

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0048795

**Permit being assessed:** AA0001901

For: Devauden Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Well Lane, Devauden, Chepstow, NP16 6NX.

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

On 09/07/2025, between 10:00 and 10:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Site

**NRW Lead Officer:** Alastair Krzyzosiak.

**Report sent to:** cars@dwrcymru.gov.uk, cars@dwrcymru.gov.uk, on 11/07/2025.

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

| Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)          | Assessment result | Permit condition |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management | C3 Minor          | 2.2              |
| WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management | C3 Minor          | 1                |
| WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management | C3 Minor          | 1                |
| WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site           | 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-A1    | Any faults in the filter bed walls should be repaired and made water tight.                                                                                                                                                                             | 11/10/2025  |
| WQ-A1    | Moss and leaf litter/vegetation must be regularly removed from the filter medium. Consider cutting back the conifers to prevent so much debris falling on the filter medium. And/or consider covering the filter bed to prevent debris falling into it. | 11/10/2025  |
| WQ-A1    | Clear vegetation and repair Lambs Tails / Cora Brushes. Bring the offline tank back online.                                                                                                                                                             | 11/10/2025  |
| WQ-B2    | Provide a summary of any proposed improvements for the site (if any). What improvement programmes are the site listed on? What are the proposed delivery schedules?                                                                                     | 11/10/2025  |

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**

Weather at time of inspection: Sunny / dry

No emergency overflow and no screens at this works.

The flow into the site is split between two alternative Primary Settlement Tanks (PSTs). These are used on a rotational basis every few weeks. While one is in use, the other is emptied and cleaned. This is because of previous problems of crust build up in the PSTs. This is referred to in CAR\_NRW0042888, 26/10/23. The photo below shows the incoming flow split into two, with one route shut off.



Both PSTs flow into a single distribution chamber where the 'settled primary' is split into the filter beds. This looked clean, with no crust flowing over from the PSTs.



During times of low flow, there is a return from the filter beds to the ‘settled primary’ to stop the system drying out.



There was leaf litter / tree debris and moss on the filter bed medium from the overhanging trees, particularly the conifers which were (presumably?) once planted to screen off the site from the adjacent road.



**ACTION:** Moss and leaf litter/vegetation must be regularly removed from the filter medium.

Consider cutting back the conifers to prevent so much debris falling on the filter medium. And/or consider covering the filter bed to prevent debris falling into it.



Some of the filter bed masonry was in poor condition, with cracks in the mortar and missing bricks. It is possible that a small quantity of effluent was leaching out from the bottom of one wall.

**ACTION:** Any faults in the filter bed walls should be repaired and made water tight.







The final discharge was clear, with no sludge being carried over. However, there was a build up of sludge in the hummus tanks. There was also vegetation growth on the Lambs Tails / Cora Brushes. One of the tanks has been taken offline and the brushes are broken.

**ACTION:** Clear vegetation and repair Lambs Tails / Cora Brushes. Bring the offline tank back online.

CAR\_NRW0042888 (2023) referenced that cleaning the lambs tails is difficult due to their location under the walkways. As was stated previously, consideration should be given to moving the lambs tails to allow easier/safer access for cleaning.



The flow meter for the outlet showed a reading of 0.59l/s.

The final effluent sampling point is clearly marked.

**ACTION:** Provide a summary of any proposed improvements for the site (if any). What improvement programmes are the site listed on? What are the proposed delivery schedules?

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.