

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048593

Permit being assessed: CM0021701

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

At: Glyntraian, Pontfadog, Llangollen, LL20 7AU.

Type of assessment carried out: Check Monitoring/Sampling, Reason: Routine.
On 02/06/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: OSM monitoring

NRW Lead Officer: Angela Roberts.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, 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-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?

No action required.

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

NRW were notified of an exceedance by DCWW at Pontfadog Wastewater Treatment Works on the 2nd June 2025.

The OSM sample taken on the 23rd May 2005 had a BOD result of 70mg/l (permit limit 40mg/l).

Email notification that a waiver was going to be submitted was sent to NRW on the 30th May and the resultant exceedance waiver report was received on the 6th June 20025 due to third party fuel contamination entering the works.

This has now been assessed and the waiver will be accepted due to third party/not bound to receive

A OPNOT was sent in relation to this incident on the 22nd May where a significant amount of fuel/diesel was noted. Small traces of fuel were noticed the day prior to this where it was believed to be contained in the sludge tanks. In retrospect, it is acknowledged that the OPNOT could have been sent when first seen as a precaution.

Also, consideration should have been given as to whether this should have been reported as a self report. This should be considered in any future instances.

For reference, schedule 5 of the permit provides details of what information should be submitted in times of notification.

DCWW utilised the sludge tanks as much as possible in order to reduce the impact of the fuel on the works and arranged for tankers to remove the contamination from the site. Due to the limited site access, the specialised tankers were not able to attend site until the 24/5/25.

DCWW reported that operator final effluent samples were taken prior to the diesel entering, showing the turbidity and solids to be lower, it then rises during the 22/23rd with the fuel affecting FE quality and the next sample was taken on the 28/5 as the site takes a while to fill and by this time the turbidity and solids had significantly decreased.

The contamination was more visible in the start and middle of treatment process, less had got through to final stage due to attempts to contain it within the sludge tanks and the scumboards helped to hold oil back in the settlement tanks. It is reported that the site operator did not visually see a significant amount of oil in the final effluent.

The network crew investigated the network but unable to find the source of the contamination as no longer in network.

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.