

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0049605

**Permit being assessed:** AN0033701

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

At: Abercynon Road, Abercynon, Pontypridd, CF37 3ND.

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

On 07/10/2025, between 10:30 and 13:00.

Parts of permit assessed: all

**NRW Lead Officer:** Callum Murray, accompanied by: Ceri Malone.

**Report sent to:** CARS mailbox, mailbox, on 16/10/2025.

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

| Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)                        | Assessment result | Permit condition                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques             | C3 Minor          | 1 (a) The works shall be operated and the effluent shall be treated in a manner which, so far as reasonably practicable, minimises the polluting effects of the discharge made from the works on controlled waters |
| WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records                         | Action only (X)   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management               | Assessed (A)      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 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-B3    | Aerator header in aeration chamber to be repaired                 | 31/07/2026        |
| WQ-D1    | Ensure the MCERT Magflow meter is within calibration at all times | 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****07/10/25**

Environment officers Callum Murray and Ceri Malone met with operatives from Dwr Cymru at the Cynon WWTW, and were shown the treatment process through the site. During the visit, the weather was mild and overcast, with very light showers.

**Inlet and screening**

During the visit, the site was not spilling to storm. It was noted that the weir to the storm channel had been completely redesigned and replaced, and was now a consistent height along its width. This work had been carried out within the last year. The EDM sensor had also been replaced in the intake channel. The flume intake was clear of vegetation. The site operators explained the intake flume was cleared of grit once a month during the summer.

There were three screens present on site, one for the intake, one for the storm, and a spare. The 2 main screens were working and complaint, with a 6mm screen size, with a spare being a 20mm screen size. It is noted that the spare screen is not compliant with the 6mm x 6mm aperture size as stated in table S3.3 of the permit. If the spare had to be used due to a mechanical breakdown, the effluent would not be in compliance with the permit.

The MCERT magflow meter was located prior to flows entering the primary settlement tanks (PST), and was last calibrated on the 13/08/25. During last year's visit, it was noted the MCERT magflow meter was due for re-calibration by the October 2024, meaning the flow meter was out of calibration for 10 months.

**Settlement tanks and aeration chambers**

During the visit, the 4 PST's were operating as designed. Secondary treatment on the site is by aeration tanks and the use of activated sludge. Overall the system seemed to be working well. Samples are taken and analysed on site daily, with a log being kept. Site operatives explained that a repair had been carried out to replace the aeration header that had been noted as broken in last years' compliance visit. This aeration lane was now working as designed. It was noted that the other lane also required a similar repair to be carried out, as the furthest section had a diffusion head that become detached. It was having a visible impact on the even distribution of air required for the treatment process. The dissolved oxygen (DO) sensors in the aeration tanks were cleaned weekly.

Excess sludge not used in the secondary treatment process on site is sent to WWTW Cardiff West, with a flow meter on the sludge discharge valve.

**Final settlement tanks**

During the visit, one of the four settlement tanks was offline whilst having a new half bridge and siphon manufactured and fitted. An OPNOT was received for this on the 05/08/25.

#### Storm Overflow

During the visit, the site was not operating in storm, however it had been due to the weather conditions at the weekend. Several of the storm tanks were still half full, but were currently being drained.

#### Actions

- Carry out the repair works or replacement of the aeration chamber header. Due 31/07/26, as works cannot be completed over the winter in high flows.
- Ensure calibration dates are monitored for MCERT meters.
- Consider upgrading the spare screen to ensure compliance if it is ever needed.

If you have any questions about this CAR form, please get in contact with me at [callum.murray@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:callum.murray@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.