

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0043004

**Permit being assessed:** AB0076001

For: LIBANUS Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: LIBANUS, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8ND.

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

On 29/11/2023, between 12:34 and 13:05.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

**NRW Lead Officer:** Robert Harding, accompanied by: Chris Gurney.

**Report sent to:** CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 12/12/2023.

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

| Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)        | Assessment result | Permit condition |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| WQ-A1 - Management - General management               | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-B1 - Operations - Permitted activities             | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques             | Assessed (A)      |                  |
| WQ-C1 - 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?

No action required.

### 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 Officers Robert Harding and Chris Gurney. We were shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives  
Bryan Barrel- Process Technician

The weather during the visit was cold and overcast with intermittent showers. We were shown through the works from the inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The works is a small, unmanned works which processed using activated sludge in a Contact Stabilisation Ditch system. In appearance the treatment process is within a circular tank which is separated into sections for different stages of treatment. Monitoring is in place in the event of any mechanical failure. A new permit variation came into effect on 08th December 2023; however, this inspection was completed on 29/11/2023 and therefore is for compliance against the permit in effect at the time (2020 variation)

The works has separate limits for ammonia in the summer and winter periods which are as follows

01/04 - 30/09 - 20mg/l ammonia (N)

01/10 – 31/03 - 50mg/l ammonia (N)

Inlet

The incoming flow to the site is from a gravity sewer. There is a macerator at the inlet, which appeared to be operating at the time of inspection. There is also a bypass channel with a 12mm Bar screen in place, which is controlled by manually moving penstocks on the inlet and bypass channel. The bypass channel was not in use at the time of inspection. There were no signs of significant solids passing through from the outlet.

Two Stage Contact system

The macerated flows from the inlet then pass into the first of two treatment sections. The influent is pumped into the first tank where bacteria begins breaking down the sewage, in the same way as with other activated sludge systems. As the flows are held, solids also settle down out of the liquid and are sent to sludge holding bays. The flows pass into the second tank



Following on from the first settlement tank the flows are set to the main activated sludge tank which has aerators to maintain the required Dissolved oxygen levels within the tank. A dissolved oxygen probe is in operation to monitor levels and was clearly operation at the time of the inspection. At the time on inspection there was an over land pipe returning liquid from the sludge return bays into the secondary contact tank. Overall, the systems appeared operational and there were no signs of significant solids present on the surface of the tanks.



Additionally, there is a third tank in this section, which was used for what was described as “dead water”. This did not appear to form part of the treatment process; however, flows were entering the tank through a raised pipe above the tank, but there did not appear to be any direct outlet.





#### Final Settlement Tank

In the centre of the treatment system tank is a circular Final settlement tank. The tank does not have a rotating bridge in place and relies on scum retaining boards. There did not appear to be any significant solids passing over into the outfall channel. However, there was a visible build-up of sewage fungus present within the outfall channel, suggesting a high ammonia content, which should be monitored. As the inspection was during the winter period, the consented limit was 50mg/l and therefore this isn't likely evidence of any noncompliance. Flows from this tank are also recirculated into the activated sludge tanks to maintain required sludge levels for the treatment process.





#### Outfall and Sampling point

The Final effluent sampling point is clearly marked with appropriate signage including the sample point number. The sampling point appeared appropriate for an indicative sample to be taken. The outfall appeared to be flowing clearly. There was a slight white appearance at the base of the effluent chamber, which is suspected to be sewage fungus growth, however this was not excessive. The site has an MCERTS Flow monitor in place before the sample chamber, which was clearly operational at the time of inspection. The Meter display is located within the building on site.



We walked to the outfall location in the Afon Tarell and checked the outfall. There were no signs of sewage fungus or discolouration present within the watercourse or around the outfall itself.

#### Sludge Tanks

There are two open air sludge tanks on site, which appeared in suitable working order. Both tanks contained water at the time of inspection. The tanks can be manually returned to the works with an overground pipe, which was underway at the time of inspection.

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#### General Comment

In terms of works operation, it appears the treatment process is producing effluent within consented limits. The signs of sewerage fungus in the final settlement tank outfall are a slight concern, however not a breach of permit conditions based on the limits which were in place at the time of inspection. The treatment system at this site is difficult to grasp, as it is not entirely clear where and how everything is connected within each of the tanks. I believe it is as described above.

A new permit variation came into effect on 08<sup>th</sup> December 2023, which has new limits in place for this site.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.