

General Observations

The works is a small single filter bed works serving a small population. The works is entirely gravity powered and operates under a descriptive permit. The site is unmanned and there is no telemetry currently in place on site.

Inlet

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

Primary Settlement

The flows into the works flow directly into a covered rectangular primary settlement tank. The settlement tank has an outfall pipe at a lower level than the inlet pipe, to retain surface solids within the tank. This is similar in design to a septic tank. Some of the wooden boards covering the settlement tank were rotten and starting to disintegrate. On this occasion I did not ask to inspect the inside of the tank. The outfall pipe from the primary tank had a slight build up of sewage fungus on the base of the pipe. At the time of inspection there was only a slight trickle of flow passing through to the next stage of treatment.

The effluent from the Primary tanks flows directly into a two-sided tipper tray in the centre of the filter bed, which discharges into straight distribution channels once the tray fills to a certain level. Once the tray tips this then starts the other side of the tipper filling. And distributes to the other side.

Filter Bed

The works contains a single filter bed of stone media. On arrival the tipper tray was still in the process of filling, and it was not possible to fully observe the distribution on both sides of the filter media, due to the very low flows into the works. The filter trays had a very white coverage of sewage fungus present. I believe this may be as a result of the influent sitting in the tipper tray for some time before being discharged to the filter media. As the tipper trays appear to take a long time to fill with the low flows entering the works.

The filter media had build-up of moss and vegetation present on the surface of the stone media. It was not clear if this was hindering the treatment process at the time of inspection. There were no signs of ponding or dry patches present on the surface of the filter media. 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 no final settlement place at the works, so flows from the filter bed then pass directly to the outfall into the river. The outfall pipe is easily accessible and would allow for a representative sample to be taken if required. There are currently no OSM sampling requirements for this site.

The base of the outfall pipe had a slight build-up of sewage fungus present, which may indicate high nutrient loading within the effluent. The effluent was running clear. At the time of inspection there were no signs of any sewage fungus build up or discolouration within the receiving watercourse.

General Comments

The works is a small works servicing a small population under a descriptive consent. Overall, the site appears in need of some maintenance and upkeep. Specifically, regarding the rotting covers of the primary settlement tank, and sewage fungus presence on the tipper trays of the filter bed. Currently there is insufficient evidence to indicate a noncompliance based on impact to the receiving watercourse, however it would be beneficial to monitor, as there is sewage fungus present within the outfall pipe.

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.