

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049128

Permit being assessed: BP0268801

For: Sketty Park Drive CSO, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Junction with Sketty Park Close, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 8DA.

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

On 22/07/2025, between 09:05 and 09:35.

Parts of permit assessed: Management, Operations, Emissions and Monitoring

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrcymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 14/08/2025.

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	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	C3 Minor	2.3.1(c) On-line storm storage must be fully utilised before a discharge occurs. It shall only fill with the excess flows due to rainfall and/or snow melt. The storage shall be emptied and its contents returned to the continuation flow as soon as reasonably practicable. The minimum on-line storm storage required is specified in table S3.3.
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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-A1	Please provide me with details of your written management	28/11/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	system which identifies and minimises risks of pollution, so far as is reasonably practicable, arising from maintenance. I am interested to know how you determine the frequency of maintenance visits and why this asset was not visited more frequently following a reported issue with the flow control.	
WQ-B3	You have already acted to reduce the risk of a future non-compliance.	Already completed

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

This Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) relates to a site inspection of Sketty Park Drive Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) on the 22nd July 2025. The weather was dry during our visit and on the days preceding the inspection. We were accompanied by DCWW staff.

In addition to the inspection report, I have also reviewed the Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) 2024 data submitted to us and any completed actions from previous CARs.

The permit for Sketty Park Drive CSO allows the discharge of storm sewage as defined by the permit conditions to Cwm Stream, a tributary of the Clyne which discharges to Swansea Bay. The CSO was improved in AMP 5.

I understand that the CSO is on a 1–3-month maintenance schedule and the frequency of visits is determined by known risks and information gathered during visits. However, the inspection revealed that the flow control was blocked and all flows were being passed forward towards Sketty Green via a downstream guillotine penstock. The pass forward flow at Sketty Drive consist of 80l/s passing forward towards Byng Morris CSO and 60l/s exiting the tank and passing toward Sketty Green CSO. The line was partially cleared by jetting and the flows were partially reinstated. The flow control chamber did not clear completely.

Initially we thought the CSO was spilling but further investigations concluded that the increased flows and contaminated discharge in the outfall (Cwm Stream) were coming from a burst water main further up the catchment.

Follow up investigations showed that the storm storage had partially filled but the levels were well below the spill weir, the EDM did not record a spill and the rotating screens had not operated. Due to the dry weather all flows were diverted to the downstream sewer and no discharge to the environment occurred.

In response, daily inspection tasks were raised and the flow control was jetted and

inspected. The levels in the flow control chamber and online storage assets went back to normal. A manned entry to inspect the flow control device showed that the channel was free flowing with no mechanical issues and no debris/ragging found within the housing. A CCTV up & downstream of flow control chamber found little or no defects.

My understanding is that a potential issue with the flow control was raised in a previous inspection which should have increased the frequency of maintenance inspections.

Action: Please provide me with details of your written management system which identifies and minimises risks of pollution, so far as is reasonably practicable, arising from maintenance. I am interested to know how you determine the frequency of maintenance visits and why this asset was not visited more frequently following a reported issue with the flow control.

I understand that additional monitoring is going to be installed at this CSO to detect any issues with flows and reduce the risk of non-compliant discharges from occurring.

The overflow and discharge points were at the locations described in the permit. We did not see any sewage debris in the watercourse downstream of the discharge point. We were unable to inspect the overflow due to its location in a busy road.

The recorded number of spills indicates that the flow passed forward of 140 l/s is being achieved.

The CSO has 450m³ of on-line storage which is located in the road. We did not inspect the storage at the time of our visit but, due to the issues described above, a man entry was carried out a few days later and you reported back that the storage was in good condition. The current number of spills does not indicate that the tank is undersized or under capacity.

Condition 2.3.1 states that for the discharge specified in table S3.3 (overflow setting 140 l/s): c) On-line storm storage must be fully utilised before a discharge occurs. It shall only fill with the excess flows due to rainfall and/or snow melt. The storage shall be emptied and its contents returned to the continuation flow as soon as reasonably practicable.

On the day of inspection the storm storage was filling slowly due to the blocked flow control and not any rainfall or snowmelt. The contents of the storm tank returned to the continuation flow once the flows were fully reinstated.

Under Regulation 38 (2) of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016, it is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition.

You have already acted to reduce the risk of a future similar non-compliance.

We did not inspect the screens due their location in the road. A 6 x 6 mm mechanical rotating screen is fitted. We could see the kiosk housing the telemetry alarm system. A man entry was carried out a few days later and you reported back that the screens appeared to be in good condition.

The discharge from this CSO is subject to a spill trigger limit of 5 during the bathing water season. The submitted EDM for 2024 data shows that there was 1 spill during the bathing

season lasting for a total of 1.25 hours. During the whole of 2024, 4 spills occurred lasting for a total of 2.75 hours.

We were unable to inspect the EDM monitor but I understand it is located in the overflow chamber as described in the permit. It reported data for 99.97% of the time in 2024. If necessary, a storm sewage sample could be taken from the overflow chamber.

Review of previous CAR actions.

There are no previous CAR actions to review.

Thank you.

End.

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.