

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0037445

Permit being assessed: BH0073802

For: VERWIG STW VERWIG NR CARDIGAN DYFED, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: VERWIG STW, VERWIG, NR CARDIGAN, DYFED, .

Type of assessment carried out: Audit, Reason: Routine.

On 21/08/2020, between 10:00 and 11:00.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria below

NRW Lead Officer: Jeremy Goddard, accompanied by: Emma Sharp.

Report sent to: CARS inbox, CARS inbox, on 02/02/2021.

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-C1 - 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	Please review the EDM storm spill data provided and confirm whether it is correct or whether there has been a problem with the monitoring equipment. If the readings are correct, please confirm in writing why the sewage works is discharging to storm so frequently and why it discharged to storm continuously between 11/11/2019 and 04/04/20?	15/03/2021

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

To be used in conjunction with Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0037444, which is the audit of the discharge permit at Ferwig STW.

Present at the audit: Jeremy Goddard, Emma Sharp (both NRW), Sarah Mowlam and Michael Jones (both DCWW).

Storm Discharge:

Ferwig STW has an active storm discharge permit – BH0073802, issued in 1993. A new storm discharge permit to incorporate EDM conditions has not yet been issued as there is an associated AMP7 driver which Natural Resources Wales require clarification upon. An EDM meter has however been installed on site.

Only flows exceeding 1.6 litres per second should go to storm and these should first go to a storm tank with a minimum volume of 30 cubic metres. The volume of the storm tank volume was not captured during the site visit. There are no flow metres on site apart from the recently installed EDM meter. As there is no flow meter on the inlet, we are unable to determine at what flow rate the works spills to storm.

The EDM meter is recording storm discharge volumes but there is no permit with associated conditions to regulate it against as of yet.

We have concerns in relation to the data provided by the EDM meter in relation to storm discharges for this asset. According to the data provided there were 182 separate spills blocks between 21/08/2019 and 20/08/2020. Within those 182 separate spills blocks there were 12 spill events made up of an initial 12-hour block or an initial 12-hour block followed by subsequent 24-hour blocks.

There are a number of these spill events that cause concern and bring into question whether there is an issue with the functionality of the sewer system (network and /or treatment works) or a problem with the EDM meter. Between 19:00 hours on 11/11/2019 and 07:00 hours on 04/04/2020 there was a continuous storm discharge event. Out of the 13,873 separate 15-minute intervals recorded the sewage works was only not discharging to storm on 43 occasions. This is a period of just short of 5 months continuously discharging to storm which is very concerning. It is also concerning that in the data provided the sewage works the Estimated Total Spill Duration was 241,050 minutes.

ACTION: Please review the data provided and confirm whether it is correct or whether there has been a problem with the monitoring equipment. If the readings are correct, please confirm in writing why the sewage works is discharging to storm so frequently and why it discharged to storm continuously between 11/11/2019 and 04/04/20?

ENDS

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.