

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048097

Permit being assessed: BH0063801

For: LLANDYGWYDD HOUSING SITE, held by CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION C C

At: LLANDYGWYDD HOUSING SITE, CARDIGAN, CEREDIGION, WALES, SA43 2QX.

Type of assessment carried out: Check Monitoring/Sampling, Reason: Routine.
On 18/03/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: (I) Nature and composition of discharge

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: Martyn Davies, STW Project Officer for Ceredigion County Council, on 12/06/2025.

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	(I) Nature and composition of discharge

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	Investigate and explain why the suspended solids failure occurred on the 18 March 2025, and confirm whether in addition to the separation of the foul and surface water lines, further actions are required to prevent additional sample failures at Llandygwydd STW.	24/07/2025

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

A routine final effluent sample collected from Llandygwydd Sewage Treatment Works (STW) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the 18 March 2025 was found to contain 45mg/l suspended solids. Llandygwydd STW's permit states that the final effluent must not contain

more than 30mg/l suspended solids. A category 3 non-compliance has therefore been recorded above for a non-compliance which has the potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.

Despite the above non-compliance, all other parameters within the final effluent sample such as the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (19mg/l), ammoniacal nitrogen (0.89mg/l) and pH (6.23) were compliant with the permit limits.

Over recent years, final effluent samples collected from Llandygwydd STW have often exceeded permit limits. As discussed in the most recent Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) (see CAR_NRW0044804), a sludge return pipe was identified at the STW which had been missing a non-return valve. This pipe was removed as it was believed that it may have been a contributory source to the poor final effluent results on site.

In accordance with the action set out in CAR_NRW0044804, Ceredigion County Council (CCC) supplied NRW with the sample results of final effluent samples collected at Llandygwydd STW following the removal of this sludge return pipe. Whilst not within the scope of UKAS or MCERTS accreditation, the results are shown in Table 1 below. All results were within compliance with the permitted limits, other than the BOD concentration of the final effluent sample collected on the 12 August 2024.

Table 1: Final effluent sample results supplied by CCC

Date	BOD (mg/l)	Suspended Solids (mg/l)
12 August 2024	30	10
23 September 2024	4	25
29 November 2024	4	5

As part of CCC's investigation into the final effluent sample failures at Llandygwydd STW, CCC stated that they would undertake a storm test during the next storm event to identify the amount of overloading the STW is subjected to. On 09 December 2024, CCC confirmed that this storm test had been completed. Whilst the test confirmed ingress, observations and sampling showed that the STW was functioning well under the circumstances.

CCC state that the programme for upgrade works to separate the foul and surface water lines has been accelerated. Design works have been completed and agreed, with construction due to begin as soon as possible.

In response to the latest suspended solids failure recorded on the 18 March 2025, CCC are asked to investigate and explain why the suspended solids failure occurred and confirm whether in addition to the separation of the foul and surface water lines, further actions are required to prevent additional sample failures at Llandygwydd STW. CCC are asked to provide a response by no later than the **24 July 2025**.

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.