

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045211

Permit being assessed: AW1001001

For: Cilmery Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Near St Cannen's Church, Cilmery, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3NT.

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

On 09/09/2024, between 11:40 and 12:05.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox , on 17/09/2024.

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 a filtration works with a storm discharge present. The works operates under a new consolidated permit which came into effect on 02/02/2024, bringing together the WWTW and Storm discharge. The recent variation also introduced additional effluent quality limits, and as a result the works now falls under Operator Self-Monitoring requirements. It is unmanned and has telemetry in place for monitoring. The works operates using an enclosed dual biofilter system.

Inlet and Storm

The incoming flows comes into the works via pumped and gravity sewers. The works is a powered works however does not have a backup power source in place. In the event of power failure, a backup generator would need delivering to the site.

The inlet of the works is at the top end of the site. The inlet appeared to be running clear of any contamination or blockages. There were no signs of significant solids or rag present in the incoming flows. The storm weir in place is a hard-set weir, as such the storm discharge can only discharge when flows reach the level of the weir. There is a 6mm bar screen installed within the storm channel storm channel, which was clear of debris at the time of inspection. The incoming flows were well below the weir height, and no storm discharge was occurring. There is an Event Duration Monitoring sensor in place to monitor storm discharges, as there are no storm tanks on site.



Primary Settlement

The primary settlement tank at the works is an undercover tank, with a lower outlet height for retaining solids and allowing liquid to discharge. The inspection hatches/chambers were clearly visible and accessible. In this instance I did not request that operatives open the chambers for a visual inspection. The sludge from the tank is collected and removed by tanker as and when required.

The flow from the primary settlement tank is then pumped up and distributed to two contained biofilters units.

Biofilters

The two biofilters on site operate in a manner like a filter bed. The flow is pumped up to the top and is spread across a plastic filter media. The filter media is contained within the raised filter housing, with an aim that it is less susceptible to low temperature effects and vegetation growth than the previous filter bed. The filter media provides contact points for

bacteria to break down the sewage material accordingly. The access to the inspection chambers of the filters is at height and therefore were not inspected personally due to health and safety limitations.

The effluent from the two biofilters filters then pass through to final settlement. On inspection of the outfall channels from the works they appeared clear of any solids or debris.

Humus Tank

The final settlement tank on the works is a covered tank, however the lid can be lifted for inspection. The tank consists of solids retaining boards on both the inlet and outlet of the chamber. With an additional drum filter in operation. There is a pump present for returning flows to the head of the works. The final settlement system appeared to be operating effectively and remaining solids were clearly being held back within the chamber.. The eluent from the tank appeared clear and free flowing with no signs of significant solids passing through.



Outfall and Sampling point

The Final effluent sampling point was clearly marked and easily accessed. The chamber appeared clear, and effluent was flowing freely. There were no signs of solids or discoloration observed in the final effluent. There was a no indications of sewage fungus within the pipe or the outfall chamber.



The outfall into the river was very close to the water as the watercourse was running high at the time of inspection, following recent rainfall. There were no signs of contamination or discolouration within the receiving watercourse and no signs of sewage fungus around the outfall.

In terms of works operation, the works appears to be operating as required.

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.