

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049212

Permit being assessed: AB0041501

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

At: Access track opposite Lime Kiln Cottage, Canal Bank, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7PL.

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

On 06/08/2025, between 10:00 and 11:05.

Parts of permit assessed: Various

NRW Lead Officer: Chris Gurney, accompanied by: Robert Harding.

Report sent to: Regulatory Compliance Officer, Regulatory Compliance Officer, on 27/08/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
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-B2	Please confirm the layout and flow pathways for the site and the setup for the pumping to Tertiary/FE	30/11/2025

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

Myself and Rob Harding attended site on an announced visit, we were joined on site by OB (Senior Operator) and JL (Process Scientist) from DCWW. The weather was warm and sunny following a dry few days in a

period of prolonged dry weather.

We started at the head of the works which is pumped up and gravity fed from there. The screens and intake appeared to be operating well. The storm weir/screen was dry. The UWWTR sample point was clearly labelled. The flow then passed through the grit separation with a dedicated skip nearby, before entering the distribution chamber with storm weir. All 4 storm tanks were empty at the time of inspection and appeared to have been unused in some time. The distribution chamber had EDM sensors. Flow was then throttled through the FPF meter and Iron dosed before split into the 4 primary settlement tanks.

Flow then passed to the 4 siphon chambers in the distribution tower, which fed the 4 filter beds. All were observed operating as designed during the inspection. The filter beds were mossy in some areas but overall didn't appear to be problematic.

Flow then entered 3 Final Settlement Tanks, all of which appeared in reasonably good condition, before entering a wet well where they are pumped to near the head of works for tertiary treatment. At this point we headed to the outfall which, due to low river levels, was discharging into the middle of the river but a wetted area. The location is not ideal and may need further investigation to check on suitability during low summer flows. The storm outfall was dry and showed no signs of discharge and was showing signs of wear.

On returning to the compound, there was some uncertainty on the exact locations and pathways of wet-wells which were used for pumping back to tertiary or discharging to the river.

ACTION : Please confirm the layout and flow pathways of the site and the setup for the pumping to tertiary/FE.

The flow then is pumped to the two Mecana filters which both appeared to be operating as designed, before discharging to the river.

The two tin-tanks on site are used for on-site or filtered sludge storage while the two open square lagoons are used for incoming sludge from other sites (holding only before moving on to other treatment).

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.