

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043144

Permit being assessed: BG0024501

For: ST CLEARs WWTW, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: ST CLEARs WWTW, ST CLEARs, CARMARTHENSHIRE, .

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

On 11/01/2024, between 10:30 and 11:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 1 through to 7, 9 & 13

NRW Lead Officer: James Slowgrove, accompanied by: Joseph Callard, Megan Herbert-Evans, Gavin Thomas.

Report sent to: Olivia Saunders , South West Catchment Performance Manager , on 28/02/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	2.a. discharging via a 220mm pipe into the Taf estuary at SN28202 14939
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	2.a discharge via 220mm pipe into the Taf estuary at SN28202 14939

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	Overflow weir should be capped within 3 months (amended to 31st July on request and in agreement of DCWW)	31/07/2024
WQ-C1	Brick chamber should be repaired or replaced to ensure no unpermitted discharge.	31/07/2024

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.

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

PLEASE NOTE CAR FORM UPDATED 28.2.2025. see notes below.

At the time of the inspection all flow was passing through treatment within the works and discharge only via the formal sample point to the estuary.

Flows Permitted Discharge shall not exceed **1,925 m³/d / 22.3 l/s**. Flow meter at the time of the visits was 21.6 l/s, compliant.

Composition: Permitted limits are BOD: **40mg/l** and Suspended Solids: **60mg/l**. The OSM data for 2023 was checked prior to inspection and is within compliance of conditions.

Inlet to works screened with flows going to two balancing tanks on site prior to being distributed to the two percolating filters, both in operation at the time of the inspection.

An overflow channel situated in the flow splitting brick chamber upstream of the filter beds was found to be leaking effluent from the two sides and is in need of repair. The brick structure contains an informal block weir which could facilitate a storm overflow scenario. Operatives advised that the system is redundant as flows do not reach the level that would allow an overflow and that the system could be capped to avoid any discharge taking place. If a storm overflow system is required within the works a variation to the permit is required as the current permit does not authorise this. We have categorised this permit breach as a category 3 as the system as seen during the inspection could allow a discharge that is not authorised by the permit. We request that this potential discharge point is capped within 3 months from the date of this CAR form. **(amended to 31st July on request and in agreement of DCWW)**

The effluent from the leaking brick chamber was running to ground prior to full treatment and not leaving the site compound via the permitted discharge point. We have categorised this breach as a category 3 breach. We request that this leak is fixed within 3 months from the date of this CAR form. **(amended to 31st July on request and in agreement of DCWW)**

The sludge from site is held within secure holding tanks with material collected via tanker and treated off site at an authorised facility.

Sample chamber with suspended solids meter in situ. However operatives advised that the current arrangement causes false alarms as the probe is within the small channel of flowing effluent and needs to be in a relatively stable pool/body of water. The operatives advise that this is to be reconfigured in the future.

DCWW Operator visits 3 times per week routinely. Site record book checked and showed no ongoing issues within the site.

We did not identify any further breaches during our inspection.

Following this site visit please provide flow data for 2023 in order to evidence historical compliance with Condition 4 to 6 of the permit. Please provide this data within 30 days.



Image1. Showing overflow weir that could allow discharge outside of permit conditions.



Image 2. Showing leak of sewage from flow splitting chamber.

UPDATE 28.2.2025

Information received from DCWW that the works to both the breaches below have been completed with photographic evidence supplied to confirm actions completed.

1. Overflow weir should be capped
2. Brick chamber should be repaired or replaced to ensure no unpermitted discharge.

NRW are happy for the CAR to be closed.

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.