

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0046495

Permit being assessed: AE1014801

For: TAI PENLAN STW LLANILTERNE ,, held by CARDIFF COUNTY COUNCIL

At: TAI PENLAN STW LLANILTERNE ,, LLANILTERNE ,, LLANILTERNE ,, ,.

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

On 13/02/2025, between 10:00 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 2, 3, 4, 9

NRW Lead Officer: Charlotte Rhodes, accompanied by: Dai Walters.

Report sent to: Louis Talbot, Pumping Station SuDS Inspector, 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-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	C3 Minor	3(a)
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Installation of monitoring boreholes	C3 Minor	4
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B3	In relation to Condition 3(a) – Investigate the reasons behind removal of the grass plot and share any monitoring data held in order to demonstrate that this does not negatively affect the discharge quality or its permitted parameters.	31/03/2025
WQ-C4	Ensure access to the discharge to watercourse and sample point is maintained in accordance with Condition 4 and ahead of next visit.	14/03/2025
WQ-D1	Please share the results of this CCTV and any planned next steps.	07/03/2025
WQ-A1	Confirm when the next six-monthly service is due to take	14/03/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	place, as this now appears to be overdue.	
WQ-A1	Confirm how regularly the plant is desludged.	07/03/2025
WQ-B3	Please confirm if there is a solids/rag screen at the outlet point of the plant.	14/03/2025

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.

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

Introduction

On Thursday 13th February 2025, Officers C RHODES and D WALTERS visited Tai Penlan Sewage Treatment Works for a scheduled compliance inspection of permit **AE1014801**. Officers wish to thank the Pumping Station SuDS Inspector of Cardiff Council for meeting and showing them around site. The weather was dry but cold.

Permit background

This permitted asset previously serviced a number of Council-owned properties, however now only one remains under their ownership and there is an arrangement between the Council and those privately-owned. The discharge permit limits are unusually stringent, as shown below, though it is assumed this is due to its discharging into a small stream and servicing only a small number of properties.

Parameter	Permitted limit
BOD	5 mg/l
Suspended solids	15 mg/l

Package treatment plant

The package treatment plant is an older model of Klargester Biodisk, the process within which is as follows:

Inlet – primary settlement at the sides – liquor is released back into the middle where the rotating

shaft and media is located – final settlement chamber – discharge.



Left: inlet & primary settlement

Right: final settlement & outlet

It was unknown whether there is a screen at the point of discharge from the plant. Sludge return is also in action. There were a lot of solids and sludge seen in the primary chamber and inlet but only a trickle seen leaving the treatment plant and no effluent witnessed in the chambers closer to the discharge to watercourse. These chambers are located where the grass plot is meant to be located, however there has reportedly not been one for a number of years despite its mention in permit **Condition 3(a)**.



Left: view over former grass plot towards PTP Right: dry chamber nr grass plot and discharge point

In terms of site maintenance, new media was installed in February 2024 following 7 weeks of tankering as a result of the rotating shaft collapsing over the preceding Christmas period. The last plant service took place in June 2024 which found no issues with the plant itself, however is now due for another six-monthly service. The sample point and discharge to watercourse was also not easily accessible at the time of visit due to overgrowth.

During the visit the treatment plant was temporarily offline due to a new telemetry unit being fitted at the same time. Unfortunately this meant a representative sample was not able to be collected during the visit, and will be rearranged. It was discussed that Arch drainage were due to conduct a CCTV survey to identify the path and assess the condition of the pipework between the unit and the discharge point, the following Monday, which is currently unmapped or unclear. They are also known to be clay and hence could be leaking the effluent.

Compliance and Actions

In summary, the site is found to currently be **non-compliant** with Conditions 4 and 3(a), whilst Condition 6 was unable to be assessed at the time and will be re-arranged. Given that there is currently no discernible discharge reaching the watercourse, this is **not likely** to be having a notable environmental impact at present, but there is a risk this is leaking to ground which has not yet been confirmed. Resultant actions are listed below:

- 1. In relation to Condition 3(a) – Investigate the reasons behind removal of the grass plot**

and share any monitoring data held in order to demonstrate that this does not negatively affect the discharge quality or its permitted parameters.

- 2. Ensure access to the discharge to watercourse and sample point is maintained in accordance with Condition 4.**
- 3. Please share the results of this CCTV and any planned next steps.**
- 4. Confirm when the next six-monthly service is due to take place, as this now appears to be overdue.**
- 5. Confirm how regularly the plant is desludged.**
- 6. Please confirm if there is a solids/rag screen at the outlet point of the plant.**

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.