

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048316

Permit being assessed: BN0015801

For: Beulah Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Track off Heol y Mynydd, Beulah, Ceredigion, SA38 9QF.

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

On 26/03/2025, between 10:51 and 11:22.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.2, 3.1.1 and 3.3.4

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis, accompanied by: Ffion Quan.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 20/05/2025.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	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-B3	Supply a photograph showing the aperture size of the storm screen.	01/07/2025

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 was a pre-planned site inspection of Beulah Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) (permit number: BN0015801) carried out by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers

Bethan Lewis and Ffion Quan. The NRW Officers were accompanied during the inspection by a Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Operational Supervisor.

Summary

The site inspection commenced at 10:51 hours on the 26 March 2025 and concluded at 11:22 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry with a mixture of sunshine and clouds. The previous day's weather was cloudy and mostly dry.

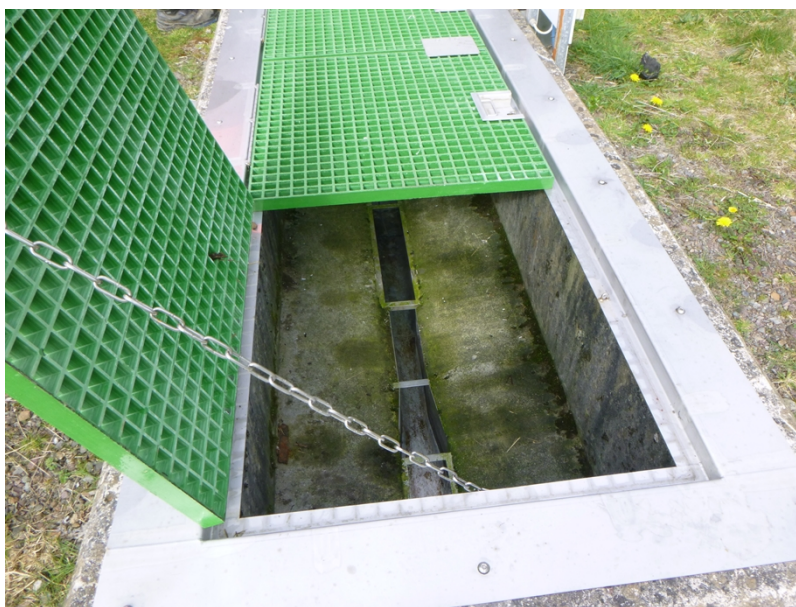
The NRW Officers were led through the treatment and storm discharge process from inlet to outfall, with the DCWW Operational Supervisor explaining how the works operated.

The treatment process at Beulah WwTW consists of a Rotating Biological Contractor (RBC), settlement and reedbed. The site operator visits the site twice a week. The population equivalent for the site is believed to be 400.

Since NRW's last site inspection of Beulah WwTW on 21 August 2020 (see Compliance Assessment Reports (CARs): CAR_NRW0037382 and CAR_NRW0037383), storm permit BP0361401 has been consolidated into the final effluent permit BN0015801.

Treatment and Storm Discharge Process

Sewage arriving at Beulah WwTW's inlet arrives by gravity. The inlet is shown in photograph 1 below. A storm overflow exists at the inlet which sends excess flows directly to the WwTW outfall at SN 29252 46226. At the time of the inspection, all flows were being passed forward to full treatment. No sewage was being diverted to storm.



Photograph 1: Beulah WwTW inlet

The DCWW Operational Supervisor stated that before reaching the outfall, any flows discharging to storm are screened through a CopaSac screen. The NRW Officers were unable to view this screen at the time of the inspection. Condition 2.3.2(b) of permit BN0015801 states that all storm discharges must pass through a screen with an aperture size of 10mm. To ensure that this is the case, NRW ask DCWW to supply a photograph showing the aperture size of the storm screen by no later than the **01 July 2025**.

A sample of the storm discharge may be taken from one of several manholes along the route to the outfall.

An Event Duration Monitor (EDM), as shown in photograph 2 below, records the number and duration of storm discharges at Beulah WwTW. The EDM monitor recorded 266 block counted spills from Beulah WwTW in 2024 lasting 2536 hours. The EDM monitor was operational 98% of the time.



Photograph 2: EDM monitor

Sewage passed forward to full treatment from Beulah WwTW's inlet passes a flow meter as shown in photograph 3 below. The flow meter was reading 3.18l/s at the time of the inspection.



Photograph 3: Flow meter recording flows to full treatment

Immediately after passing the flow meter, sewage enters a RBC as shown in photograph 4

below. The RBC is emptied every 12 weeks. At the time of the inspection, the site was nearing the end of this 12 week cycle meaning that a large crust had developed at the surface of the RBC's final settlement tank as shown in photograph 5 below.



Photograph 4: RBC at Beulah WwTW



Photograph 5: Final settlement tank

Sludge removed from the final settlement tank is pumped into a nearby sludge holding tank shown in photograph 6 below. Effluent leaches through the brick walls of the sludge holding tank, entering an effluent channel as shown in photograph 7 below. This effluent channel leads to a chamber below the site's control room. The effluent is pumped from this chamber back up to the inlet to be treated. The pump used to do this self-lubricates meaning that the floor of the control room (as shown in photograph 8 below) was slightly wet at the time of the inspection. The amount of effluent on the floor of the control room posed no obvious environmental risk.



Photograph 6: Sludge holding tank at Beulah WwTW



Photograph 7: Effluent channel beside sludge holding tank



Photograph 8: Self-lubricating pump within the site's control room

As shown in photograph 9 below, a generator socket is available within Beulah WwTW's control room. This enables a generator to be brought to site to provide power in the event of a power outage.



Photograph 9: Generator socket in Beulah WwTW's control room

Tertiary treatment is provided at Beulah WwTW in the form of a reedbed. This reedbed is shown in photograph 10 below. At the time of the inspection, the reedbed had only just been cut.



Photograph 10: Reedbed at Beulah WwTW

Final effluent from the reedbed passes through a final effluent sample point. At the time of the inspection, the final effluent appeared clear with no significant trace present of visible oil or grease.

Final effluent and storm discharges combine at Beulah WwTW before discharging into the Nant Medini at SN 29252 46226. The final effluent and storm discharge outfall is shown in photograph 11 below. The discharge at the outfall appeared clear at the time of the inspection with no growth of sewage fungus.



Photograph 11: Final effluent and storm discharge outfall into the Nant Medini

Final comments

We wish to thank the DCWW Operational Supervisor for accompanying the NRW Officers at the time of the above inspection. If DCWW wish to discuss the content of this CAR, we encourage them to contact the NRW Officer noted above.

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.