

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049741

Permit being assessed: BA1002401

For: Hirwaun Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF44 9UN.

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

On 21/10/2025, between 10:15 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: All

NRW Lead Officer: Natalie Wrangham.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, mailbox, on 22/10/2025.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	Assessed (A)	

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

2. What action is required?

No action required.

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

Site report

Senior Environment Officer of Cwm Taf and Bridgend Environment Team carried out an

inspection at Hirwaun Wastewater Treatment Works for permit BA1002401. In attendance from DCWW were the Catchment Performance Manager and the AGA Operational Supervisor for Central East.

Weather was dry, but there had been intermittent rainfall over the previous 24 hours.

At the time of the visit the influent was overtopping the weir into the storm channel to the storm tanks. All 3 tanks were at capacity and discharging via the permitted storm outfall. The flow into the works at the time of observation was fluctuating between 25.5 and 26.2 l/s (Image 1). Table S3.1 in schedule 3 of the permit states that the flow passed forward for the influent to pass to storm should be 26l/s. Therefore the flow into the works was adequate to allow a flow to storm in accordance with the permit, also allowing for the +/- 8% uncertainty as specified in condition 3.3.13 (a) of the permit. Inflow meter showed MCERTS certification was in date.



Image 1: flow passed forward meter

DCWW explained that one of the Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) units, RBC no.3 was still out of action. An OPNOT for this issue was received on 29/08/2024 stating that the RBC had been taken out of service due to a faulty gearbox. This was initially to be replaced the following week however following further complications ordering parts and issues with contractors, the replacement is now taking place this week, with the RBC no.3 to be reinstated on 23/10/2025. Extra monitoring has been carried out on site whilst this issue

has been ongoing.



Image 2: RBC no.3

The effluent from the secondary treatment / settlement tanks looked clear, with no sign of scum build up on the boards / weir (see image 3 below). The effluent then went to the reedbed for tertiary treatment / polishing.



Image 3: Secondary treatment / settlement tank

The final effluent discharging from the works was clear. No sign of debris or discoloration and no odour.



Image 4: Final effluent discharge point

On site logs were up to date and detailed. No outstanding issues noted other than the RBC no.3.

DCWW explained that once the RBC no.3 was re-commissioned, they would look at moving the input location of the washwater effluent from Hirwaun Water Treatment Works from the head of the works to the primary settlement stage. This is because there is no rag or debris in the washwater, other than solids which need to be settled out. This input is metered (MCERTS) and would still count towards the total flow input to the works. It was noted that the Autosampler for UWWTD at the final effluent sample point may not be in use, however it is believed that a portable unit is used to sample at this site. To be confirmed.

Breaches of permit conditions

No breaches of permit observed

Contact details:

If you have any queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions

above, please contact me using the following email address:
cwmtaf&bridgendconsultations@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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.