

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048305

Permit being assessed: BP0013501

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

At: Track off B4334, Opposite 'Dolwern', Rhydlewis, Ceredigion, SA44 5RE.

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

On 26/03/2025, between 09:51 and 10:29.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 3.1.1, 3.2.1 and 3.3.4

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

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 16/05/2025.

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-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	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-C3	Investigate the cause of the sewage fungus build-up at the outfall; clear the sewage fungus if not already done so; and undertake periodic checks of the discharge point to ensure no further growth of sewage fungus.	11/07/2025

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 at Rhydlewish Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) (permit number: BP0013501) 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.

For observations concerning the storm overflow permit at Rhydlewish WwTW (permit number: BP0013502), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR_NRW0048311.

For observations concerning Rhydlewish Pumping Station (PS) No 1 storm and emergency discharge permit (permit number: BP0013503), please refer to CAR: CAR_NRW0048315.

Summary

The site inspection commenced at 09:51 hours on the 26 March 2025 and concluded at 10:29 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry and sunny. The previous day's weather was cloudy and mostly dry.

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

The treatment process at Rhydlewish WwTW consists of a Rotating Biological Contractor (RBC). The site operator visits the site three times a week. The population equivalent for the site is believed to be 198.

Treatment Process

Sewage arrives at Rhydlewish WwTW's inlet as shown in photograph 1 below. An overflow exists at the inlet which sends excess flows to the wet well of the pumping station situated on site (Rhydlewish PS No 1). At the time of the inspection, all sewage arriving at the inlet was being passed forward to full treatment. No sewage was being diverted to the pumping station wet well.



Photograph 1: Rhydlewish WwTW inlet

Flows passed forward to full treatment from the inlet enter a RBC. The discs within the RBC (as shown in photograph 2 below) were rotating unhindered at the time of the inspection and biological growth was clearly visible on the discs.

The RBC at Rhydlewys WwTW is emptied every 12 weeks.

In April 2023, a bearing on the RBC failed at Rhydlewys WwTW. This meant that the site was unable to treat sewage for approximately a week. To avoid repeated incidents of this nature, DCWW now check RBCs every 3 months and lubricate bearings as necessary.



Photograph 2: Discs of Rotating Biological Contractor (RBC)

Flows exiting the RBC enter a final effluent chamber as shown in photographs 3 and 4 below. This chamber includes a flow meter and suspended solids probe. The suspended solids probe continuously monitors final effluent quality. An alarm is raised if the suspended solids concentration rises above acceptable levels. If this occurs, DCWW Operatives attend site.



Photograph 3: Flow meter and suspended solids probe

As shown in photograph 4 below, final effluent at Rhydlewis WwTW appeared clear at the time of the inspection. The NRW Officers did not observe any significant trace of visible oil or grease.



Photograph 4: Final effluent at Rhydlewis WwTW

Final effluent from Rhydlewis WwTW discharges into the Nant Collen at SN 34593 47315. Whilst final effluent continued to appear clear at the outfall, a small amount of sewage fungus was visible on the outfall wall and within the Nant Collen immediately downstream of the outfall as shown in photographs 5 and 6 below. The DCWW Operational Supervisor stated that the sewage fungus would be cleared that afternoon.

In response to the sewage fungus observed at the outfall, DCWW are asked to:

- investigate the cause of the sewage fungus;
- clear the sewage fungus if not already done so;
- and undertake periodic checks of the discharge point to ensure no further growth of sewage fungus.

DCWW are asked to complete the above by no later than the **11 July 2025**.



Photograph 5: Final effluent outfall into the Nant Collen. Sewage fungus present on outfall wall.



Photograph 6: Sewage fungus present within the Nant Collen immediately downstream of the final effluent outfall.

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 contents 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.