

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049600

Permit being assessed: ZB3090HA

For: BRYNMAWR SEWAGE PUMPING STATION, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: BRYNMAWR, EBBW VALE, BLAENAU GWENT, SOUTH EAST WALES, NP23 4SH.

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

On 30/09/2025, between 10:20 and 11:02.

Parts of permit assessed: Site Operations and infrastructure

NRW Lead Officer: Elis Nuttall.

Report sent to: DCWW, Water Industry, on 28/10/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-D1 - Water Quality - Information - Records	Action only (X)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	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-B2	Confirm the storage capacity of the system.	11/11/2025
WQ-D1	Provide, with evidence, the records showing all recent maintenance on the pumps.	11/11/2025
WQ-D1	Provide, with evidence, the records showing all recent maintenance and calibration of the telemetry systems.	11/11/2025
WQ-D1	Provide EDM data records for the 12 months prior to the inspection (Sept 2024 – Sept 2025).	11/11/2025
WQ-D1	Provide flow monitoring data as evidence that the site is achieving a PFF of 150l/s.	11/11/2025
WQ-B2	Clear the access route to the sample/discharge point of	28/11/2025

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	vegetation and provide evidence of its completion.	
WQ-B2	Clear the outfall of vegetation to ensure access for all maintenance and sampling required and provide evidence of its completion.	28/11/2025

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

Site Visit Report

This report details the site visit made by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the 30/09/2025 to Brynmawr Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) permit reference number EPR-ZB3090HA. This site is owned and operated by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW).

I (NRW Environment Officer Elis Nuttall) attended Brynmawr SPS at 10:20 for a water quality permit compliance inspection where I met with DCWW's North Gwent Supervisor (TB). The weather was clear and dry during the visit.

General Observations

This permit regulates an Emergency Overflow discharge of screened sewage effluent from Brynmawr SPS. An emergency shall be defined as the period when the sewage pumping station is inoperative as a result of one or more of the following, which is not due to the act or default of the operator, its agents, representatives, officers, employees or servants;

- electrical power failure;
- mechanical breakdown of duty and standby pumps;
- rising main failure;
- blockage of the downstream sewer.

The permit stipulates that effluent will pass through a 10mm bar screen before being discharged into the River Clydach via an outlet at SO1975612164. The pass forward flow through the pumping station is 150l/s and the storage capacity is 227m3 which equates to 1hour storage at 3 x Dry Weather Flow (DWF).

There are no numeric limits in place for discharged effluent composition or quality. _

Initial Discussions

This is the third compliance assessment undertaken for this asset, with the two previous instances being a routine inspection in December 2020 and a data audit in March 2025. No breaches were recorded or actions set on either occasion. As such there was very little to discuss regarding previous compliance history with TB. The only information shared was that the site does not undertake any routine environmental monitoring (water/effluent quality etc), only reactive monitoring in the event of an incident or complaints. We then proceeded to inspect the site infrastructure.

Site Infrastructure

General site conditions were good at the time of the visit. The appropriate security fencing, gates and signage were all in place and the compound was clear of any obstructions or hazards. This is evidenced in Figure 1.



Figure 1: General site conditions as observed during the visit.

The inlet and screens were observed and were found to be clear of debris, as seen in Figure 2. It was noted that they are both cleaned at the same time as the wet well, as described below. It was also stated that the asset operates a grit trap, which is on a timer, and is also a part of the same routine cleaning schedule. I had no concerns or advisory comments to make on these components.



Figure 2: The inlet and screen as observed during the visit.

The wet well was inspected, with TB noting that this asset has a large well, the condition of which can be seen in Figure 3. As seen, chamber covers and safety grates were in place over all exposed voids. There were no apparent cracks or defects present and there was sufficient capacity at the time of the visit. I requested that TB confirm the storage capacity at the site which is actioned below. The well is on a quarterly cleaning and maintenance programme, the most recent clean conducted on the 19/09/2025. This record was observed in the site log book which is discussed below. No noxious odours were present.

When queried, it was explained that the 3 pumps on site are situated within the “lower well” and are operated on a 1 duty, 1 assist and 1 standby arrangement. These pumps all have a capacity to pump at 90l/s. The pumps were in operation at the time of visit and appeared to be in good working order and not producing any concerning noise indicating effective operation. I requested information on the last instance of pump maintenance which is actioned below due to the details not being available at the time of the visit.



Figure 3: The wet well as observed during the visit.

Telemetry and level sensors are located within the wet well (albeit accessed by a separate chamber) (Figure 4). They were clean and operational, with flow meters stated to be in place on each pipe within the valve chamber. It was noted that the telemetry systems were on a yearly maintenance schedule, of which I requested the most recent service and maintenance report(s) as actioned below. I also requested a copy of EDM (including spill/discharge events) and flow monitoring data, which is also reflected in the actions list below. TB noted that they were not aware of any recent discharges via the emergency overflow. At the time of the visit, the system was running at 87l/s.



Figure 4: The telemetry and EDM sensors as observed during the visit.

The valve chamber was inspected and was found to be secure and accessible. All infrastructure within appeared to be in a good condition with TB noting the isolation and non-return valves were working and that the system also possesses air valves. These observations are seen in Figure 5.



Figure 5: The valve chamber as observed during the visit.

On inspection, it was clear that the control panel and unit were in a good condition. All panels were clean, clear and dry with no cracks or condensation present. An emergency stop function was in place as well as a backup generator on site. TB displayed the generator was in good working order through a brief activation, as well as providing evidence that the fuel level sat at 5613l with a capacity to hold 7500l, although it was stated no more than 7000l was ever stored on site at once. These observations are evidenced in Figure 6.



Figure 6: The control room infrastructure as observed during the visit.

The site’s log book was inspected, showing good record keeping of all routine maintenance, monthly observations and checks. No concerns were raised.

The sample/discharge point was accessible, however some overgrown vegetation was present on the access steps, as seen in Figure 7. It was noted that a clearance of this

vegetation would be actioned.



Figure 7: The access route to the sample/discharge point as observed during the visit.

The sample/discharge point was located and recorded to be situated at SO1973612159, ~20m upstream of the listed coordinates in the permit, but is within the acceptable discrepancy and as such is compliant. The outfall (as observed in Figure 8) was not discharging at the time of the visit, with no evidence of recent discharges present. There was no debris in, around or downstream of the outfall. As with the access, the outfall was slightly restricted by vegetation growth. This could hinder the ability of operators undertaking required sampling work so an action to clear the outfall of vegetation has been set. Please see the actions list below for further details.



Figure 8: The outfall as observed during the visit.

No further observations were made during this inspection.

Final Discussions

I outlined my observations and actions to TB who raised no further questions.

I left site at 11:02.

Breaches of permit conditions

No breaches of permit conditions were recorded during this inspection. Please see a list of actions below.

Actions required by dates specified

1. Confirm the storage capacity of the system.

Deadline: 11/11/2025

2. Provide, with evidence, the records showing all recent maintenance on the pumps.

Deadline: 11/11/2025

3. Provide, with evidence, the records showing all recent maintenance and calibration

of the telemetry systems.

Deadline: 11/11/2025

4. Provide EDM data records for the 12 months prior to the inspection (Sept 2024 – Sept 2025).

Deadline: 11/11/2025

5. Provide flow monitoring data as evidence that the site is achieving a PFF of 150l/s.

Deadline: 11/11/2025

6. Clear the access route to the sample/discharge point of vegetation and provide evidence of its completion.

Deadline: 28/11/2025

7. Clear the outfall of vegetation to ensure access for all maintenance and sampling required and provide evidence of its completion.

Deadline: 28/11/2025

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 other 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@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.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.