

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049997

Permit being assessed: BN0167301

For: ABERMAGWR STW, held by CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION C C

At: MAESMAGWR, ABERMAGWR, ABERYSTWYTH, CEREDIGION, SY23 4AS.

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

On 25/09/2025, between 10:52 and 11:29.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: Martyn Davies, STW Project Officer for Ceredigion County Council, on 26/11/2025.

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	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?

No action required.

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 Abermagwr Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (permit number: BN0167301) carried out by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) officer Bethan Lewis. The NRW officer was accompanied during the site inspection by Martyn Davies, STW Project Officer for Ceredigion County Council (CCC), and Eirian Jones, Building Maintenance Manager for CCC.

The site inspection commenced at 10:52 hours on the 25 September 2025 and concluded at 11:29 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry. It had also been dry the previous day.

Abermagwr STW comprises a Rotating Biological Contractor (RBC) as shown in photograph 1 below. On opening the RBC, it became apparent that the discs were not rotating. After some investigation, it was suspected that the site had experienced a power outage. This was later verified by Scottish Power's website which confirmed that a power outage had occurred in the local area at 11:07 hours on the 25 September 2025.

After realising that the RBC discs had stopped rotating, the CCC officers restarted the RBC and resolved the issue. As no telemetry has been installed at Abermagwr STW, issues such as this are only identified when the appointed contractors visit site once every six weeks. This means that issues can be left unresolved for considerable periods of time, with the potential to cause pollution to the environment. CCC state that they are currently considering installing a GSM telemetry system at Abermagwr STW. If installed, the system would provide automatic messages to relevant parties notifying them of faults at the STW. This should minimise the risk of pollution at the site.



Photograph 1: Rotating Biological Contractor (RBC)

Despite the fact that the RBC discs were not rotating at the beginning of the inspection, flows discharging from the RBC and into the final effluent sample point at SN 66607 73578 did not have a significant odour, and the NRW officer did not notice any significant trace of visible oil or grease. Abermagwr STW's final effluent sample point is shown in photograph 2 below.



Photograph 2: Final effluent sample point

Final effluent from Abermagwr STW discharges into the unnamed tributary of the Afon Ystwyth at SN 66612 73615. At the time of the inspection, the discharge point was difficult to access due to vegetation growth on the riverbank. CCC are reminded that under condition 3.3.4, permanent means of access shall be provided to enable sampling/monitoring to be carried out at the discharge point. Although it is not believed that this condition was breached at the time of the inspection, CCC are advised to improve access to the discharge point to ensure continued compliance with condition 3.3.4.

The outfall into the unnamed tributary of the Afon Ystwyth appeared slightly grey in colour at the time of the inspection, possibly due to the build-up of sediment. The unnamed tributary however appeared clear downstream of the outfall.

CCC estimate that the average daily flow from Abermagwr STW is 11m³/day. This is compliant with condition 3.1.2 which states that the maximum daily discharge volume cannot exceed 13m³/day.

NRW wish to thank CCC for accompanying the NRW officer at the time of the above site inspection. If CCC wish to discuss the content of this Compliance Assessment Report (CAR), we encourage them to contact the NRW officer noted above.

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.