



This form will report compliance with your permit as determined by an Environment Agency officer

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----|-------|
| Site | LANGHAM (ESSEX) STW, LANGHAM, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO4 5QE | | Permit Ref | ASENF1116 | | |
| Operator/ Permit holder | ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES LIMITED | | | | | |
| Date | 18/12/2023 | | Time in | 10:30 | Out | 11:30 |
| What parts of the permit were assessed | Wastewater Treatment Works secondary treated sewage effluent | | | | | |
| Assessment Type | Site inspection: Wastewater Treatment Works - Operator Self Monitoring (OSM) | EPR Activity: | Water Discharge | | | |
| Recipient's name/position | Anglian Water Services Limited | | | | | |
| Officer's name | David Free, M. Neale, G. Reeder | | Date issued | 26/02/2024 | | |

Section 1 - Compliance Assessment Summary

This is based on the requirements of the permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. A detailed explanation and any action you may need to take are given in the "Detailed Assessment of Compliance" (section 3). This summary details which conditions we have assessed, where we believe any non-compliance with the permit has occurred, the relevant condition and how the non-compliance has been categorised using our [Compliance Classification Scheme](#) (CCS). For more details of our CCS scheme, contact your [local office](#).

KEY: C1, C2, C3, C4 = CCS breach category A = Assessed (no evidence of non-compliance)

| Activities and Permit Conditions Assessed | CCS Category | Condition(s) breached |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Wastewater Treatment Works secondary treated sewage effluent | | |
| 2.1b. WRA Nature of discharge (a1) | C3 | 1.3.1 |
| 2.1b. WRA Nature of discharge (a1) | C3 | 1.2.1 |
| 2.2a. The site authorised discharge points (a1) | A | |
| 3.1c. No visible oil (e3) | A | |
| 3.3a. OSM Sampling (g1) | A | |
| 3.3j. MCERTS Requirements (g1) | A | |
| 3.3k. Accessible sample point (g1) | C4 | 1.4.1 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Descriptive Works Fail | N/A | Number of breaches recorded | 3 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|----------|

If the total no of breaches is greater than zero, then please see Section 3 for details of our proposed enforcement response

Section 2 – Compliance Assessment Report Detail

This section contains a report of our findings and will usually include information on:

- the part(s) of the permit that were assessed (e.g. maintenance, training etc)
- where the type of assessment was 'Data Review' details of the report/results triggering the assessment
- any non-compliances identified
- any non-compliances with directly applicable legislation
- details of any multiple non-compliances
- details of advice given
- any other areas of concern
- all actions requested
- any examples of good practice.
- a reference to photos taken

This report should be clear, comprehensive, unambiguous and normally completed within 14 days of an assessment.

Inlet works

Incoming flow enters the onsite sewage pumping station (SPS) which contain two pumps. We were advised the site suffers from high incoming flow which is thought to be due to infiltration in the network. The operator reports the wet well can rise and overflow into the adjacent sludge well. There were no signs of either well overflowing to surrounding ground at the time of the inspection. A generator plug in socket is available at the SPS in the event of mains power failure.

Flows are pumped to the raised inlet by the entrance gate. We could see that incoming sewage appeared visually dilute. A proportion of flow was passing through the mechanical screw screen and on to the balancing tank. Some flow was bypassing the screen, discharging directly to the balancing tank. A manhole adjacent to the balancing tank was seen intermittently surcharging as pumps in the onsite SPS operated. Effluent leaving the manhole was flowing down the access road, towards the SPS where it was entering a gully which drains back to the SPS. We were advised the gully had blocked with leaves earlier in the morning and effluent flowed down the site towards the site office. It appears that effluent has run over unsurfaced ground at the rear of the office, entered a drain and discharged to Black Brook in the southeast corner of the site. Some effluent from the surcharging manhole was also flowing onto unsurfaced ground by the filters. These discharges are both in breach of permit conditions 1.2.1 and 1.3.1.

We were advised the site is visited five days a week and discussed that more regular checks would be undertaken in the short term.

Action: Please provide details of plans and action taken to address the issues relating to overflows that were observed during this inspection.

Action: Please provide details of action already taken and planned to investigate infiltration in this WRC catchment, along with longer term plans for the WRC.

Primary treatment

Two primary tanks are provided and both were in use. Both tanks were surcharged as the outlet weirs were flooded due to high incoming flows. Works to install new desludging equipment have been undertaken to prepare for a new phosphorous removal scheme. We were advised that a new flow meter is also due to be installed as part of the scheme.

Secondary treatment

Two filters are provided and both were seen to be in use. In places, thick plant growth is present on the filter surface. Parts of the filter were not freely draining as ponding could be seen and grey biofilm present on filter media. Some minor cracks could be seen on filter walls.

Final settlement

Two humus tanks are provided and both were in use. Both tanks were surcharged and the outlet weirs flooded due to high incoming flows.

Tertiary treatment

A grass plot is available but was not in use at the time of the inspection.

Sampling arrangements

The final effluent sample point is clearly labelled at the inlet to the flume. A representative sample could be taken from the channel with care, avoiding touching the bed and sides.

The NGR provided for the sample point in condition 1.4.1 of the permit is located close to the western filter. Samples are taken at the flow measurement flume near the outlet.

Action: Apply to vary the permit to specify the correct final effluent sample point location.

Flow measurement

Flow is measured by a flume at the outlet. The radar sensor head and flume appeared clear of debris/ obstructions. The instantaneous flow meter display was reading 27.48 litres/second.

Vegetation overhanging into the flume chamber was not causing any interference but should be trimmed back before it grows further.

Action: Trim overhanging vegetation at outlet of flow measurement flume.

Environmental impact assessment

A steady flow could be seen in Black Brook following wet weather. No sewage debris or sewage fungus was seen.

Additional comments

A new bunded liquid iron storage tank has been installed by the inlet SPS as part of the new phosphorous removal scheme.

Photograph 1- overflowing inspection chamber by site gate



Photograph 2- sewage flowing down the site to a gully connected to the SPS. Evidence of overflow running further down the site from earlier gully blockage



Photograph 3- residues by office from earlier gully blockage



Photograph 4- gaps around inspection cover by site office



Photograph 5- outfall by site office



Photograph 6- residues on unsurfaced land from overflow at the inlet



Photograph 7- flows bypassing screen and discharging to balancing tank via larger diameter pipe



Photograph 8- balancing tank. Left pipe is screened flow. Right pipe is screen bypass flow



Photograph 9- surcharged primary tank



Photograph 10- ponding and plant growth



Photograph 11- ponding and grey biofilm on part of filter media



Photograph 12- surcharged humus tanks



Photograph 13- grass plot (not in use at the time of inspection)



Photograph 14- flow meter



Photograph 15- final effluent sample point



Photograph 16- vegetation overhanging flume



| Section 3- Enforcement Response | | Only one of the boxes below should be ticked |
|---|--|---|
| You must take immediate action to rectify any non-compliance and prevent repetition. Non-compliance with your permit conditions constitutes an offence and can result in criminal prosecutions and/or suspension or revocation of a permit. Please read the detailed assessment in Section 2 and the steps you need to take in Section 4 below. | | |
| Other than the provision of advice and guidance, at present we do not intend to take further enforcement action in respect of the non-compliance identified above. This does not preclude us from taking enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or advice isn't followed. | | |
| In respect of the above non-compliance you have been issued with a warning. At present we do not intend to take further enforcement action. This does not preclude us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue. | | X |
| We will now consider what enforcement action is appropriate and notify you, referencing this form. | | |

| Section 4- Action(s) | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| Where non-compliance has been detected and an enforcement response has been selected above, this section summarises the steps you need to take to return to compliance and also provides timescales for this to be done. | | | |
| Where the CCS Category is marked N/A then the specified action does not relate to a permit condition. | | | |
| Criteria Ref. | CCS Category | Action Required / Advised | Due Date |
| See Section 1 above | | | |
| 1 - 2.1b | C3 | Please provide details of plans and action taken to address the issues relating to overflows that were observed during this inspection. | 18/03/2024 |
| 1 - 2.1b | C3 | Please provide details of action already taken and planned to investigate infiltration in this WRC catchment, along with longer term plans for the WRC. | 18/03/2024 |
| 1 - 3.3k | C4 | Apply to vary the permit to specify the correct final effluent sample point location. | 18/03/2024 |
| OA01 | N/A | Trim overhanging vegetation at outlet of flow measurement flume. | 18/03/2024 |

Section 5 - Compliance notes for the Operator

To ensure you correct actual or potential non-compliance we may

- advise on corrective actions verbally or in writing
- require you to take specific actions in writing
- issue a notice
- require you to review your procedures or management system
- change some of the conditions of your permit
- decide to undertake a full review of your permit

Any breach of a permit condition is an offence and we may take legal action against you.

- We will normally provide advice and guidance to assist you to come back into compliance either after an offence is committed or where we consider that an offence is likely to be committed. This is without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.
- Enforcement action can include the issue of a formal caution, prosecution, the service of a notice and or suspension or revocation of the permit.
- A civil sanction Enforcement Undertaking (EU) offer may also be available to you as an alternative enforcement response for this/these offence(s).

See our Enforcement and Civil Sanctions guidance for further information

This report does not relieve the site operator of the responsibility to

- ensure you comply with the conditions of the permit at all times and prevent pollution of the environment
- ensure you comply with other legislative provisions which may apply.

Non-compliance categories

| CCS category | Description |
|--------------|---|
| C1 | A non-compliance which could have a major environmental effect |
| C2 | A non-compliance which could have a significant environmental effect |
| C3 | A non-compliance which could have a minor environmental effect |
| C4 | A non-compliance which has no potential environmental effect |

Section 6 – General Information

Data protection notice

The information on this form will be processed by the Environment Agency to fulfill its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s). The Environment Agency may also use and/or disclose it in connection with:

- offering/providing you with its literature/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 and taking any resulting action
- preventing breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving its service
- Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Information Regulations request.

The Environment Agency may pass it on to its agents/representatives to do these things on its behalf. You should ensure that any persons named on this form are informed of the contents of this data protection notice.

Disclosure of information

The Environment Agency will provide a copy of this report to the public register(s). However, if you consider that any information contained in this report should not be released to the public register(s) on the grounds of commercial confidentiality, you must write to your local area office within 28 days of receipt of this form indicating which information it concerns and why it should not be released, giving your reasons in full.

Customer charter

What can I do if I disagree with this compliance assessment report?

A permit holder can challenge any part of the CAR form by writing to the Environment Agency office local to the site within 28 days of receipt. If the issue cannot be resolved by the local office, a permit holder may request an appeal of the regulatory decision by emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk within 14 days of receipt of the outcome.

If you are still dissatisfied, you can make a complaint to the Ombudsman. For advice on how to complain to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman phone their helpline on 0345 015 4033.