

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0045585

**Permit being assessed:** BC0020401

For: FELINDRE STW FELINDRE SWANSEA, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG  
At: FELINDRE STW, FELINDRE, SWANSEA, SWANSEA CBC, .

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

On 15/10/2024, between 10:15 and 11:15.

Parts of permit assessed: Operations, Emissions and Monitoring

**NRW Lead Officer:** Sarah Bennett, accompanied by: Catherine Tucker.

**Report sent to:** CARS@dwrwymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 08/11/2024.

### 1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - 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 could you provide an explanation of the rational behind installing the new MCERT flow meter and EDM monitor so we can get a better understanding of flow management/measurement at the works.	31/01/2025

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

On the 15 October 2024 you accompanied us on an inspection of Felindre Sewage Treatment Works. It was drizzling on and off at the time of the visit and there had been rainfall in the days preceding.

Felindre STW is a relatively small works serving a population equivalent of 197 with a Dry Weather Flow of 77 m<sup>3</sup>/per day. There is no permit in place to discharge storm sewage. The existing permit was issued in 1983 and appears not to have been varied or reviewed since then.

During our visit we walked though the whole works from the inlet to the outlet. The incoming sewage is screened by a 6mm screen. The screenings are macerated after they are removed for ease of collection and any liquid is centrifuged out and back into the flows. Grit is removed in the grit trap before entering the primary tanks. A leak in the bottom of one of the primary tanks had been temporarily repaired. The leak was contained in the site drainage.

The flows then pass through a new MCERT flow meter before going into the syphon chamber to be distributed between the 2 biological filter beds. The treated effluent then flows though the final tanks before being discharged to the outfall which has, in this order, a recirculation chamber, a blending chamber for effluent from the reed/filter bed, a final effluent sample point and an MCERT flow meter.

The final effluent at the sample point was clear. We inspected the river at the outfall and could see no visible impact on the water or riverbed. The results from the Operator Self-Monitoring samples are well within the numeric limits in the permit. This works is not subject to UWW sampling.

You informed us that the works experiences periods of high flows which cannot be passed through the treatment described above. These excess flows are diverted off the inlet channel after the screens to a settlement chamber followed by a reed/filter bed. The effluent is then blended with the rest of the effluent prior to the final effluent sample point and MCERT flow meter at the end of the works. There was an EDM monitor at the end of the reed/filter bed.

At the time of our visit the new MCERT flow meter at the front end of the works was measuring 1.78 l/s and the old MCERT flow meter at the end of the works was measuring 1.86 l/s. All flows were passing through the main part of the works at the time of our visit with none being diverted to the reed/filter bed. During high flows not all flows being passed forward for treatment will be measured by the new meter.

In addition to the new MCERT flow meter installed between the primary tanks and the biological filter beds, a new EDM monitor had been installed in the inlet channel. EDM monitors are normally installed to measure the duration and number of storm spills either to or from a storm tank. However, this works does not have any provision to discharge storm sewage to the environment.

**Action: Please could you provide an explanation of the rational behind installing the new MCERT flow meter and EDM monitor so we can get a better understanding of flow management/measurement at the works.**

Thank you.

End

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.