

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049814

Permit being assessed: BP0228201

For: ABERYSTWYTH STW GLANYRAFON, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: ABERYSTWYTH STW, GLANYRAFON, ABERYSTWYTH, ,, .

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

On 03/09/2025, between 10:00 and 11:22.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 31/10/2025.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	C4 No impact	U4(a)
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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-B2	Ensure that the UWWTD crude sewage sampling point at Aberystwyth STW is appropriately labelled.	31/12/2025
WQ-B2	Fix leak in pump which pumps sludge from the primary settlement tanks.	31/12/2025

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

This was a pre-planned site inspection of Aberystwyth Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (permit number: BP0228201) carried out by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) officer Bethan Lewis. The NRW officer was accompanied during the site inspection by two Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) operatives.

Summary

The site inspection commenced at 10:00 hours on the 03 September 2025 and concluded at 11:22 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection consisted of rain showers, some of which were particularly heavy. It had been dry the previous day.

The NRW officer was led through the treatment process from inlet to final effluent sampling point, with the DCWW operatives explaining how the works operated.

A DCWW operator visits Aberystwyth STW every day of the week.

The population equivalent for the site is approximately 26,000, rising to just under 30,000 at the height of the tourist season.

Treatment Process

Sewage arrives at Aberystwyth STW from Tan y Cae and Bow Street Sewage Pumping Stations (SPS). An MCERTS flow passed forward (FPF) meter at Aberystwyth STW measures the amount of flow arriving from Tan y Cae SPS. The flow meter's visual display can be viewed within the site's control room as shown in photograph 1 below. At the time of the site inspection, 16.8l/s was being passed forward from Tan y Cae SPS to Aberystwyth STW. The MCERTS certification for the meter was last renewed on the 02 September 2025. The FPF meter for Bow Street SPS is located at Bow Street SPS rather than Aberystwyth STW.



Photograph 1: Visual display for Tan y Cae SPS MCERTS FPF meter

Aberystwyth STW's inlet is shown in photograph 2 below. A representative sample of the influent may be obtained at this location as required by condition U4(a) of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (UWWTR). The sample point is however not appropriately labelled as required by condition U4(a). A category 4 non-compliance has therefore been recorded above for a non-compliance that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property. To rectify this non-compliance, NRW ask DCWW to ensure that the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) crude sewage sampling point at Aberystwyth STW is appropriately labelled by no later than the **31 December 2025**.



Photograph 2: Aberystwyth STW inlet and UWWTD crude sewage sampling point

After passing the inlet, flows at Aberystwyth STW are screened by two inlet screens with automatic wipers. Flows then enter grit classification tanks for the removal of grit. Following screening and grit classification, flows enter two primary settlement tanks, one of which is shown in photograph 3 below. Sludge pumped from the primary settlement tanks undergoes centrifugation to remove the liquid fraction. The liquid fraction is returned to the inlet for treatment whilst the solid fraction, or cake, is transported from site to be anaerobically digested. At the time of the site inspection, a small leak was evident within the pump pumping sludge from the primary settlement tanks as shown in photograph 4 below. Although the leak did not appear to be having an environmental impact, DCWW are asked to fix the leak by the **31 December 2025**.



Photograph 3: One of two primary settlement tanks



Photograph 4: Small leak evident in sludge pump

Flows exiting the primary settlement tanks enter two aeration lanes as shown in photograph 5 below. Immediately before doing so, flows pass an anoxic zone to starve the microbes before they enter the oxygen enriched environment of the aeration lanes. This improves the effectiveness of this part of the treatment process.



Photograph 5: Aeration lanes

Flows exiting the aeration lanes enter three final settlement tanks. One final settlement tank is larger in size, with the other two being equal in size (approximately 20-20-60 split). Photograph 6 below shows flows discharging from one of the three final settlement tanks. Flows from the final settlement tanks combine prior to UV dosing.



Photograph 6: Discharge from one of three final settlement tanks

Two UV banks exist at Aberystwyth STW, one of which is shown in photograph 7 below. The UV banks have automatic cleaning systems. In accordance with condition 28 of permit BP0228201, a fixed standby generator with accompanying fuel tank is located on site to ensure that the UV plant continues to receive power in the event of an external power supply failure.

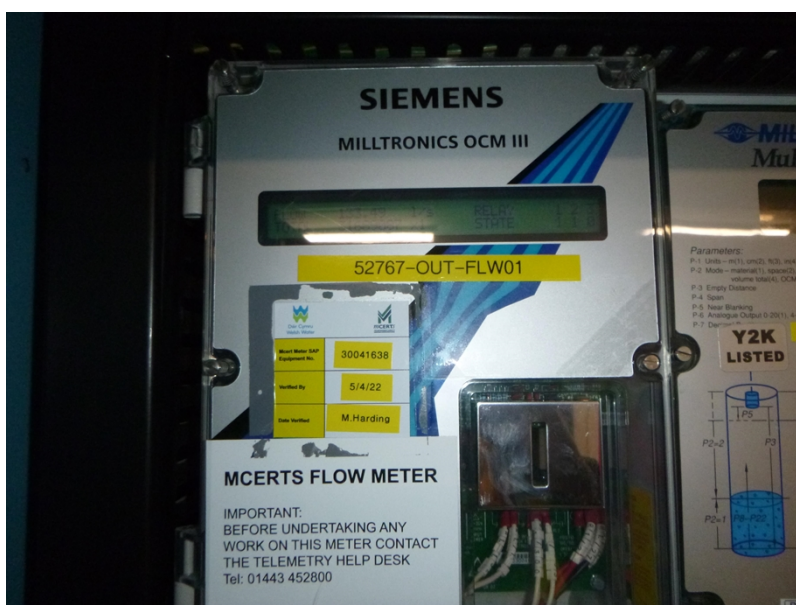


Photograph 7: One of two UV banks

UV dosing at Aberystwyth STW can be monitored via a visual display on a computer. The display shows whether any of the UV lamps are offline. At the time of the site inspection, only one of the two UV banks at Aberystwyth STW were operating as the required dosing (32 mWs/cm^2) could be achieved using only one bank. If the UV dosing drops beneath 32 mWs/cm^2 , an alarm is raised requiring mandatory attendance by DCWW.

Following UV dosing, flows pass an appropriately labelled UWWTR effluent sample point as required by condition U4(b). The UWWTR effluent sample point is shown in photograph 8 below. An ammonia reader and MCERTS flow meter also exist at this location. The visual display for the flow meter can be found inside the site's control room as shown in photograph 9 below. The MCERTS meter was last verified on the 05 April 2022. At the time of the inspection, 151l/s appeared to be passing the UWWTR effluent sample point. This is compliant with condition 7 of the permit which states that *"the rate of discharge shall not exceed 290 litres per second"*.



Photograph 8: UWWTR effluent sample point*Photograph 9: Visual display for the MCERTS final effluent flow meter*

Immediately after passing the UWWTR effluent sample point, final effluent passes an appropriately labelled final effluent sampling point as required by condition 4 of the permit. The final effluent sampling point is shown in photograph 10 below. Final effluent appeared clear at the time of the inspection with no significant trace of visible oil or grease.

*Photograph 10: Final effluent sampling point*

An attempt was made at the end of the site inspection to view the final effluent discharge point into the Afon Rheidol. Due to dense vegetation on the riverbank, the outfall could not be located. DCWW are reminded that they should undertake periodic checks of the discharge point and mixing zone to ensure appropriate dilution and no growth of sewage fungus.

Final comments

We wish to thank the DCWW operatives for accompanying the NRW officer at the time of the above site inspection. If DCWW wish to discuss the content of this Compliance Assessment Report (CAR), or are unable to meet any of the above deadlines, we encourage them to contact the NRW officer noted above as soon as possible.

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.

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.