

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045175

Permit being assessed: AW1002901

For: Llandrindod Wells Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Park Lane, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5NN.

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

On 09/09/2024, between 10:00 and 10:40.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox , on 12/09/2024.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
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?

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 was a pre-planned OSM site inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales Officer Robert Harding. I was shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives.
MH- Operational Supervisor

OB- Process Scientist

The weather during the visit was overcast with intermittent showers following wet weather. I was shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The STW is filter bed works containing four filter beds, ferric dosing, and a storm discharge. The works received a new consolidated permit which came into effect on 13/11/2023, bringing together the STW and Storm discharges, as well as bringing into effect further water quality emissions limits. The works also operates under UWWTR requirements. It is attended daily by DCWW staff and telemetry is in place for monitoring. At the time of this inspection, pre-planned construction works were underway on site to add improvements and additional infrastructure.

Inlet and Storm

The incoming flow comes into the works through several pumping stations in the nearby area.

The inlet of the works is raised and the top of the site. There is a powered step screen in place to remove any rag and large solids, this was clearly operating as expected at the time of inspection. There did not appear to be any significant solids passing through, following the screen. There is an MCERTS flow meter in operation following the storm weir.

There is a bypass screen which flow can be diverted through if required, such as for screen maintenance. This was not in use the time of inspection. The storm weir in place is hard-set, meaning flows only enter the storm weir once levels at the inlet reach the specified level. At the time of inspection, incoming flows were below the weir height, and no storm discharge was occurring. There is an EDM sensor in place at the storm weir.

The UWWTR Crude sampling point was signposted and easily accessible.

Primary Settlement and Ferric Dosing

The flows from the inlet of the works are sent to a distribution chamber, where powered motors distribute the effluent to the two primary settlement tanks. In the mixing chambers ferric sulphate dosing is undertaken to for phosphorus removal. The motor is in place also mixes in the ferric dose; this was clearly operational whilst on site.

The works has two circular primary settlement tanks with rotating bridges, scum scrapers and outfall channel brushes. The two primary settlement tanks appeared in good working order. There were no signs of significant solids carrying over from either of the settlement the tanks or signs of sewage fungus within the outfall channels. Both outfall channels were running clear.

The flows from the Primary Settlement tanks are then sent to a distribution chamber, which distributes the flow to the four filter beds on the site.



Filter Beds

The site has four filter beds. Filter bed 4 is a newer self-contained filter with stone media filter, which is located uphill from the remaining 3. Filter bed 4 had a slight coverage of moss, however this was not excessive and did not appear to be impacting distribution to the filter media.

Filter Beds 1-3 are also rotating distribution arms onto stone media, however all three are contained within one large rectangular filter bed housing, which contains stone media of approximately 2m deep. Each filter bed is clearly labelled. Filter beds 2 and 3 bed had extensive areas of moss/grass coverage, it would be advisable to increase vegetation removal on the filter beds to prevent the treatment process being affected.



There was surface pooling present on the filter media of filter bed 3. This appears to be preventing ample distribution to the filter bed media. There had been heavy rainfall within the preceding days, which may have contributed to the pooling, however it is not clear if this is the sole cause. This should be monitored and addressed as soon as possible to prevent problems within the treatment process.



The filter beds otherwise appeared in working order. The outfall from the filter beds was running clear. The filter bed outfall then leads to a distribution chamber. Within the distribution chamber there appeared to be some foam present on the surface, but not an excessive amount.

Humus Tanks

There are four rectangular “Dortmund” type settlement tanks in use, which have a scum retaining board. Solids are retained behind this board and settle down into the into the centre of the tank for collection. The humus tanks appeared to be operating effectively and there were no signs of solids in the outfall channels. There was a layer of duckweed present on these tanks, however this was contained within the scum boards and did not appear to be affecting the treatment process. The eluent from the tanks appeared clear and free flowing no signs of solids carrying over to the outfall.

There is an additional single radial humus tank with a rotating bridge and scum scraper. This appeared in good working order. There were no signs of solids passing over into the outfall of the tank and the effluent appeared clear.

Outfall and Sampling point

The final effluent sampling point is clearly marked with appropriate signage including the sample point number. The UWWTW effluent sample point was clearly labelled and accessible.

The effluent within the sample chamber appeared to be flowing clear of any solids or signs of polluting matter. There was some moss growth within the outfall chamber, however this did not appear to be having any impact on the effluent within the chamber. The storm outfall pipe is also located on the side of this chamber. At the time of inspection there were no flows coming from the storm outfall pipe.



Storm Tank and Sludge Tanks

The site has a single large storm tank on site, which is pumped back to the head of the works once the inlet flow drops to a specified level. I was not able to visually check the storm tank level. There is EDM in place for the storm channel which can be checked if required.

The works has two sludge holding tanks, both of which are in use and have level meters present.

Advisories

The moss coverage and ponding on the filter beds is a cause for slight concern, as it can lead to issues with infiltration and affect the treatment process. Indications currently are that they not impacting the treatment process; however, it is advised to undertake increased moss removal and address the ponding on the filter beds before the issues develop further.

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.