

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045277

Permit being assessed: AG0019402

For: Settled Storm Overflow at Rhiwsaeson Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Rhiwsaeson, Creigiau, Nr Llantrisant, CF72 8NX.

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

On 20/09/2024, between 11:00 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Relevant

NRW Lead Officer: Harry Warburton, accompanied by: Hannah Jenkins.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 30/01/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	C2 Significant	1.1.1a and 2.3.1b
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	C2 Significant	2.3.1b
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	C3 Minor	4.3.1

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	Repair the bridge on storm tank 1 so that it functions as permitted. Also pump out the effluent that hasn't been recirculated in both tanks as this has gone septic and will discharge to the river during the next storm.	Already completed
WQ-B2	Investigate why and when the automatic storm return stopped operating, and set out a plan with timeframes to reinstate the process for both tanks.	23/12/2024
WQ-D3	Provide reasoning as to why OPNOTS were not issued for the faulty gearbox and recirculation pumps not functioning	23/12/2024

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

On the 20th of September 2024 NRW officers Harry Warburton and Hannah Jenkins attended Rhiwsaeson STW to undertake a compliance inspection of permits AG0019402 and AN0249201 (AN0249201 CAR form is separate as CAR_NRW0045261),

We were accompanied by the DCWW Catchment Manager, Compliance Manager, AGA Pollution Tech and the Operational Supervisor AGA for the area and the Site Operator.

The weather on the day was dry.

Inlet

The inlet flow to Rhiwsaeson is split between Rhiwsaeson works and Coslech, which allows up to 70l/s to be sent to Coslech, with 50l/s passing forward to Rhiwsaeson for treatment, and flow in excess of this goes through the storm screen to the storm tanks.

Storm tanks

There are two storm tanks on site at Rhiwsaeson. The tank, nearest the final effluent sampling point bridge, was not operational, the gear box was not functional, it is unknown when this occurred. Effluent had been left in the storm tank and not returned for treatment, it appeared to have been there for a while and was septic. This was discussed on site and that the effluent will need to be pumped out for treatment through the works, and not allowed to discharge to the river during the next storm. The bridge needs to be repaired as a priority so that the tank can operate as permitted. The other tanks bridge was rotating, however there was still left over effluent in the tank and had started to go septic, so the storm return was not functional on this tank also, which again could lead to septic effluent entering the river. We were informed that there is a fault with the storm return process which is now being operated manually. It wasn't known how long this has been the case, though DCWW representatives agreed to organise manual emptying of the tanks as soon as possible.

Following the site visit we checked notification records and there were no OPNOTS received for these issues. Due to the unknown amount of time these issues had been occurring a data request has been issued and subsequent enforcement action to be taken following this.



Action

- Arrange for the effluent from the storm tanks to be returned to the works for treatment or disposed of appropriately off-site. (Discussion with the operational supervisor stating this is completed).
- Investigate why and when the automatic storm return stopped operating, and set out a plan with timeframes to reinstate the process for both tanks.

- Repair the bridge to the storm tank so it can operate as permitted. (Discussion with the operational supervisor stating this is completed).

- Provide reasoning as to why OPNOTS were not issued for the faulty gearbox and recirculation pumps not functioning.

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.