

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045648

Permit being assessed: AB0038201

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

At: Access track off Merthyr Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 9LH.

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

On 12/11/2024, between 11:30 and 12:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Whole permit

NRW Lead Officer: Peter Jones, accompanied by: Alastair Krzyzosiak.

Report sent to: cars@dwrwymru.com, DCWW, on 18/11/2024.

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)	
WQ-C2 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to land	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	

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 carry out any necessary maintenance to the grit removal system	06/12/2024
WQ-C2	Carry out maintenance to repair the bracket and prevent future discharges at the sludge inlet point, located at the effluent inlet to the works	06/12/2024
WQ-A1	Remove the build-up of material in the storm channel and baffle on PST 3	13/12/2024
WQ-B1	Explain where you intend to locate the settled storm sample point	13/12/2024
WQ-A1	Remove plant growth from drain down arms on secondary treatment.	13/12/2024

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

Routine site inspection of Llanfoist Wastewater Treatment Works carried out by Environment Officer Peter Jones and Alastair Krzyzosiak. Weather Dry and overcast, there had been no significant rainfall in the last ten days.

The site permit has been varied as a result of a Natural Resource Wales initiated variation, permits AB0038201 and AB0038202 have been consolidated. The permit was issued on the 6 November 2023 in the modern condition format. The permit variation requires the:

- Installation of overflow operation into storm storage
- MCERT monitoring to record flow passed forward
- Discharge operation monitoring on the settled storm discharge to the environment
- Compliance assessment returns on against flow passed forward and overflow operation into the storm storage
- Implements a total phosphorous limit of 5 mg/l (annual average) effective from 13/11/2023. This limit will be reduced to 2 mg/l from 31/12/25

Observations

Effluent enters works at the inlet, the flow passes through two elevator screens before flowing into the detritors, where the flow is slowed and grit removed. The nodding donkey does not look to be operating effectively. Please investigate and carry out any necessary maintenance.

At the inlet point the discharge pipe for returned sludge is loose. The bracket holding it in place has broken away from the gantry, which has resulted in a minor discharge of sludge to ground. Please carry out maintenance to repair the bracket and prevent future discharges.

The EDM monitor for flow is in place and the OWWTR influent sample point is clearly marked.

Storm overflow checked, no discharge to the storm channel at the time of the inspection. There is a build-up of sediment in the storm channel by the storm overflow weir. Please remove the material from the storm channels.

The effluent is then passed up, two housed archimedes screws, then discharged to the primary settlement tanks (PSTs). There is a build up of detritus on the inlet baffle of PST 3. Please remove this material to ensure effluent is able to flow freely into the PST.

From the PST the flow passes to the aeration tanks for secondary treatment. There are four tanks,

the first three were in differing stages of the treatment, aeration, settlement and discharge the fourth tank was empty. Please remove plant growth from drain down arms.

The final effluent sample point and the UWWTR were clearly labelled.

The storm tanks were empty at the time of the inspection. The settled storm tank EDM monitoring point is clearly labelled. Please explain where you intend to locate the settled storm sample point.

Actions

- investigate and carry out any necessary maintenance to the grit removal system
- carry out maintenance to repair the bracket and prevent future discharges at the sludge inlet point, located at the effluent inlet to the works
- remove the buildup of material in the storm channel
- remove the buildup of material on the inlet baffle of PST 3
- explain where you intend to locate the settled storm sample point.

- Remove plant growth from drain down arms

Attachments

Photographs of site inspection

If you have any questions regarding the visit or CAR form, please contact me by e-mail or by telephone.

- E-Mail: Peter.A.Jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
- Mobile telephone: 07760443974

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.