanks. From there flows are split into four filter beds, at

the time of our inspection the filter beds appeared heavily effected by solids. Considering the failure related to suspended solids and BOD in the sample taken 09 March 2023 (compliance recorded in CAR_NRW0043945 and CAR_NRW0043949 respectively) please ensure that solids on site are managed to prevent carry over of solids to the FE discharge point. Effluent is then sent to two hummus tanks before the final effluent discharge point. Please note that if chemical dosing is being carried out on a regular basis at the works then a variation to the permit may be required.

Flows through the works during the time of our visit were 21.3L/s.

General Pollution Prevention on Site

During our visit we saw the sludge holding tank where sludge from the process is held before being taken off-site. The bund around this contained rainwater and it is unlikely the bund would function as designed in the case of a failure of the tank. A float switch and pump installed within the bund did not appear to be functional. This bund should be kept free of rainwater to ensure it functions as designed.

We saw the storage area for chemicals used for dosing. Not all IBCs containing dosing chemicals were stored on the bunded tank and this tank appeared to be full of rainwater. To prevent a potential release of these chemicals all IBCs should be stored in a bunded area until empty. Any bunded area should be kept free of rainwater and ideally be covered to prevent rainwater ingress.

We did not identify any permit breaches while on site.



Photo showing build up of solids on filter bed.



photo showing rainwater collected inside sludge holding tank bunded area.



Photo showing dosing chemicals not stored on bunded area.

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.