

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045689

Permit being assessed: AC0098201

For: CWMDU STW CRICKHOWELL ,, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: CWMDU STW CRICKHOWELL ,, CRICKHOWELL ,, CRICKHOWELL ,,
CRICKHOWELL ,, ,.

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

On 13/11/2024, between 09:50 and 10:15.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	7. As far a reasonably practicable, the works shall be operated so as to prevent i. any matter being present in the effluent which will cause the receiving water to be poisonous or injurious to fish or to their spawn, or spawning grounds or food, or to otherwise cause damage to the ecology of the receiving waters; and ii. the treated effluent from having any adverse environmental 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	Investigate the cause of the sewage fungus build up within the outfall chamber and take appropriate steps to clean up the outfall to prevent further pollution to the receiving environment. Provide details of the investigation, actions taken and evidence to show a clean-up has been completed.	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 cool. I was shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The works is a single filter bed works, which is entirely gravity powered and operates under a descriptive permit. The site is unmanned and there is no telemetry currently 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.

Primary Settlement

The flows into the works flow directly into a rectangular covered primary settlement tank. It is my understanding that the tank has a lower outfall pipe, to retain surface solids within the tank. The tank had a visual build up of solids and sum on the surface within, and the pipe visible at the outfall end appeared rusty and degraded. It is not clear if this is affecting the treatment process. There were some slight solids present within the outfall channel, but not a significant amount.



The effluent from the Primary tanks flows directly into a tipper tray in the centre column of the filter bed, to generate ample hydrological power to move the filter arms.

Filter Bed

The works contains a single filter bed of stone media. On arrival at the works the filter arm was not rotating, as the tipper unit had not discharged. Once the tipper activated, the rotation arms were moving and unhindered. There were no signs of ponding or vegetation present on the surface of the filter media. There were some dry patches visible on the filter media, however this likely a result of low flows and intermitted discharges across the filter media.

Overall, the filter bed at the works appeared to be good working order and operating as designed. The flows from the filter beds then pass directly to the outfall, as there are no final settlement systems in place at this works.



Outfall and sampling point

There is a small outfall chamber, which can be accessed by lifting a chamber cover, allowing for visual inspection of the effluent. This chamber could also be used to collect a representative sample of the effluent, if required. However, there are currently no OSM sampling requirements at this works.

At the time of inspection there was a visible build-up of sewage fungus present on the base of the pipe and within the outfall chamber. The presence of fungus growth within the pipe and outfall channel indicate that effluent has been passing through which has not been adequately treated. Without any further treatment or settlement this effluent passes directly to the receiving watercourse. This would have a negative impact on the receiving environment and is therefore a breach of condition 7 of the permit.

*****Noncompliance*****

7. *As far as reasonably practicable, the works shall be operated so as to prevent*

- i. *any matter being present in the effluent which will cause the receiving water to be poisonous or injurious to fish or to their spawn, or spawning grounds or food, or to otherwise cause damage to the ecology of the receiving waters; and*
- ii. *the treated effluent from having any adverse environmental impact.*

This has been classified as a category 3 noncompliance, as this could potentially have a minor impact on the receiving watercourse.



The physical outfall into the receiving watercourse was not inspected on this occasion, due to limited access availability.

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General Comments

The works is a small works servicing a small population under a descriptive consent. Overall, the site appears in need of improved maintenance and monitoring, as sewage fungus present within the outfall chamber indicates potential problems with the treatment process.

Action required by 31/12/2024.

Investigate the cause of the sewage fungus build up within the outfall chamber and take appropriate steps to clean up the outfall and prevent further pollution to the receiving environment. Please provide details of the investigation, actions taken and evidence to show a clean-up has been completed, by 31/12/2024

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.