

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048336

Permit being assessed: BP0237412

For: CSO 121 at Sandfields SPS (Outfall 'L'), held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Adjacent to Civic Centre Carpark, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3SN.

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

On 27/03/2025, between 09:30 and 10:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Parts of Operations, Emissions and Monitoring

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

Report sent to: CARS@dwrcymru.com, CAR Mailbox, on 28/05/2025.

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	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B2	Please can you let your permitting team know that the discharge location appears to be incorrect so it can be corrected during a future variation. See comments for more details.	29/08/2025
WQ-B3	If you have not already done so, please can you inspect the CSO screens to determine if the sewage debris we saw could enter the storm sump, outfall and/or sea. If it could end up in the sea, please remove it.	31/07/2025
WQ-C1	Please provide us with the EDM TEN Initial Investigation Report update we asked for in CAR_NRW0045721.	31/07/2025

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

This Compliance Assessment Report relates to a site inspection of CSO 121 at Sandfields Sewage Pumping Station (SPS). The inspection took place on the 27th March when the weather was dry.

The permit in place at Sandfields SPS allows for a discharge of storm sewage only, as defined in the permit conditions. There is no permit in place to discharge sewage in an emergency.

My understanding is that Sandfields SPS was originally constructed as part of the Sandfields Surface Water Flooding strategy in 1970's and was subsequently converted to a foul and surface water pumping station at a later unknown date, before being modified into its current CSO configuration under the Swansea UWWTD project(s) of the late 1990's.

Storm overflows are monitored by an ultrasonic level detector, used for Even Duration Monitoring (EDM). Pass Forward Flow is controlled by a penstock in the CSO stilling and screening chamber. Flows enter the SPS from the combined network inlet sewer and gravitate through the SPS into the adjacent interceptor trunk sewer.

We could see the EDM monitor in place during our inspection. The EDM annual data returns you submit to us show that the monitor was operational for 99.41% of the time with 46 spills counted in 2024.

The permit has a bathing water spill trigger limit which requires you to notify us when the limit of 5 is exceeded and provide us with details of your investigations into the exceedance. The spill trigger was exceeded during the bathing water season in 2023 (10 spills) and 2024 (11 spills). You submitted an investigation report to us in 2023. In CAR_NRW0045721 we asked you to provide an update on the investigation by 06/12/2024. My understanding is that we have not received the report.

Action: Please provide us with the EDM TEN Initial Investigation Report update we asked for in CAR_NRW0045721.

Flows in excess of the overflow setting (1300 l/s) pass up through the the 6mm screen and over the weir gravitating to the discharge point via the long sea outfall. If a high tide hydraulically locks the outfall, flow enters the storm pump sump, and the pumps lift flows down the outfall.

The 6mm static screen was clean but there appeared to be some sewage debris sitting on the outfall side of the screen, presumably having been deposited there after hydraulic overload in the CSO chamber.

Action: If you have not already done so, please can you inspect the CSO screens to determine if the sewage debris we saw could enter the storm sump, outfall and/or sea. If it could end up in the sea, please remove it.

The point of discharge in the permit appears to be incorrect as it locates the outfall some distance above the mean low water mark when I believe it is below mean low water springs. The permit NGR

is SS 65020 92060 but I think it is more likely to be at SS 65308 91202.

Action: Please can you let your permitting team know that the discharge location appears to be incorrect so it can be corrected during a future variation.

We could not inspect the end of the outfall as it is located below mean low water.

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.