

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045151

Permit being assessed: AH1001001

For: Grosmont Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Grosmont, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 8LW.

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

On 09/09/2024, between 09:00 and 09:40.

Parts of permit assessed: Whole permit

NRW Lead Officer: Peter Jones.

Report sent to: Permit Holder, DCWW, on 10/09/2024.

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	C3 Minor	1.1.1a

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-A1	Carry out maintenance	28/11/2024

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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

Routine site inspection of Grosmont Wastewater Treatment Works carried out by Environment Officer Peter Jones. On the day of the inspection, It was bright sunshine with no rain. There had been significant rain within the last 48 hours.

Effluent enters the works by gravity flow, from the intake effluent flows into the Primary Settlement

Tank. (PST) There's a crack on the inner wall of the PST, through which effluent is flowing into the carry-on channel. Steps should now be taken to carry out maintenance work on the PST to ensure it remains structurally sound. A failure to maintain the infrastructure of the works is a breach of permit condition 1.1.1 a. The Management System should have a clear maintenance and repairs schedule within it, to ensure all maintenance is carried out in a timely manner.

Sludge from the PST is removed by manually opening a valve, the sludge then flows down to the sludge tank. Where the liquid fraction is pumped back up to the intake for further treatment.

From the PST, the effluent flows into, two filter beds. The filter bed medium looks to be well maintained and the rotating arms are operating effectively. There's no moss growth or pooling on top of the beds. The effluent past on to the humus tanks is clear. The brickwork on the outer to wall generally looks sound. However, there are some small leaks visible and some of the bricks on the top rows have crumbled away. A review of the block work should be carried out and where necessary repairs should be carried out.

On entering the humus tank, the effluent passes under a baffle and the flow splits into two tanks. There is some moss growth on the intake baffle, and this should be removed on the next routine maintenance visit to the site.

The sludge tank looks to be almost full and should be emptied at the earliest opportunity. The retaining wall on the northern side of the sludge tank, consists of railway sleepers. Judging by the staining on the sleepers they are not watertight, and the sludge tank should be emptied before the level of the sludge reaches the railway sleepers to ensure there are no unauthorised emissions of polluting matter from the works.

The damage to the inner wall of the PST has been recorded as a breach of permit condition 1.1.1 a. There are several other minor issues which should be addressed under the maintenance schedule for the site. These include, removing moss which may hamper the operation works, empty the sludge tank and when necessary, replace any damaged brickwork. Please ensure these actions are carried out within two months receipt of this CAR form. If you're unable to carry out the work within the time, please advise me when it works will be completed.

See attached document for the photographs:

- 1 PST with leaking block work
- 2 Brickwork on filter bed
- 3 Moss growth on baffle
- 4 sludge tank almost full

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.