

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045688

Permit being assessed: BP0295601

For: Aberbanc Sewage Pumping Station, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Heol Y Merwydd, Llandysul, Ceredigion, SA44 5NP.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Incident Response
(Incident number: 2414102).

On 02/11/2024.

Parts of permit assessed: 2.1.1

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 22/11/2024.

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	C3 Minor	2.1.1

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B1	Repair faulty non-return valve (NRV) and confirm what actions will be taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident.	03/01/2025

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

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) received a self-reporting WATPOL from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) (WIRS 2414102) following a discharge at Aberbanc Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) between 11:42 hours and 13:10 hours on the 02 November 2024. A DCWW Operative attended site within an hour of the alarm being raised and found one pump to be blocked by a third-party metal object and another pump not passing forward flow due to a faulty non-return valve (NRV). The third-party metal object, as shown in the photograph below, was removed from the impacted pump, stopping the discharge at 13:10 hours. The

faulty NRV was unable to be repaired on the 02 November 2024. Whilst waiting for the NRV to be repaired, DCWW have raised the alarm level at the SPS to ensure that the site is attended as a high priority in the event that a further issue is encountered with the remaining working pump.



Third-party metal object which blocked one pump at Aberbanc SPS on 02 November 2024 (photograph courtesy of DCWW)

Condition 2.1.1 of Aberbanc SPS permit (BP0295601) states that the only activities authorised by the permit are discharges of storm sewage and sewage in an emergency as shown in table S1.1 below.

Table S1.1 Activities		
Activity reference	Description of activity	Limits of specified activity
A1	Discharge of storm sewage via POINT OF DISCHARGE	N/A
A2	Discharge of sewage in emergency via POINT OF DISCHARGE	<p>An emergency shall be defined as the period when the sewage pumping station is inoperative as a result of one or more of the following, which is not due to the act or default of the operator, its agents, representatives, officers, employees or servants;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electrical power failure; • mechanical breakdown of duty and standby pumps; • rising main failure; • blockage of the downstream sewer.

The discharge from Aberbanc SPS on the 02 November 2024 cannot be considered to have been a storm discharge as it did not occur due to rainfall and/or snow melt as specified by condition 2.3.2(a). The discharge can also not be considered to have been a discharge of sewage in an emergency as one of the two pumps at the SPS was inoperative due to a faulty NRV which comes under the act and default of the operator, DCWW. For this reason, a category 3 non-compliance has been recorded above against condition 2.1.1. A category 3 non-compliance represents a non-compliance which has the potential to have a minor or

minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.

Given the third-party contribution to the above non-compliance, no warning has been issued. NRW do however ask DCWW to repair the faulty NRV and confirm what actions will be taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident by no later than the **03 January 2025**.

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.

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.