

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0039049

Permit being assessed: AW1000501

For: BEULAH STW BEULAH POWYS WALES, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: BEULAH SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, BEULAH, POWYS, WALES, .

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

On 03/12/2021, between 10:03 and 10:35.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding, accompanied by: Ffion Roberts.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 09/12/2021.

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-B2 - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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

This was a pre-planned OSM site inspection carried out by Natural Resources Wales Officers Robert Harding and Ffion Roberts We were shown around the site by the following DCWW representatives
Lowri Davies- Operations Supervisor
James Jones – ICA Technician
Chris Edwards- Catchment Management
Owen Bowers– Process Technician

The weather during the visit was overcast with intermittent showers. We were shown through the works from inlet through to the outfall.

General Observations

The STW is a single filter bed works. It is unmanned and has telemetry in place for monitoring. There is a storm discharge present under Permit AN0337901. The works was in the process of having new guard rails installed around the storm and sludge return tanks.

Inlet

The incoming flow to the site is pumped up to the inlet point. The inlet does not have screening in place, as the incoming effluent has already passed through pumping systems by this point. No rag or solids were observed in the inlet channel during the visit.



Primary Settlement and storm weir.

The primary settlement tank at the works is an older square shaped tank, with wooden scum boards for retaining solids. Overall, the settlement system appeared to be operating effectively. There were no signs of significant solids entering the outfall channel. Some sewage fungus was present on the outside of the scum boards; however, this does not likely affect effluent quality. There was EDM located on the primary tank.



The outfall from the primary settlement tank leads to a syphon chamber, the purpose of which is to control flows so there is enough hydrological pressure for the rotating filter bed arms and final settlement to operate. This is because the works is gravity powered.



The storm weir at the works is a pipe located on the side of the primary tank, once the water level reaches the pipe the works will start running to storm. The storm channel is a shared channel with the sludge return channel. Leading into three separate brick tanks, with manually operated penstocks for directing flow to storm or sludge return



Filter Bed

The works contains a single filter bed of stone media. The rotation arm was moving free and unhindered. There was one blocked distribution point on the arm, however the rotating arm appeared to be distributing effectively. There were no signs of ponding or dry patches across the filter bed and no excessive vegetation growth. The brickwork around the filter bed was in several areas in need of replacement. See advisories. A metal bund has been installed on the downhill side of the filter bed. I did not observe any leakage at the time of inspection. There is a Centre column release valve present on the filter bed.



Humus Tank

The humus tank appeared to be operating effectively and there were no signs of solids in the outfall channels.

There was a build-up of foam present on the surface of the humus tank, however this contained within the scum board. This may be a sign of high nutrient load within the effluent. The effluent within the outfall was clear and there were no signs of concern.



Outfall and Sampling point

The final effluent from the humus tank passes through a Magflow flow meter, which appeared to be operating as required and accessible for inspection. It is located just before a bend in the pipe, which is not ideal but also not a breach of permit conditions. The sample point is clearly marked with appropriate signage including the sample point number. The outfall did contain some leaf litter however effluent was flowing freely to the outfall.



Storm Tanks and Sludge return

The storm tanks and sludge tanks are brick wall constructed and appear in need of maintenance. There are several areas where bricks are broken and worn. New handrails were in the process of being installed around the tanks. The flow is diverted to storm or sludge return manually by moving penstocks on the inlet channel, at the time of inspection the penstocks were diverting any flow towards the storm tanks.



The storm tanks contained water but was well below the level where it would discharge via the storm channel. There is EDM equipment present on the final part of the storm tank, which appeared in working order. The outfall for the storm tank. On the outfall there is a COPA sack present for removal of any larger solids or rag, this appeared clear of any blockages.

*****Breach of Storm Permit*****

Just below the COPA sack in the outfall channel, there was water leaking through the wall of the Storm Tank and into the storm outfall channel. This constitutes a discharge to via the storm outlet outside of storm conditions. The flow was low at the time, however as the tank is leaking it increased the likelihood that it will fail. A failing storm tank has the potential for higher environmental impact to the receiving watercourse. I am classifying this as a category 2 breach under the relevant Storm Permit (AN0337901) condition 4(a) which states

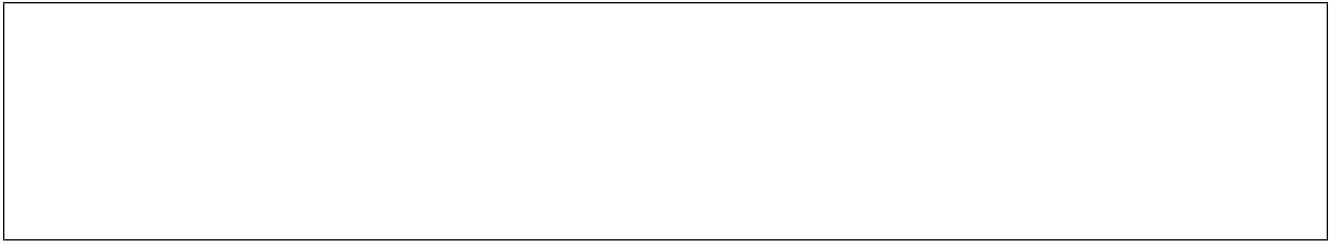
“The discharge shall occur when and only for as long as the storm sewage facility is fully utilised and the rate of flow at the storm overflow chamber is in excess of 3 litres per second due to rainfall and/snow melt.”

General Comments

The works visually needs some maintenance and updating, specifically the filter bed housing and storm tanks.

The EDM equipment is appearing to monitor levels within the storm tank, but not the outfall. Which could pose a risk as there is no direct indication of when discharges are occurring.

In terms of works operation, it appears the treatment process is producing effluent within consented limits.



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.