

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045865

Permit being assessed: AD0000701

For: CRAY STW CRAY BRECON POWYS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: CRAY STW, CRAY, BRECON, POWYS, .

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

On 13/12/2024, between 10:53 and 11:10.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox , on 19/12/2024.

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	DCWW to take appropriate steps to restore access to the outfall into the watercourse. Details of any plans of works required and expected timeframe for completion, to be sent to NRW by 31/12/2025	31/01/2025

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 OSM site inspection carried out by Natural Resources Wales Officer Robert Harding. I was shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives.

MH- Operational Supervisor

RS – Process Science Technician

The weather during the visit was overcast with intermittent showers. I was shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The STW is a single filter works, which operates under a numerical permit. It is unmanned and has telemetry in place for monitoring. There is a storm discharge consent present under Permit AD0000801

Inlet and Storm

The incoming flow comes into the works via a gravity sewer. The treatment process at the works is entirely hydrologically powered. There is no screening in place at the inlet to the works. At the time of inspection there were no signs of rag/solids entering the works at the time. The inlet flows past the storm weir before passing on to the primary settlement tanks.



The storm weir in place is a hard-set weir at the side of the inlet. The works can only run to the storm channel storm when flows reach the level of the weir. The storm channel has no additional screening in place. At the time of inspection, flows were below the weir height, and no flows were passing to the storm tanks. There was some rag/paper residue present within the channel leading to the storm tank, suggesting recent use. There a level meter within the storm tank but no EDM equipment in place.

Primary Settlement

There are two primary settlement tanks at the works, which are simple rectangular brick housed tanks with outlet points below the water line, therefore retaining solids at the surface. There were no signs of significant solids carrying over from either primary settlement tank and they appeared to be operating effectively.

The outfalls from the primary settlement tanks lead to a syphon chamber, which fills up before discharging to the two filter beds on site. This is to ensure there is enough water pressure to rotate the filter bed arms. The base of the outfalls from the settlement tanks and syphon chamber had build-ups of sewage fungus present, which indicates a high nutrient content within the influent. This was not a sign of noncompliance at this time.



The syphon was clearly operational at the time of the inspection and was effectively sending flows to the filter bed.

Filter Bed

The works contains a single filter bed containing stone media. The rotation arm was moving free and unhindered. There were no signs of blocked outlets, and the rotating arms appeared to be distributing effectively. The filter beds had some coverage of moss growth on the surface of the filter; however this was not excessive and did not appear to be affecting infiltration to the filter media. The filter bed discharges directly into the Humus tank of the works. The filter beds at the works appeared to be operating effectively and the outfall appeared to be running clear, with some minor froth visible on the surface behind the first retention board.



Humus Tank

The humus settlement tank on the works is a small rectangular tank with a retention board to slow the flow down and prevent solids passing over. There is a pipe within the humus tank, which is for recirculation to the head of the works.

The final settlement system appeared to be operating effectively. The outfall channel at the time appeared to be running clear and there were no signs of significant solids passing through or sewage fungus growth.



Outfall and Sampling point.

The Final effluent sampling point was clearly marked and easily accessed. The effluent at the time of inspection appeared clear, and effluent was flowing freely. There were no signs of solids within the effluent.



It was not possible to assess the outfall into the watercourse, due to limited access. The fencing at the site has previously damaged, and the gate is currently tied closed. As a result, we were unable to pass through the gate to get closer to the watercourse. The area between the fence and the watercourse has seen recent flooding and there has been erosion of the bank, and several trees have fallen. This has also resulted in the fence no longer being fully upright.

*****Advisory Action *****

DCWW to investigate options for restoring access to the outfall into the watercourse, to ensure it is possible to fully monitor the impact of effluent on the receiving watercourse.



Storm Tank and Storm Outfall

The storm tank on site is located next to the two primary settlement tanks. It is a brick built open rectangular tank. At the time of inspection, the storm tank was empty. In several places the brickwork and rendering within the inside of storm tank was crumbling but was being contained within the tank itself and not passing through to the outfall. The storm tank when filled is tankered out by DCWW. There is level monitoring sensor in place for the storm tank, which was clearly operational. At the time of inspection there were no signs of any recent storm discharge to the environment.

Additional Comments

Overall, the works appeared to be operating effectively, and there have been no recent sampling exceedances.

Actions required- By 31/01/2025.

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- DCWW to take appropriate steps to restore access to the outfall into the watercourse. Details of any plans of works required and expected timeframe for completion, to be sent to NRW by 31/12/2025.

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.