

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049826

Permit being assessed: BP0067601

For: CSOs and EO at Tan y Cae Pumping Station, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Tan y Cae Car Park, Bridge Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1JF.

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

On 03/09/2025, between 11:35 and 12:19.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 24/11/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	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-B2	Confirm whether figure 1 provided in section 4 below accurately depicts the activities undertaken at the three outfalls at/near Tan y Cae SPS.	31/01/2026
WQ-B3	Supply photographs showing the aperture of the storm and settled storm screens at Tan y Cae SPS.	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

This was a pre-planned site inspection of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) and Emergency Overflow (EO) at Tan y Cae Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) (permit number: BP0067601) 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.

The site inspection commenced at 11:35 hours on the 03 September 2025 and concluded at 12:19 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was mostly dry, although heavy rain showers had occurred earlier in the morning. The weather had been dry the previous day.

Sewage reaching Tan y Cae SPS is pumped to Aberystwyth Sewage Treatment Works (STW) by duty foul pumps. Standby foul pumps are also available and operate as required. Tankers can access Tan y Cae SPS if a problem occurs with the foul pumps. A permanent standby generator has been installed to provide power in the event of an external power supply issue.

In accordance with condition 3.2.1(a), an MCERTS Flow Passed Forward (FPF) meter has been installed at Aberystwyth STW to record flows pumped forward from Tan y Cae SPS. The visual display for this flow meter was viewed as part of an inspection at Aberystwyth STW earlier on the 03 September 2025 as recorded in Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) CAR_NRW0049814. The MCERTS certification for the meter was last renewed on the 02 September 2025.

Storm and settled storm discharges at Tan y Cae SPS

Permit BP0067601 allows the discharge of storm and settled storm discharges into the Afon Rheidol at SN 58209 81332. These discharges are screened with the screenings deposited into skips as shown in photographs 1 and 2 below. As the screens are encased, it was not possible to confirm the aperture of the storm and settled storm screens at the time of the inspection. As condition 2.3.2(d) requires both screens to have an aperture of 6mm x 6mm, NRW ask DCWW to supply photographs showing the aperture of the storm and settled storm screens by the **31 January 2026**.



Photograph 1: Screenings deposited into skip



Photograph 2: Screenings deposited into skip

In addition to screening, settled storm discharges at Tan y Cae SPS undergo settlement in a storm tank situated beneath an adjacent car park at SN 58168 81342. The storm tank is 3.5 metres deep and spans the entire area of the car park as later shown in figure 1. Sewage within the storm tank is continually pumped back into the foul well to ensure that it is returned to the continuation flow as soon as reasonably practicable. As shown in photograph 3 below, the storm tank was empty at the time of the inspection. A layer of debris was visible at the base of the storm tank. It was stated that DCWW are currently considering how the base of the storm tank might be cleaned, considering hazards such as working within a confined space whilst the pumping station is operational etc. Until such works are completed, DCWW must ensure that the volume of debris at the base of the storm tank does not compromise the minimum storm storage capacity required by permit BP0067601 (4700m³).



Photograph 3: Entry into storm tank

The storm and settled storm discharge point at Tan y Cae SPS was checked as part of the site inspection as shown in photograph 4 below. As far as could be seen, no storm or settled storm discharges were being made into the Afon Rheidol at the time of the inspection. No sewage fungus or discolouration was observed at the outfall.



Photograph 4: Storm and settled storm discharge point into the Afon Rheidol (SN 58209 81332)

A manhole near the storm and settled storm discharge point enables samples of the discharge to be collected. This manhole is shown in photograph 5 below. Samples can also be collected from numerous entry hatches within the SPS building.



Photograph 5: Storm and settled storm sample point

Event Duration Monitors (EDM) at Tan y Cae SPS record flows being pumped into the storm tank as well as out to the Afon Rheidol. EDM monitors were first installed at Tan y Cae SPS

nine years ago. The EDM monitors receive regular maintenance every two years. During 2024, the EDM monitor recording storm spills into the Afon Rheidol recorded 21 block counted spills totalling 231.75 hours. Only one significant spill occurred during the bathing water season (15 May until 30 September). The EDM monitor was operational 99.59% of the time.

Discharge of sewage in an emergency

Permit BP0067601 also allows the discharge of sewage in an emergency into the Afon Rheidol from Tan y Cae SPS. The emergency outfall is believed to be located directly south of Tan y Cae SPS's storm tank as later shown in figure 1. When an emergency discharge occurs, it is believed that sewage discharges directly from the storm tank into the Afon Rheidol. The outfall directly south of Tan y Cae SPS's storm tank was viewed at the time of the inspection and is shown in photograph 6 below. No discharge was being made from the outfall at the time of the inspection. No discolouration was noted near the outfall.



Photograph 6: Suspected emergency outfall into the Afon Rheidol

Potential unpermitted storm overflow near Tan y Cae SPS

In addition to the outfalls described above, the NRW officer also viewed an outfall to the east of Tan y Cae SPS as shown in figure 1 below. The outfall is suspected to be a storm overflow on the incoming sewer network to Tan y Cae SPS. The outfall is shown in photograph 7 below. No discharge was being made from the outfall at the time of the site inspection and no discolouration or sewage fungus was observed at the outfall.



Photograph 7: Possible unpermitted storm overflow on incoming sewer network

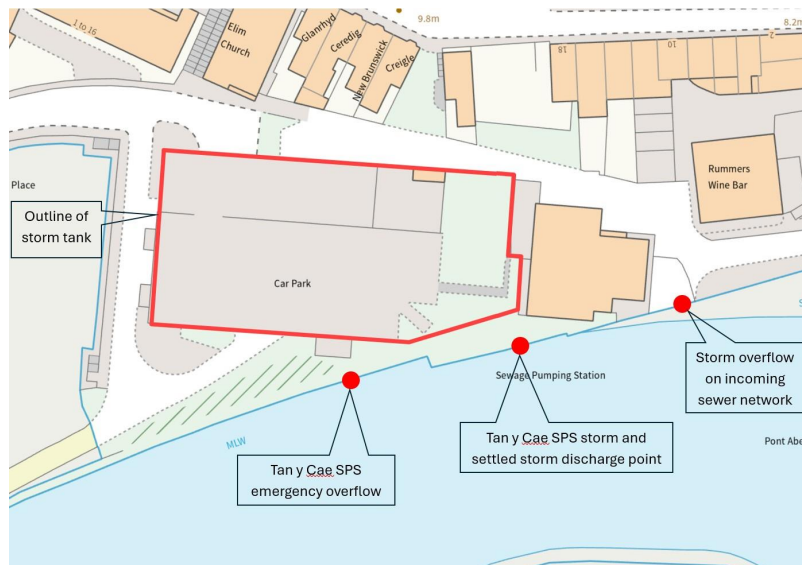


Figure 1: Storm tank and outfalls at/near Tan y Cae SPS

By the **31 January 2026** NRW ask DCWW to confirm whether figure 1 above accurately depicts the activities undertaken at the three outfalls at/near Tan y Cae SPS.

Final comments

NRW 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 contents 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.