

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049460

Permit being assessed: BP0237412

For: CSO 121 at Sandfields SPS (Outfall 'L'), held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Adjacent to Civic Centre Carpark, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3SN.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Routine.

On 14/10/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: 3.1 Emissions to Water

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrcymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 17/10/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
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-C1	Please complete the Stage 2 Full Investigation Proposal (FIP) by the 01 January 2026 (installation of new monitor) and inform us that this has been done by the 31 January 2026.	31/01/2026

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

The purpose of this report is to:

- assess and record compliance with conditions relating to Event Duration Monitoring
- record our comments and approval of the proposed full investigation

- **review previous CAR actions**
- **give advice on compliance going forward.**

Following an EDM Trigger Exceedance in 2023 you submitted a Full Investigation Proposal (FIP) to identify the reason for the trigger exceedance. The FIP gave details of any investigations so far and proposed further monitoring of the network to try and identify the reasons for the trigger exceedance. However, we could not approve the FIP because there were no timescales in the proposal as required by permit condition 3.1.2(b).

We asked for the FIP to be re-submitted with timescales in CAR_NRW0042835 on the 14/12/2023 and again in CAR_NRW0045721 on the 28/11/2024 and finally in CAR_NRW0048336 on the 28/05/2025.

We received the re-submitted FIP on the 20/08/2025. The findings from your investigations so far appear to have changed the direction of your re-submitted FIP.

The FIP explains the following. Your initial desktop studies and operational investigations indicate the root cause of the Trigger Exceedance to be Hydraulic Overload. Maintenance related work has been undertaken but further analysis of the telemetry data shows that the Event Duration Monitor (EDM) is recording spills as spikes rather than flat lining as you would expect of a large weir asset like Sandfields CSO. This is raising concerns over the reliability of the data.

You are now proposing to install a new monitor in the spill channel of the CSO by the 01/01/2026. The current EDM is reading off the screen level. Once the monitor is in place and you have collected sufficient data from it, you will undertake a detailed root cause analysis.

Condition 3.1.2 (c) requires you to implement an approved full investigation proposal. Once the investigation proposal is completed you are required by the same condition to provide NRW with a report which identifies the reasons for the trigger.

At the end of a Full Investigation we would normally expect you to have enough information to establish the reasons for a Trigger Exceedance. However, in this case, you will not be able to determine if the Trigger is being exceeded until the new monitor is installed. If Sandfields CSO exceeds its Bathing Water Trigger after the new monitor has been installed a new FIP will have to be submitted for our approval.

I approve the submitted investigation proposal. Please complete the Stage 2 Full Investigation Proposal (FIP) by the 01 January 2026 (installation of new monitor) and inform us that this has been done by the 31 January 2026.

Since you submitted the Full Investigation Proposal on the 20 August 2025 we have received a Trigger Exceedance Notification (TEN) for the 2025 Bathing Water Season.

This submission is in accordance with Condition 3.1.2 (a) which requires that 'if the measured number of significant block counted spills exceeds the limit specified in Table S3.1 this constitutes a Trigger Exceedance and the operator shall notify Natural Resources Wales of the Trigger Exceedance as soon as reasonably practicable (and no later than 4 weeks from the date of the Trigger Exceedance) in a format agreed by Natural Resources

Wales'.

We received the TEN on the 3 October 2025. You informed us that the number of spills had exceeded the limit of 5 block counted spills within the Bathing Water Season on the 9 September 2025.

As we received the notification within the required 4-week period in the format agreed by NRW you are compliant with this condition.

We will accept the FIP you submitted on the 20 August 2025 as the investigation proposal for the 2025 trigger exceedance.

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.