

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0044740

**Permit being assessed:** BH0060005

For: LAUGHARNE WASTE WATER TREATMENT WKS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: LAUGHARNE WASTE WATER TREATMENT, LAUGHARNE, CARMARTHENSHIRE, WALES, .

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

On 23/05/2024, between 10:30 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: All

**NRW Lead Officer:** Gavin Thomas, accompanied by: Megan Herbert-Evans.

**Report sent to:** CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 15/07/2024.

### 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-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B2	There are 2 additional pipes that discharge to the final effluent sampling point that the operator was unsure of. If these pipes are not part of the permitted activities at the works, these need to be capped off to ensure that only the treated effluent is discharged from the works.	29/07/2024

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

This was a pre-planned audit carried out by Natural Resources Wales environment officers who were accompanied by a performance manager and process operator from Dwr Cymru. The weather was dry.

### General Observations

Officers were taken through the works from the inlet, through the treatment system, before finishing at the final effluent sampling station. The discharge point was not inspected due to it being located in the tidal marshland in front of the works and the health and safety concerns about reaching it.

The site is a Wastewater Treatment works that processes residential waste and has telemetry in place for monitoring storm overflows. There is an EDM monitor on the storm overflow. There are MCERTs flow monitors on the inlet and outlet. The site is visited 3 times a week by DCWW operatives.

The site is located at the base of a very steep bank and there have been some minor rock falls from the bank. Some extra netting and fencing have been installed to protect the site but there are health and safety concerns about the condition of this bank so extra PPE must be worn on site.

### The Process

There is a storm discharge permit for the site that is covered by a separate permit and will be covered by a separate CAR form (BP027071)

There is a screw press screen located at the inlet to the works. The screenings enter a skip that is manually emptied when full. There is also an additional bar screen present on the storm overflow.

There are 2 primary settlement tanks at the works these are automatically de-sludged to sludge holding tanks that are emptied by tanker weekly. Secondary treatment is then achieved by 2 filter beds at the works these are made up of plastic media and the flows flow up from underneath. The bed that was in use looked to be in good working order with no growth on the surface. The flows then enter 3 final settlement tanks. Tertiary treatment is then undertaken by 2 UV tracks that are in the building underneath the works. The final effluent is discharged into the bay. The discharge point is marked by a red marker, this was not inspected at the time of the visit due to health and safety and access issues with it being in the tidal marsh area.

There are 2 additional pipes that discharge to the final effluent sampling point that the operator was unsure of. If these pipes are not part of the permitted activities at the works, these need to be capped off to ensure that only the treated effluent is discharged from the works.



Figure 1 Filter beds at works made up of plastic media



Figure 2 UV tracks at the works



Figure 3 Final effluent point. 2 pipes on the left to be capped if they are not part of the permitted process.



Figure 4 Discharge point located at the red marker in the bay. No inspected due to health and safety concerns

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.