

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048614

Permit being assessed: BA2014001

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

At: Off Mellte Avenue, Pontneddfechan, Neath, SA11 5NX.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Incident Response
(Incident number: 2505038).

On 25/05/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Robert Harding.

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-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D2 - Water Quality - Information - Reporting	Assessed (A)	
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	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

Incident Response CAR Form

On 25th May 2025, DCWW self-reported an incident at Pontneddfechan WWTW regarding leakage from the final effluent pipe, which has been bunged following an RBC failure at the works. NRW were notified of the RBS failure via OPNOT on 19th April 2024 (OPNOT 190425041)

Details from incident OPNOT are as follows.

"RBC offline due to equipment failure at site. Effluent pipe had been bunged off since failure and tankers have been carrying from site since issue raised. Due to heavy rain bung was dislodged and allowed a trickle of effluent to go into river course."

Following the self- report, an incident was opened (WIRS)2505038 and DCWW were asked to provide a storyboard of events for the incident. On 05th June 2025, a storyboard of events was received, with the details from DCWW's incident response.

"RBC offline due to equipment failure at site. Effluent pipe had been bunged off since failure and tankers have been carrying from site since issue raised. Due to heavy rain bung was dislodged and allowed a trickle of effluent to go into river course. Trickle was stopped quickly by operator and tankers carrying all effluent from site with no effluent at all going out. Updates on ammonia sample to follow."

25/05/2025 16:44 -

tankers carrying from site. No effluent going out to river course. Samples taken from river course this morning, no effect on the river course. As can be seen from attached pictures only a trickle was going out of WWTW into water course. Tankers will carry on to tanker effluent from site. OP-NOT in since the 19/04/25.

Please see below telemetry screenshot which highlights the time in which a small amount of partially treated effluent discharged into the watercourse from the FE outfall line - approx 04:30-06:30am. The highest reading of flow leaving in this time is 0.84 lp/s



Ammonia results @6:30 this morning

10m up = 0.06 mg/l

Outfall = 31.28 mg/l

10m down = 0.17 mg/l “

The data provided indicates that partially treated effluent was leaking from the bunged final effluent pipe for approximately 2 hours, with a max flow of 0.8l/s. Ammonia samples collected on site show 31.28mg/l within the pipe, and a slight increase in ammonia downstream of the outfall. As a result, a low-level impact to the receiving watercourse has been recorded and a no impact claim has been rejected. The cause of the spill has been assessed to be accidental, as the bund has been dislodged following rainfall. This compliance assessment report is being issued as a result of the incident at the permitted site.

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Compliance Assessment Scoring

In this instance, no noncompliances have been issued under Permit condition 1.1.1.

1. General management

1. 1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities:

- a. in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution so far as is reasonably practicable, including those risks arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints; and**
- b. using sufficient competent persons and resources.**

This is on the basis that DCWW have appropriately notified of the failure of the RBC via OPNOT on 19th August 2025 and have been taking appropriate actions to prevent pollution. Applying a bung to the outfall to prevent discharge and tankering all flows whilst until repairs are made appears to be a reasonable approach to minimizing risk of pollution as a result of the failure. This process is still ongoing, and tankers are still attending site daily to remove the effluent. The dislodging of the bung has resulted in a minor impact on the receiving environment, however in this instance is not considered a breach of permitted conditions.

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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.