

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0045248

**Permit being assessed:** BA1005701

For: CWMGWRCH STW CWMGWRCH NEATH, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG  
At: CWMGRCH STW, CWMGWRCH, NEATH PORT TALBOT, WALES, .

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

On 10/09/2024, between 12:30 and 13:30.

Parts of permit assessed: All

**NRW Lead Officer:** Chris Palmer, accompanied by: Edward Davies, Rhys Griffiths.

**Report sent to:** CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 20/09/2024.

### 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	Action only (X)	
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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	Investigate and find an alternative solution to remediate grass growth.	21/03/2025
WQ-A1	Investigate noise on primary tank and service effected part if required.	25/10/2024

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

This inspection was undertaken as part of our compliance program

Permit version in effect - 30 March 2010

Please note a new permit was issued on the 18 September 2024, this inspection however is referenced with the previous version.

#### Inlet works and screens

It is noted that rag was present around the grids at the inlet works. This was stated to have been moved from the screens and channels. Please ensure rag is removed from operational equipment and disposed of correctly. Rag and debris left in situ implies issue with operation.

A hunting penstock is noted to be installed post screens and storm weir to protect downstream works. Flow was not weiring over to storm at the time of inspection

#### Storm tanks

The storm tanks were not filling at the time of inspection. However, they were half full and returning to the inlet works. The area between the storm tanks and the inlet works was flooded and this contained sewage. Discussions on site pointed to the cause of this being an open valve between the surface water drains in this location and the storm tanks system. This will be address in a separate CAR form regarding the Storm Sewage discharge -  
CAR\_NRW0045250

#### Primary Tanks

A loud squeal was noted from one of the primary tanks, likely to be part of the gearing or wheel on the half bridge.

**ACTION:** Investigate noise and service effected part if required. **25 October 2022**

#### Filter beds

The 4 percolating filter beds were operating. It was noted that all except 1 were covered in a carpet of grass. This is regularly strimmed to ensure the filter distribution arms can rotate. We are concerned this method of maintenance is not the most effective way of dealing with the growth. Strimming will promote growth and does not remove the roots from the medium. Roots growing through the medium may take up surface area required for treatment and/or may cause blocking of the filter medium leading to pooling. It may also lead to preferential pathways allowing effluent to pass through the filter beds without adequate treatment.

**ACTION:** Investigate and find an alternative solution to remediate grass growth. **21 March 2025**

#### Outfall

There is no direct access to the outfall from the works. It was noted that the outfall had collapsed due to erosion to the river banks and has been noted in CAR\_NRW0043640 as well as via e-mail to catchment manager in February 24.

#### Observations

It was noted the sludge tank was in a state of (functional) disrepair and was covered in scaffolding. Discussions on site noted works to repair and improve were scheduled.

Site Diary was missing some information - Storm tanks filling had been noted in the site diary. However notes stating the storm tanks were discharging had not been noted.

**ACTION:** Please ensure site operatives make note of this in the future.

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](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.