

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045691

Permit being assessed: AN0106601

For: TRETOWER STW TRETOWER CRICKHOWELL, held by DWR CYMRU
CYFYNGEDIG

At: TRETOWER STW, TRETOWER, CRICKHOWELL, POWYS, .

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

On 13/11/2024, between 10:21 and 10:40.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox , on 22/11/2024.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B2	Investigate options for ensuring that the effluent from the works enters the main flow of the river. Provide details of the investigation and any outcomes/plans.	31/12/2024

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

This was a pre-planned site inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales Officer Robert Harding. I was shown around the site by DCWW representatives.

The weather during the visit was dry and cool. I was shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The works is filter bed works, serving a small population and operating under a descriptive permit. The site is unmanned but has telemetry in place.

Inlet

The incoming flows into the works are through a gravity sewer and pass directly into the primary settlement tank. There is no screening in place at the inlet of the works.

Primary Settlement

The flows into the works flow directly into a covered rectangular primary settlement tank, similar in construction to a septic tank. The tank holds back the solids on the surface, allowing liquid effluent to flow out of the outlet. At the time of inspection, the primary settlement tank appeared to be operating effectively, and no signs of significant solids were seen passing on to the next stage of treatment.

The effluent from the Primary tanks flows into a wet well, where it is then pumped up to the filter beds, as they are a couple of meters higher than the settlement tank. The pump operates once the wet well reaches a certain height, a level sensor is in operation to control the pump. There is no back up power available on site, so in the event of a power cut a standby generator needs to be delivered to the site to restore the treatment process. The pump was clearly operation at the time of inspection.

Filter Bed

The works contains two filter bed of stone media contained in one large housing. On arrival at the works the filter arms were not rotating, as the pump had not sent flows to the filter beds. Each filter bed centre column has water paddles in place which use the pressure of the flows to power the arm rotation.

Once the pump sent flows to the filters, the rotation arms were moving freely and unhindered. There were no signs of ponding on either of the filter beds. The second filter had a slight coverage of moss and some vegetation growth, however this did not appear to be preventing ample distribution onto the filter media. This may have been as a result of the filter being recently out of service. The second distribution system had recently been removed from service for maintenance. This has since been restored and was clearly operational.

Overall, the filter beds at the works appeared to be in good working order and the filter bed outfall channel appeared to be flowing clear of any solids or signs of problems.



Humus Tank

There is single rectangular humus tank in operation, to slow down the flows and reduce solids from the effluent. The surface of the tank had a full coverage of duckweed; however, this did not appear to be hindering the treatment process. The outfall channel of the humus tank had a slightly green appearance on the base of the channel, however this appeared to be as a result of general moss growth/ingress within the open chamber. The effluent appeared to be flowing clear and free to any signs of significant solids.

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Outfall and sampling point

There is a small sampling chamber/ inspection chamber located after the humus tank, which can be accessed by lifting a chamber cover. This chamber be used to collect a representative sample of the effluent; however, the site does not currently have any OSM sampling requirements.

At the time of inspection, the effluent within the chamber appeared clear, and there were no signs of sewage fungus growth or significant solids passing through to the outfall. There is a sign in place to indicate the sample point, near the physical outfall into the watercourse.



*** Advisory Note***

The physical outfall into the receiving watercourse was inspected, and there were no signs of discolouration or fungus build up around the outfall chamber. The currently outfall location does not discharge the effluent directly into the flow of the river. Currently the effluent is held back by gravel/land and makes its way to the main flow of the river filtering through the gravel. This appears to be as a result of the river changing its course. During high flow events this may be directly into the main flow of the watercourse. However, in drier times this could result in effluent not reaching the watercourse, and therefore not receiving dilution. This could also lead to effluent pooling behind the land and becoming stagnant. It would be advisable to investigate options for changing the outfall to ensure effluent reaches the main flow of the river. This is not a noncompliance against the permitted conditions and is not currently causing any problems. The Rhiangoll is a main river so any physical works within or alongside the river may require a Flood Risk Activity Permit.



General Comments

The works is a small population servicing a small population under a descriptive consent. Overall, the site appeared in good working order and operating effectively. At the time of inspection, it did not appear that the current outfall location was causing any problems and there were no signs of negative impact to the downstream watercourse.

Action required by 31/12/2024.

Investigate options for ensuring that the effluent from the works enters the main flow of the river. Provide details of the investigation and any outcomes/plans for works by 13/12/2024.

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.