

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0044208

Permit being assessed: BP0305901

For: LANGLAND SPS LANGLAND SWANSEA, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: LANGLAND SEWAGE PUMPING STATION, LANGLAND, SWANSEA, WALES, .

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

On 12/04/2024, between 10:00 and 10:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Permitted Activities, The Site, Operating techniques, Notifications

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett, accompanied by: Gareth Martin, Catherine Tucker, Daniel Wood.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 11/06/2024.

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	C3 Minor	1. Nature The discharge shall consist solely of sewage in an emergency.
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	Assessed (A)	

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B1	Please provide us with an outline of the surface water inflow investigation you will now be carrying out.	14/06/2024
WQ-B1	Please inform us if you are able to put any mitigation in place to minimise the amount or duration of discharges that could occur due to rainfall whilst the work to resolve this issue is ongoing.	28/06/2024
WQ-B1	Please aim to complete the surface water inflow investigation by the end of October 2024.	31/10/2024

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

On the 12th April 2024 we carried out an inspection of the Langland Sewage Pumping Station Emergency Overflow.

The weather was dry at the time of the inspection. It had been wet weather on the days leading up to the inspection. The EO was not operating at the time of the visit.

The large overflow chamber where the EO is situated is located in the carpark above the pumping station. The chamber and the 10mm screen were clean.

A 24 hour alarm system and duty standby pump is installed.

A storage capacity of 21.1m³ should be available, equivalent to a total of at least 1.1 hours at 3DWF should be provided. The size of the storage was not assessed at the time of the inspection but I could see that there was storage available.

Access for tankers in the event of an emergency did not appear to be problematic.

We inspected the outfall in the area of the promenade. We could see that an adjacent surface water is connected to the EO outfall. This surface water was contaminated with what appeared to be misconnections from nearby properties.

We could not inspect the end of the outfall pipe due to the tidal conditions. However, we were aware that the outfall had been blocked with stones and sand for sometime. The outfall has been unblocked by you since our inspection.

In a previous Compliance Assessment Report (CAR_NRW0042218) we recorded that there had been a storm discharge from the pumping station when you are only permitted to discharge in an emergency. The CAR asked you to investigate why the pumping station appeared to be operating in storm conditions. The first part of this investigation involved establishing if the recorded spills were as a result of the well becoming flooded by the surface water connected to the blocked outfall or if they were genuine storm spills caused by the pumping station receiving high levels of surface water from the network during rainfall events.

A camera has been installed in the well and this has recently recorded a spill which I understand is very likely to have been due to high levels of surface water entering the PS from the network. You reported this spill to us as a pollution incident. I have recorded the spill as a non-compliant discharge in this CAR.

In the previous CAR we asked that you stop the PS from operating in storm conditions by the end of April 2024. This date was extended to the end of May 2024. We accept that it has taken longer than expected to establish if any genuine spills were occurring but now that a spill has been confirmed we would expect the surface water inflow investigation in the upstream catchment to be carried out as soon as possible in order that you can move on to the next stage of stopping any storm spills to Langland Bay and coming back into compliance with your permit.

Action: Please provide us with an outline of the surface water inflow investigation you will now be carrying out.

Action: Please aim to complete the surface water inflow investigation by the end of October 2024.

If it has not been technically possible to complete the investigation due environmental conditions please inform us before the end of October. We would not expect any delays to be due to normal prioritisations in your work.

We would like you to consider if you are able to put any mitigation in place to minimise the amount or duration of discharges that could occur due to rainfall whilst the work to resolve this issue is ongoing.

Action: Please inform us if you are able to put any mitigation in place to minimise the amount or duration of discharges that could occur due to rainfall whilst the work to resolve this issue is ongoing.

Thank you.

End.

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.