

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048096

Permit being assessed: AN0303701

For: CARDIFF WWTW TIDE FIELD ROAD, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: CARDIFF WWTW, TIDE FIELD ROAD, TREMORFA, CARDIFF, CF24 5SD.

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

On 10/04/2025, between 10:00 and 11:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Relevant

NRW Lead Officer: Harry Warburton, accompanied by: Alexander Grainger.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 23/04/2025.

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	18. The consent holder shall maintain the outfall pipe in an efficient operational condition, so as to minimise the probability of blockages or other failures, and shall implement periodic inspections of the integrity and performance of the diffusers and outfall pipe.
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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-C1	Provide the maintenance schedule and inspections to the outfall pipe and diffusers as per condition 18.	26/05/2025
WQ-B2	Provide an update on the progress to the UMON 3/4 flow monitors.	26/05/2025
WQ-C1	How does DCWW record and evidence the temperature stability of the sample effluent within the autosampler throughout the 24-hour sample program to ensure it is compliant with UWWD regulations.	26/05/2025

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.

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

Compliance inspection of Cardiff STW permit AN0303701 undertaken by Environment Officers Harry Warburton and Alex Grainger. Accompanied by DCWW. Weather at the time was dry.

Prior to the inspection we had a site introduction and discussed matters of the site. It was asked regarding the maintenance of the outfall pipe and diffusers as per condition 18 of the permit. DCWW operators said they aren't aware of any inspections ever taking place of the outfall pipe and diffusers to ensure its effectiveness.

The site consists of 6 inlet pumps which pumps 1,000 litres per second per pump, passing forward the full 6000 litres per second to treatment when required. There is no storm provision for the site, the storm discharges are done via the Eastern district pumping station.

There is a trade and domestic inlet point at the works inlet which takes tankers from off site locations.

At the inlet there are 5x larger bar screens to break up larger rag, followed by a series of mechanical fine screens which come online depending on flow. The rag is sent to a compactor and removed 3-4x a week. There is also 3x grit removal mechanisms. There is an influent UWWTR sampling point here that was also inspected. The refrigeration unit was frozen over, this may lead to issues in providing a stable temperature for the sample over a 24 hour period.



Following the inlet is a series of 16 SBR tanks, in groups of 4. They are in a sequence of aeration and settlement at intervals of 4 hours, with 2 hours of filling and aeration, 1 hour and settling, then 1 hour of decanting. These were in good order.



Following the SBR tanks the effluent enters a final effluent chamber and sample point. As well as the UWWTR final effluent sample point. There were two containers for this, one of

them was not connected with the hosing, however the one that had connected hosing did not have a sample container in the refrigeration unit.

Actions:

- Provide the maintenance schedule and inspections to the outfall pipe and diffusers as per condition 18.
- Provide an update on the progress to the UMON 3/4 flow monitors.
- How does DCWW record and evidence the temperature stability of the sample effluent within the autosampler throughout the 24-hour sample program to ensure it is compliant with UWWD regulations.

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.