

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040741

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 17/11/2022, between 11:13 and 11:35.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding, accompanied by: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 29/11/2022.

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-B2 - Operations - The site	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 Bethan Lewis. We were shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives

Lowri Davies- Operations Supervisor

James Jones – ICA Technician

Chris Edwards- Process Scientist

Owen Bowers– Process Scientist

Geraint Michaels

Emma Atkinson

The weather during the visit was overcast with intermittent showers, with rain in the preceding days. We were shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The works is a small, unmanned works which has 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. At the time of inspection external drainage operators were undertaking works in a nearby field and appeared to be flushing through a blockage.

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.



During the process of inspection, the nearby drainage operatives appear to have been flushing through a blockage into the sewer. This caused a sudden high load into the inlet which overflowed the bypass penstock. This caused some of the incoming flow to miss the macerator, however it still received screening. The screen appeared to be effectively preventing rag and solids from passing through. Under the heavy load it appeared that the inlet could flood if the incoming loads continued for much longer. Once the flows into the works dropped everything appeared to settle quickly.



Two Stage Contact system

The macerated flows from the inlet then pass into the first of two contact treatment sections. The influent is pumped into the first tank, where it slows down and spends time allowing for bacteria to begin breaking down the sewage, similar in principle to activated sewage systems. As the flows are held, solids also settle down out of the liquid and are sent to sludge holding bays. This then is sent to the contact tank for additional bacterial breakdown and settling. 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.

There is a level alarm installed on the second of the contact tanks which activates if the water level raises too high. Additionally, there is a third tank in this section, which is used for additional settling and storage during high incoming flows.



Final Settlement Tank

In the centre of the Contact Stabilisation 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 visible build-up of sewage fungus present within the outfall channel, suggesting a

potentially 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.



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 and there were no signs of problems within the effluent.

We walked to the outfall location in the Afon Tarell. The river was running high following recent rainfall and no signs of problems were seen around the outfall point.



Sludge Tanks

There are two open air tanks on site, the first in line is the sludge holding tank. This 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. .



General Comments

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 concern, however not a breach of permit conditions currently.

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.