

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045986

Permit being assessed: AG0011401

For: Peterston-super-Ely Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU
CYFYNGEDIG

At: Track past '1 Little Avenue', Wyndham Park, Peterston-super-Ely, Vale of Glamorgan,
CF5 6LR.

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

On 09/01/2025, between 12:00 and 12:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 2.2, 2.3, 3.1.1, 3.2, 3.3.2-4 and 4.1.

NRW Lead Officer: Charlotte Rhodes, accompanied by: Harry Warburton.

Report sent to: DCWW CARS mailbox, DCWW CARS mailbox, on 28/01/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C3 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Installation of monitoring boreholes	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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-B3	We recommend clearing the inlet bar screen proactively when it starts to build up like this, in relation to Condition 2.3.2(b).	28/02/2025
WQ-A1	Confirm cleaning frequency of the FST and investigate the cause of floating sludge during visit. Confirm how this will be managed going forward.	07/03/2025
WQ-B3	Consider a regular inspection of the outfall as part of business	28/02/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	as usual, including an access agreement with the relevant landowner/s.	

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

Introduction

On Thursday 9th January 2025, Officers C RHODES and H WARBURTON visited Peterston-Super-Ely Sewage Treatment Works for a scheduled compliance inspection of permit **AG0011401**. Officers wish to thank the Process Science Technician and Area Supervisor from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) for meeting and showing them around site. The weather was dry but very cold, with rain and some snow preceding and icy conditions in general.

Permit background

The permitted discharge limits for this site are shown below. Unlike others in the catchment, there is no limit set for Ammonia at this site. The site discharges directly into the River Ely and is permitted for both Final Effluent and Storm discharges.

BOD mg/l	Ammonia mg/l	Suspended solids mg/l
40	N/A	45

Inlet and screening

Screenings are macerated at the inlet and sent for disposal off site, however there did appear to be a build up of solids and rag during our visit. **We recommend clearing this proactively when it starts to build up like this**, in relation to **Condition 2.3.2(b)**. The penstock valve for overflow to storm is located after the screen, the setting for which is listed as 22.3 l/s in the permit. Full Flow to Treatment/Flow Passed Forward was 9.91 l/s at the time of visit. There is no preliminary/primary treatment at site and both biological treatment and final settlement are uniquely contained to one tank with two lanes. Odour control is also in place at this site due to historic amenity issues and its location close to a residential area.

Action: please confirm if there is a telemetry alarm for the self-cleaning screen in line with Condition 2.3.2(c).



Treatment tank

At this site, the Final Settlement Tank is within the centre and the aeration lane flows around the outside, supported by biological treatment in the form of activated sludge. The aeration lane appeared to be functioning well at the time of visit and the levels are adjusted based on a dissolved oxygen (DO) controlled weir, but the final settlement tank was showing signs of poor sludge management. When asked, Dŵr Cymru Operatives stated it was cleaned once or twice a year but needed to confirm this for certain. The site is visited three times per week during which manual sludge judging is done, but there was significant growth of fungus around the weir edges of the tank and some of the sludge was escaping into the exit flow. The design of the tank makes it difficult to maintain as access is only available via the raised platform above.

Action: Confirm cleaning frequency of the FST and investigate the cause of floating sludge during visit. Confirm how this will be managed going forward.

Left & Right: treatment tank in operation. Below: sludge and fungus visible in Final Settlement Tank.





Outfall

The final effluent sampling point is sign-posted and easily accessible within the site, demonstrating **compliance with Condition 3.3.4**. However, Officers were unable to access the outfall to watercourse at the time of visit as there is no direct access from site.

This was discussed during a previous visit in 2022 and a recommendation given to *“Consider a regular inspection of the outfall as part of business as usual, including an access agreement with the relevant landowner/s.”* Dŵr Cymru Operatives said that although this had been explored there were Health & Safety considerations, in that the site has been known to flood due to its proximity to the River Ely and to install a gate into the existing site fence would include a lot of ground clearance and stabilisation works of the bank/path to the outfall. They sent the below information from their most

recent inspection in 2023:

PETERSTONE SUPER ELY STW outfall pipe work is in good condition. There is no concrete or brickwork benching in place at the discharge point. Access to the outfall is via a poorly trodden path heavily overgrown located to the left hand side of the works entrance, following the fence line around to the rear of the works and the discharge point is then located in the river bank. It should be noted that the old steel outfall pipe work is still in place just below the new outfall but no longer used.



Picture from the DCWW outfall report.

A sample was not taken as it was not deemed necessary, given no recent OSM failures; the site log book was checked and corroborated this. Ammonia readings were also consistently very low, demonstrating **compliance with Condition 3.2.1**.

Summary and actions

In conclusion, the site was found to be overall **compliant** with its permit but there are several actions/recommendations which require feedback within the given deadline:

1. Please confirm if there is a telemetry alarm for the self-cleaning screen in line with Condition 2.3.2(c).
2. We recommend clearing the inlet bar screen proactively when it starts to build up like this, in relation to Condition 2.3.2(b)
3. Confirm cleaning frequency of the FST and investigate the cause of floating sludge during visit. Confirm how this will be managed going forward.

4. Consider a regular inspection of the outfall as part of business as usual, including an access agreement with the relevant landowner/s.

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.