

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0044343

**Permit being assessed:** AN0032601

For: BSW SAWMILLS LTD NEWBRIDGE ON WYE, held by BSW SAWMILLS LTD  
At: BSW SAWMILLS LTD, NEWBRIDGE ON WYE, BUILTH WELLS, ,, LD2 3RU.

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

On 08/05/2024, between 11:15 and 11:55.

Parts of permit assessed: Whole permit

**NRW Lead Officer:** Chris Gurney, accompanied by: Jenny Phillips.

**Report sent to:** John Smillie, Ops Manager, on 20/05/2024.

### 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-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

### 2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-D1	Please vary permit with updated site map/diagram to reflect the changes to the site.	08/11/2024
WQ-C1	Conduct a review of site staffing to ensure volume of discharge is <5 m <sup>3</sup> /day (sewage effluent) as per condition 6.	03/07/2024

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important information' section below.

### 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

I attended BSW Sawmills on 8th May 2024 with Jenny Phillips, the weather was sunny and bright.

On arrival we checked in at reception and were met by John Smillie who agreed to show us the site - thank you for your time during the inspection.

We walked around to the Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) which appeared to be operating as designed, with no distinct odour or signs of any issues. We were advised it's inspected regularly and emptied accordingly on contract with a local sewage company (Mayglothing). The outfall and ditch appeared to be quite grey, but this was the full length including upstream of the outfall so likely to be run-off from the large asphalt work area.

We inspected the drainage route, including the settlement ponds, which appeared to be working well, though the ponds appeared relatively full and may need maintenance in the future.

The reed bed had a set of flow controls to divert flow to one section or another, no issues were seen in either channel. The reed bed appeared to be in good condition, having been maintained in 2023 by specialists who had advised there would not be a need for additional works in 2024. The sample point was clearly marked and accessible, with no signs of pollution.

There is also a second reed bed now in use, for a smaller area of surface water drainage. This is not shown on the permit map, and while not part of the permit, it has caused the layout of the reed bed to vary slightly from the previously shown plan. This will need a permit variation to update with the correct map/site plan.

In conversation it was discussed there are around 100 staff employed by the company, however it is not clear how many are on site each day and use the facilities. I advise you conduct a review of this, to ensure the volume of sewage does not exceed the 5 cubic metres per day limit in the permit. The figures used in British Water's Flows and Loads suggests around 50 - 60 litres / person / day is likely to be used for an industrial/factory based site. For 100 staff this would be around or exceeding the 5,000 litre limit. If the volume is in excess of this, you will need to vary the permit to increase the discharge volume.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.