

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0044008

**Permit being assessed:** BC0021001

For: PONTYBEREM WWTW PONTYBEREM CARMS, held by DWR CYMRU  
CYFYNGEDIG

At: PONTYBEREM WWTW, PONTYBEREM, CARMARTHENSHIRE, WALES, SA15 5EB.

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

On 04/03/2024, between 09:00 and 17:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 2, 3.1.1 & 3.1.2

**NRW Lead Officer:** Keiran Jones, accompanied by: Joseph Callard.

**Report sent to:** CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 12/04/2024.

### 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)	

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 audit carried out by Natural Resources Wales Environment Officers on 05/03/2024 who were accompanied by a Senior Operative and Performance Manager from Dwr Cymru.

The weather was dry at the time of the visit with moderate rainfall the day before on 04/03/2024.

#### **General Observations**

The site is a Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) that processes sewage effluent. The permit (BC0021001 01) for the site is for the discharge of secondary treated sewage effluent. Final effluent from the site is discharged to the Gwendraeth Fawr.

Officers were taken through the works from inlet, through the treatment system, before finishing at the final effluent sampling station. The discharge point was not inspected due to lack of access.

The site is visited daily by Dwr Cymru. A selection of entries in the site logbook was checked and no ongoing issues were identified.

### **The Process**

Effluent enters the works at the inlet and passes through two screens. The screenings are emptied into a skip which is emptied when needed. Effluent then moves into a chemical dosage and grit settlement channel. There is a flow monitor on this channel which showed that 86.66 l/s was being received by the works at the time of the visit. Effluent also undergoes chemical dosing within the inlet.



**Figure 1: The image on the left shows the screens in operation at the inlet to the works. The image on the right shows the grit settlement channel.**

There is a storm overflow weir on the inlet which transfers effluent into two storm tanks. The storm tanks were full during the visit with effluent being discharged into the watercourse.

Effluent is then distributed amongst three Primary Settlement Tanks (PST). Settled sludge in the PST's is transferred to a secure sludge holding tank. The tank is emptied three days a week, with sludge being transferred away from site.



**Figure 2: An image of the PST at the works.**

Following PST, a splitting chamber distributes effluent amongst four percolating filter beds for secondary treatment. There were cracks visible in the brickwork of the splitting chamber. No leaks were seen at the time of visit but further deterioration in the brickwork may lead to effluent leaking out of the splitting chamber.



**Figure 3: An image of a crack in the brickwork of the splitting chamber.**

The distribution arms on the percolating filter bed were in good working operation. There was some vegetation growth on the surface of the biofilter media which may impede on the system's efficacy.



**Figure 4: An image of vegetation growth on one of the percolating filter beds at the works.**



Effluent then goes into a humus tank and is then pumped into two aeration towers for further secondary treatment. Effluent is then distributed amongst six rapid gravity filters (RGF). These systems appeared to be in good working order at the time of the visit.

**Figure 5: The image on the left shows one of the aeration towers in operation at the site. The image on the right shows the RGF in operation at the site, with two storm tanks and a sludge holding tank also shown further back.**

Treated effluent is then discharged to the Gwendraeth Fawr.

### **Advisory Comments**

- Maintain and carry out appropriate repairs on splitting chamber brickwork.
- Maintain the surface of the percolating filter beds in regard to vegetation growth.

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.