

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049907

Permit being assessed: AE2021601

For: Rhydlafer Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Llantrisant Road (A4119), St. Fagans, Cardiff, CF5 6DS.

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

On 11/11/2025, between 10:00 and 10:45.

Parts of permit assessed: Relevant

NRW Lead Officer: Harry Warburton, accompanied by: Alexander Grainger.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 12/11/2025.

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-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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	Consider the installation of an access gate to the storm outfall from the site	26/01/2026

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

Compliance inspection of permit AE2021601 for Rhydlafer sewage treatment works, undertaken by Environment Officers Harry Warburton and Alexander Grainger, accompanied by DCWW. Weather at the time was intermittent rain and heavy rain the day prior.

Rhydlafer STW consists of permitted discharge of treated effluent as well as storm

discharge. There is currently no storm storage on site. Rhydlafar STW underwent improvements under AMP 6.

Inlet

The effluent enters the works via a mechanical screen which was operable. There is also a static bypass screen for excess effluent. The bypass screen was looking clear. Following the inlet screens the effluent flows through a channel, along this channel is an overflow weir which is for the storm effluent that cannot be passed forward. There is the EDM monitor at the overflow weir, which the effluent then goes to the storm discharge point in the Nant Dowlais. The effluent that is passed forward flows through the channel where there is the flow passed forward monitor, this showed a FPF of 11.61l/s with the permitted FPF prior to a storm spill being 36.3l/s.

The effluent then enters the oxidation ditch.



Primary treatment

The effluent enters a circulating oxidation ditch, all blowers appeared to be in operation. There is the RAS recirculation entering the ditch also. The effluent weirs over at the end of the oxidation ditch which flows through pipes to the settlement tanks.



Secondary treatment

Following the oxidation ditch the effluent is evenly split between two settlement tanks. These tanks were in good order and appeared to be providing a high level of treatment, with no evident suspended solids carry over. There is a pumping station on site that pumps the effluent from the settlement tanks to a mecana pile cloth media filter tank for its final level of treatment, before being pumped to the final effluent sample point and outfall.



Final effluent and outfalls

There is a labelled final effluent sampling point, which also has live monitoring for temperature, suspended solids and ammonia. However the ammonia monitor was offline. The final effluent outfall to the Nant Dowlais was accessible from the site, this appeared to be in good order and having no visual impact to the stream. The storm discharge outfall is further upstream, however is not accessible. It was highlighted at the last compliance inspection that an access gate should be considered due its close proximity to the site fencing and to allow for visual inspection of the environment at the storm outfall.



Action - Consider the installation of an access gate to the storm outfall from the site.

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.