

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0046537

Permit being assessed: BP0054701

For: Southgate Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Hael Lane, Southgate, Gower, Swansea, SA4 3AB.

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

On 13/02/2025, between 09:15 and 09:55.

Parts of permit assessed: The site & Parts of Operations

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

Report sent to: CARS@dwr.cymru.gov.uk, CARS Mailbox, on 12/03/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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

On the 13th February 2025 you accompanied us on an inspection of Southgate Sewage Treatment Works (STW). It was dry weather during the inspection and it had been dry weather on the days before.

Southgate STW has a permit to discharge treated Final Effluent only. There is no permit in place to discharge storm sewage.

The incoming sewage flows into the works and are screened by a 6X6mm mechanical screen which

is alarmed. The screen appeared clear during the inspection. We observed quite a large amount of food waste within the inlet flows. We discussed this with you and you said it didn't appear abnormal. There was an automatic level sludge collection in operation after the screen.

You told us that there is an Emergency bypass at the inlet and in the event of screen failure, the flows would overflow into a redundant tank which would then require a pump to return the flows to the inlet for screening.

After screening, the flows enter a second inlet channel which appeared clear of sewage debris during the inspection. The flows then drop into the wet well which you informed us had a low level and high level alarm, these would trigger if the flows backed up due to a pump failure.

The wet well contained two standby pumps, you told us that these were new pumps and were interstage/ intermediate pumps to maintain the flows and correct level within the wet well. You showed us that the MCERT flow meter is located here as permitted.

From the wet well the flows are pumped up to the primary settlement tank. You informed us that this tank requires recirculation pumps during the summer months as it can become septic. The tank contained an automatic de-sludge pump.

The flows weir over from the primary settlement tank into the syphon and then on to the media bed which is operated by motor driven sprinklers. The media beds appeared to have very little vegetation growing on the surface of the media. You said that this is inspected and maintained periodically to ensure they remain in good working order.

The flows then enter the final tanks which has an automatic de-sludge. The final effluent then flows through the permitted sample point.

There are two duty standby pumps installed at the outlet chamber which pumps out the final effluent intermittently. The telemetry was located within this chamber.

The STW has a permit to discharge treated Final Effluent at the consented discharge point SS 55370 86890 to the Coastal Waters of Oxwich Bay. We did not inspect the outfall on this occasion, however, we are aware that the outfall pipe is fractured in several places. This is resulting in final effluent being discharged into rockpools and onto the beach This non-compliance is already being addressed in CAR_NRW0041541. My understanding is that the outfall is due to be repaired in March/April 2025, weather depending,

We did not identify any non-compliances during the inspection of 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 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.