

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049055

Permit being assessed: AN0412201

For: LLECHWEN HALL HOTEL, held by LLECHWEN HALL HOTEL LIMITED

At: ., LLANFABON, NEAR PONTYPRIDD, CAERPHILLY, CF37 4HP.

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

On 06/08/2025, between 13:50 and 15:10.

Parts of permit assessed: Site operations and infrastructure

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: James Beccano, Director of Hotel Operations , on 07/08/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	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-D1	Provide a copy of the 10 most recent waste transfer notes relating to sludge/effluent removal from the treatment plant.	Already completed
WQ-D1	Provide a copy of the most recent service report for the treatment plant.	Already completed
WQ-B3	Provide a copy of the written management system for the treatment plant.	07/09/2025
WQ-B2	Provide details on the capacity of the treatment plant (maximum population) and dimensions of the infiltration/drainage system.	07/09/2025

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

Site Visit Report

This report details the site visit made by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the 06/08/2025 to Llechwen Hall Hotel to inspect their sewage treatment plant and infiltration system, which is regulated under permit reference number EPR-AN0412201.

I (NRW Officer Elis Nuttall) arrived at Llechwen Hall Hotel at 13:50 for a for a water quality permit compliance visit where we met with the Director of Hotel Operations (JB). The weather was clear and dry during this visit.

General Observations

This site is a fully serviced commercial hotel with a capacity for 96 guests, and a maximum population size of ~120 for functions and events. The site sewage wastes are serviced by a sewage treatment plant and infiltration system discharging to ground via a drainage field.

The system is permitted to discharge secondary treated effluent via an infiltration system with a maximum discharge of 18m³/day. The discharge shall not breach the following concentration limits:

- ATU-BOD as O₂: 40mg/l
- Suspended solids (measured after drying at 105°C): 60mg/l
- Visible oil or grease: No significant trace present

The site was operational at the time of the visit.

Pre-inspection discussion

Arriving on site I met with JB. As this was my first visit to the site and JB's first time hosting NRW on a compliance inspection a pre-inspection meeting was conducted to discuss the permitted system, its functions, maintenance regimes and operational history.

It was confirmed that the system is a treatment plant that discharges to an infiltration system. When queried on the capacity of the treatment plant and dimensions of the infiltration/drainage system, JB noted that this was not known but they would find out and provided details after the inspection. This is reflected in the actions list, as pertaining to Condition 2.3.1a-e.

The maintenance regime for the system was stated to include servicing every 6 months (the most recent of which was undertaken on 14/05/2025) and sludge emptying every 6 weeks. A copy of the most recent service report was requested, along with examples of the most recent waste transfer notes for sludge removal. Both of these were available for visual inspection during the visit, email copies were requested, but were also sent during this meeting. This is reflected in the actions list, but marked as already complete.

When I asked to see a copy of the written management system for the treatment plant, this could not be provided. As a result, a copy of the document should be provided via email after the inspection and has been actioned as pertaining to Condition 1.1.1a.

We then proceeded to inspect the system infrastructure.

Site Infrastructure

Sewage treatment plant

The treatment plant was inspected, with each chamber being lifted and observed in turn.

Chamber 1 – Mixed/untreated effluent input where solids/sludge settle out and effluent is carried forward for further treatment. This is also the point where sludge removal is undertaken. No issues were noted at the time of the visit, see Figure 1 as evidence of conditions.



Figure 1 – Chamber 1 of the treatment plant as observed during the visit.

Chamber 2 – Further solids filtration and removal is undertaken here with bio media present to begin the biological treatment of the effluent. There were some solids present but no excessive buildup. No issues were present. Figure 2 shows evidence of these observations.



Figure 2 – Chamber 2 of the treatment plant as observed during the visit.

Chamber 3 – This is the aeration tank. The blowers were in operation and good circulation was present. There were minimal solids present in the effluent. No concerns were raised. This is evidenced in Figure 3.



Figure 3 – Chamber 3 of the treatment plant as observed during the visit.

Chamber 4 – Further solids removal from the effluent is undertaken here and returned to the solids chamber for removal. The condition was as expected with no concerns raised. Figure 4 shows the condition at the time of the visit.



Figure 4 – Chamber 4 of the treatment plant as observed during the visit.

Chamber 5 – This is the final effluent chamber prior to discharge to the drainage field. It was noted that the pumps within this chamber were recently replaced due to issues with them burning out. It was stated that the system is now working effectively. The flow of effluent was good at the time of the visit with the effluent itself appearing clear and free of solids or debris. This is evidenced in Figure 5.



Figure 5 - Chamber 5 of the treatment plant as observed during the visit.

The control box was observed. All readouts showed the infrastructure was in operation with no error messages present, as seen in Figure 6.



Figure 6 – The treatment plant control box as observed during the visit.

The location of the sample point was confirmed to be ST0958194439, located within the final effluent chamber (Chamber 5). This is within the acceptable discrepancy to what is listed within the permit, access was acceptable and as such it is compliant.

The composition of the discharge could not be assessed for the permitted limits at the time of the visit, however no breaches have been recorded for this system since 2015. I will assess the sample results from the most recent sampling visit undertaken by NRW and address any issues observed.

We then proceeded to the infiltration system and drainage field.

Discharge point and drainage field

The drainage field was inspected and confirmed to be located in the vicinity of ST0958294267. This was confirmed to be within the permitted area and as such is compliant.

JB noted that the site is currently in the process of investigating the capacity of the filtration system to ensure it is continually fit for purpose. Percolation tests are scheduled for the 14/08/2025, where the results will dictate if an increase in size is required. Clearance of the field to undertake this testing had already taken place at the time of the visit, as seen in Figure 7.



Figure 7 – The drainage field area as observed during the visit.

I advised that if an increase in size is required that it should be undertaken in a manner to ensure that it does not breach the dimensions outlined in Condition 2.3.1(a-e), and does not stray outside of the permitted area listed in the site plan (Schedule 7) relating to Condition 2.2.1.

If any required amendments to the system will foreseeably breach either of these to ensure efficient filtration, NRW's permitting team will need to be consulted and a permit variation application will need to be submitted outlining the desired or required changes. Pending an assessment these changes will be approved via a variation if deemed acceptable and will not adversely impact the local environment. I advised that the permitting process is currently working at full capacity and lead times for new applications are extensive. I will provide information and guidance on this process separately to this report.

No further on site infrastructure assessments were undertaken. We returned to the conference room for final comments and discussions.

Final discussion

A final discussion was held on the observations made during the visit. I had no concerns with the function of the system and all infrastructure appeared fit for purpose, with the final effluent quality (based on visual assessment) raising no concerns.

I took this opportunity to briefly assess both the waste transfer notes and system service report. Both appeared to be in order and acceptable, with the only comment raised being

the assessment in the service report that the final effluent was in a moderate to poor condition. As stated, the quality could not be assessed during the visit, but I will check the most recent NRW sampling data and address any issues if they arise.

Finally, on request, I agreed to send some guidance and information regarding sewage treatment systems to JB in order to improve their understanding of the maintenance requirements and how these systems operate.

No further questions were raised and no further comments made.

I left site at 15:10.

Breaches of permit condition:

No breaches were recorded during this visit. Please see a list of actions to be completed by the specified dates below.

Action required by dates specified:

1. Provide a copy of the 10 most recent waste transfer notes relating to sludge/effluent removal from the treatment plant.

Deadline: Already completed.

2. Provide a copy of the most recent service report for the treatment plant.

Deadline: Already completed.

3. Provide a copy of the written management system for the treatment plant.

Deadline: 07/09/2025

4. Provide details on the capacity of the treatment plant (maximum population) and dimensions of the infiltration/drainage system.

Deadline: 07/09/2025.

If we do not receive the information requested within specified deadline and have not been informed as to why there is a delay then we may serve a Regulation 60 Notice requiring the information under Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Other advisory comments:

No advisory comments.

Contact details:

If you have any queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details: Elis Nuttall, Environment Officer,

elis.nuttall@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk, 03000 65 4651.

Thank you,

Elis Nuttall.

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.