

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0046539

**Permit being assessed:** AB3498CC

For: CSO at Rhayader WwTW, held by Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig

At: Rhayader WwTW, Rhayader, LD6 5BH.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Report/Data Review, Reason: Incident Response  
(Incident number: 2500176).

On 06/01/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

**NRW Lead Officer:** Robert Harding.

**Report sent to:** CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 06/03/2025.

### 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	C3 Minor	2.3.1 For the discharge(s) specified in table S3.3: (a) The discharge shall only occur when and only for as long as the flow passed forward is equal to or greater than the overflow setting indicated due to rainfall and/or snowmelt. The capacity of the sewer network downstream of the combined sewer overflow shall not be altered in any way which would lead to a significant increase in the frequency or volume of the discharge.
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D2 - Water Quality - Information - Reporting	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	Assessed (A)	

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	Repair or replace WWTW inlet screw/pump, to return works to normal operation and prevent premature CSO Discharge	Already completed

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 06th January 2025, DCWW self-reported an incident at Rhayader Wastewater Treatment Works, reporting that one of the two inlet screw pump had failed.

*"DCWW Operational staff attended site this morning and found that inlet lift screw pump 1 had failed. There are two lift screw pumps at the inlet and both are required to reach PFF. After further investigation it was discovered that the pump had mechanically failed and the gearbox had seized. A hire pump was then requested for site as temporary mitigation until the screw pump can be repaired."* Details from DCWW self-report (06/01/2025)

As a result of the mechanical failure, the works inlet was unable to send sufficient flows for treatment, this then caused incoming flows to back up and spill to the watercourse via this CSO Discharge. This is therefore a noncompliance against permitted condition 2.3.1, as the discharge was not as a result rainfall and/or snow melt. There are no permit allowance in place for emergency discharges at this asset.

**\*\*\* Noncompliance \*\*\***

*2.3.1 For the discharge(s) specified in table S3.3: (a) The discharge shall only occur when and only for as long as the flow passed forward is equal to or greater than the overflow setting indicated due to rainfall and/or snowmelt. The capacity of the sewer network downstream of the combined sewer overflow shall not be altered in any way which would lead to a significant increase in the frequency or volume of the discharge.*

This has been classified as a category 3 noncompliance, as this could potentially have a minor impact on the receiving watercourse. The receiving watercourse was running high at the time, however the discharge of untreated sewage (which would have otherwise had full treatment) will still have had an impact on water quality in the receiving watercourse.

DCWW Sample results from on site 06<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were as follows.

Ammonia	5m Upstream	0.00 mg/l
Ammonia	Point of entry	0.24 mg/l
Ammonia	5m downstream	0.18 mg/l

The temporary pump was installed by operatives and was online 06<sup>th</sup> January. This retuned the works to normal operation and will remain in place until the original pump can be repaired/replaced.

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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.