

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043022

Permit being assessed: AB0043501

For: COEDWAUNGAER STW SENNYBRIDGE ,, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: COEDWAUNGAER STW SENNYBRIDGE ,, SENNYBRIDGE ,, SENNYBRIDGE ,,
SENNYBRIDGE ,, ,.

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

On 29/11/2023, between 11:55 and 12:20.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

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

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 14/12/2023.

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	C3 Minor	7. The works shall be operated so as to prevent any matter being present in the effluent which will cause the receiving water to be poisonous or injurious to fish or to their spawn or spawning grounds or food, or to otherwise cause damage to the ecology of the receiving waters

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	Repair Syphon filter at the works. Increase site attendance until satisfied the issue is resolved	30/04/2024

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

This was an OSM site inspection conducted 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 with showers. We were shown through the works from the inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The works is a single filter bed works, which is entirely gravity powered and operates under a descriptive permit. The site is unmanned and there is no telemetry currently in place.

Inlet

The incoming flow to the site is from a gravity sewer serving a small number of properties. There is no screening in place at the inlet before flows pass to primary settlement. The inlet into the works is covered and flows head straight into the primary settlement tank.

Primary Settlement

The primary settlement tank at the works is a rectangular shaped tank, with a lower outlet height for retaining solids, similar in design to a septic tank. The tank can be accessed by removing heavy boards on the surface; however, this was not required as the outfall from the tank is clearly visible. The settlement tank appeared to be operating effectively and there were no signs of significant solids passing through to the next stage of treatment. There were no signs of significant solids passing through to secondary treatment.



There is a syphon in place following the outfall of primary settlement tanks. This is to allow water levels to build up to a suitable level before flows are sent through to the filter beds. This is due to the works being gravity powered and needing

to make sure there is ample hydrological pressure for the filter bed arms to function correctly. The syphon on arrival did not appear to be operating effectively, resulting in the filter beds not receiving enough hydraulic pressure to move a spare syphon was located on the side of the chamber which indicates that this may be an ongoing issue. Whilst on site attempts were made to rectify the problem



Filter Bed

The works contains a single filter bed of stone media. On arrival at the works the filter arm was not rotating but was discharging liquid onto the filter media. As a result of the lack of hydraulic pressure, the full filter bed media was not being utilised as the arms were not moving while discharging. This will have a negative effect on the treatment process as it reduces the contact area for bacterial breakdown of the sewerage.

The filter bed at the works was not operating effectively during this inspection. Efforts were made to get the syphon back functioning whilst on site.



Humus tank.

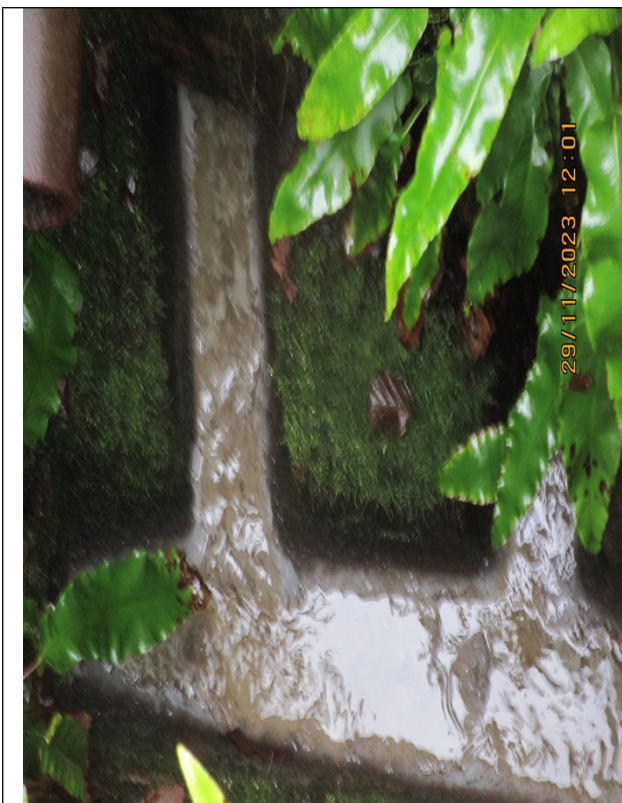
There is a single rectangular final settlement tank in operation at the work, with retention boards to hold back solids within the main chamber. On inspection the settlement tank had a heavy coverage of solids within the main chamber and a heavy white coverage of sewage fungus in the outfall chamber. This suggests that there has been a persistent stream of high ammonia effluent passing into the outfall, which is likely to be because of the issue with the syphon filter.

The outfall channel from the settlement tank has a heavy white blanket of fungus growth, which was also present in the pipe heading to the outfall of the works.



Outfall

The outfall of the works at the time of inspection was flowing with only a minimal amount of liquid, with a slight white coverage to the base of the pipe. The liquid flowing within the pipe appeared clear at the time, however the fungus growth within the pipe and final settlement outfall channel indicate that effluent has been passing through which has not been adequately treated and would have a negative impact on the receiving environment. This is therefore a breach of condition 7 of the permit.



We inspected the outfall into the river, and at the time there were no visible signs of an ongoing impact to the receiving watercourse. The river was running swiftly following rainfall in preceding days, which appears to have sufficiently diluted any polluting matter from the works outfall. Even with a minimum visual impact a noncompliance is appropriate, as insufficiently treated effluent will have an impact on water quality in the downstream watercourse.



Noncompliance-

7. The works shall be operated so as to prevent any matter being present in the effluent which will cause the receiving water to be poisonous or injurious to fish or to their spawn or spawning grounds or food, or to otherwise cause damage to the ecology of the receiving waters

This has been classified as a category 3 noncompliance, as this could potentially have a minor impact on the receiving watercourse.

Action required by 30/04/2024

DCWW should now investigate the cause of the syphon filter breakdown and make sufficient repairs. The results of the investigation and confirmation of repair completion should be provided to NRW by 30/04/2024

General Comments

The works is a small and slightly secluded works, servicing a small population. There are many trees around the works, which could potentially cause issues with leaf litter on the site, this was also present within the final settlement tank. The issue with the syphon on site is a concern. We were advised that the site is manned twice per week, however the build up of sewage fungus in the final settlement tank outfall suggests that the effluent has been high in ammonia for a longer period. It would be advisable to increase the frequency of operator visits at the site until the issue with the syphon has been fully resolved.

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.