

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045568

Permit being assessed: BP0216201

For: RHYDYPANDY STW, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: RHYDYPANDY STW, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN.

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

On 15/10/2024, between 09:15 and 10:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions of Consent

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett, accompanied by: Catherine Tucker.

Report sent to: CARS@dwr.cymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 14/11/2024.

1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
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	C3 Minor	6. As far as is reasonably practicable the works shall be operated so as to prevent any matter being present in the effluent which will cause the receiving water to be poisonous or injurious to fish, their spawn or spawning grounds or food, nor otherwise cause damage to the ecology of the receiving waters or have any adverse visual impact.

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	Please investigate if the final effluent water quality being achieved at the works is of a high enough standard to not cause a visual impact on the receiving water. Please report	31/01/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	your findings to us.	

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

On the 15 October 2024 you accompanied us on an inspection of Rhydypany Sewage Treatment Works. It was drizzling on and off at the time of the visit and there had been rainfall in the days preceding.

Rhydypany is a small sewage treatment works with a population equivalent of only 63. The permit is descriptive so there are no numeric water quality limits placed on the final effluent. The works does not have any provision on site to discharge storm sewage.

The treatment comprises of a 6mm screen to remove the rag and an additional macerator pump. The screenings are macerated after they are removed for ease of collection and any liquids are centrifuged out and back into the flows. The macerated screenings are then collected within a box collector and removed manually. There is an additional bar screen fitted to collect the rag in the event of the macerator pump failure. The returned flows enter two primary settlement tanks, one biological filter bed and a humus tank. All appeared to be in good working order at the time of the visit. Sludge is collected and removed by tanker. Flows are not measured.

Four days prior to the inspection you had notified us via an OPNOT that the centre bearing on the filter bed had collapsed, preventing the filter arm from rotating effectively. This had been repaired by the date of the inspection. The final effluent at the sample point was clear.

We inspected the outfall which was about 30m upstream of the location given in the permit. An NGR of SN 66579 01910 was taken. The discharge was clear but there was visible sewage fungus on the headwall. The fungus covered about 30cm of the riverbed for approximately two meters downstream before the flows entered a deep fast flowing section of the river. Whilst the sewage fungus looked quite established it is possible that the impact we saw was due to the fault on the filter bed. We advised you take a sample at the sample point to establish what the final effluent water

quality was like on the day.

Condition 6 of your permit requires that, as far as is reasonably practicable, the works shall be operated so as to prevent any matter being present in the effluent which will have any adverse visual impact. As we saw an adverse visual impact, I am recording this as a non-compliance with the permit.

This non-compliance is in contravention of Regulation 38 (2) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 which states that it is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition.

Action:

Please investigate if the final effluent water quality being achieved at the works is of a high enough standard to not cause a visual impact on the receiving water. Please report your findings to us.

Please take the advice given in this report as formal Advice and Guidance intended to bring the discharge back into compliance with the Permit.

Thank you.

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 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.