

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0048607

**Permit being assessed:** AG0009101

For: Cowbridge Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG  
At: Lake Farm, St Athan Road, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7HY.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Audit, Reason: Routine.

On 18/06/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: Relevant conditions

**NRW Lead Officer:** Charlotte Rhodes.

**Report sent to:** DCWW CARS Mailbox, DCWW CARS Mailbox, on 20/06/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	C3 Minor	4.3.1(a)
WQ-B4 - Water Quality - Operations - Improvement programme	Ongoing (O)	3.3.1(a)
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Ongoing (O)	2.3.2(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-D3	Ensure that any events with the potential to lead to pollution or non-compliance are reported via the OPNOT process. In this case, there was also potential for data recording to be affected.	21/07/2025
WQ-B4	No evidence has yet been submitted of the EDMS presence on site, nor its date of installation. Please submit evidence of the date of installation and when it became live on telemetry/monitoring systems for our consideration. At this time, the non-compliance remains.	21/07/2025
WQ-B3	Please share the results of the impact evaluation once completed. Whilst we welcome this work, it reflects only a small part of the catchment; how does this work relate to the ToG catchment investigations?	21/07/2025

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**

Following CAR\_NRW0046799 the below response was received from Dwr Cymru (DCWW) on 12/05/2025:

**Action 1: Please submit a copy of the OPNOT for MCERT cleaning and maintenance.**

Please see attached copy of the OPNOT submitted for the MCerts cleaning and maintenance.

**Action 2: Please submit a copy of the OPNOT relating to the mains power failure on 29/01/2025.**

An OPNOT was not submitted for the mains power failure on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as it was an unplanned short lived event. The power outage only lasted a short period of 2hours with no impact to compliance. Please see attached images of the site diary from the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January with sample data recorded showing the site was well within compliance during this time period.

**Action 3: Investigate where flow witnessed at the storm outfall during inspection was originating from, since the site was not considered to be "in storm", and report back with findings and any planned remediation.**

Operations have investigated the storm outfall and have identified no issues. Attached is a recent image of the storm outfall in dry weather conditions, when the site has not been in storm evidencing that the concrete apron is dry with no flow. Operations will continue to monitor the outfall following storm events and will escalate any issues needing further investigation.

**Action 4: Please explain why overflow into storm storage monitoring (EDMS) was not installed prior to the condition becoming effective (01/01/2024). Provide a plan with timescales to rectify this as soon as possible.**

The site does have an EDMS sensor fitted and is monitored meaning the overflow into storm is being monitored. In addition to this, DCWW can confirm the site is currently compliant with both FPF, DWF & EDMS. DCWW would therefore wish to formally challenge the CCS 3 breach issued against permit condition 3.3.1 (a), please could this be reviewed and feedback provided.

**Action 5: Please explain what is being done to manage infiltration within the catchment and any associated timescales.**

DCWW has completed investigation work in Trerhyngyll and Graig Penllyne, two catchments that feed into Cowbridge WwTW. This investigation identified areas of infiltration in the network. DCWW will now undertake work to reduce this infiltration, with completion expected by the end of June 2025. After this, an assessment will be conducted to evaluate the impact of the work on overall infiltration, and further steps will be determined based on the results. Additionally, ongoing work at Llysworney SPS is expected to positively impact the catchment by removing surface water.

On 20/06/2025, the below response was sent from NRW in this CAR and via email:

**Action 1** – we have located the OPNOT our end so this can now be closed.

**Action 2** – The condition [4.3.1a] states that NRW should be notified of “any malfunction, breakdown or failure

of equipment or techniques ... has, is or may cause significant pollution". In this case, we consider the mains power failure on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to have the potential to lead to pollution or a permit compliance issue, in addition to which there will have been a period where data was not being recorded due to the power cut. Therefore, particularly for flow data, this should be notified. **We consider this a non-compliance with Condition 4.3.1(a) as detailed in the associated CAR.**

**Action 3** – Despite the investigation finding no issues, we'd like to request EDM data over the date of inspection to understand where the witnessed flow during inspection was coming from if the site was not in storm. Please find request attached.

**Action 4** – No evidence has yet been submitted of the EDMS presence on site, nor its date of installation. Although there has been a permit variation request to reflect its grid reference location, please submit evidence of the date of installation and when it became live on telemetry/monitoring systems for our consideration. **At this time, the non-compliance remains.** Additionally, if it was already installed on the date of inspection, why then were the Operatives and Catchment Performance Manager unaware of this? The location of this should also clearly be signposted on site.

**Action 5** – Please share the results of the impact evaluation once completed. Whilst we welcome this work, it reflects only a small part of the catchment; how does this work relate to the ToG catchment investigations?

### **Summary**

In conclusion, we find the site to be **non-compliant** with its permit in respect to Condition 4.3.1(a), in addition to the previously noted non-compliances with Conditions 2.3.2(a) and 3.3.1(a) noted in the previous CAR\_NRW0046799. We hereby issue a second **written warning** and the below new action:

6. Ensure that any events with the potential to lead to pollution or non-compliance are reported via the OPNOT process. In this case, there was also potential for data recording to be affected.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.