

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050444

Permit being assessed: BN0264201

For: LLANGWYRYFON STW ABERYSTWYTH, **held by:** CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION C
C

At: LLANGWYRYFON STW ABERYSTWYTH, ABERYSTWYTH, ABERYSTWYTH,
ABERYSTWYTH, ABERYSTWYT.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 25/09/2025, between 12:34 and 13:21.

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
30/01/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C4 No impact	5
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	6

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B1	Conduct a survey of Llangwyrfon STW to (1) identify faults/leaks, and (2) confirm where final effluent is currently discharging. If faults/leaks are identified, confirm when and how these will be rectified.	30/04/2026
WQ-C1	Conduct a survey of Llangwyrfon STW to (1) identify faults/leaks, and (2) confirm where final effluent is currently discharging. If faults/leaks are identified, confirm when and how these will be rectified. (A follow-up action will be issued	30/04/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	in a later Compliance Assessment Report to require flow measurement structures to be provided and maintained to enable the daily volume and instantaneous flow rate of the discharge to be measured or determined as required).	
WQ-C1	Conduct a survey of Llangwyrfon STW to (1) identify faults/leaks, and (2) confirm where final effluent is currently discharging. If faults/leaks are identified, confirm when and how these will be rectified. (A follow-up action will be issued in a later Compliance Assessment Report to require all constituents of the discharge to pass through an appropriately labelled sample point).	30/04/2026

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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

Summary

This was a pre-planned site inspection of Llangwyrfon Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (permit number: BN0264201) 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 12:34 hours on the 25 September 2025 and concluded at 13:21 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry. It had also been dry the previous day.

Llangwyrfon STW serves 7 domestic properties. Sewage is treated by a septic tank and filter bed as shown in photograph 1 below. At the time of the inspection, the septic tank had last been desludged on the 19 September 2025.



Photograph 1: Llangwyrfon STW consisting of a septic tank (foreground) and filter bed (background)

Llangwyrfon STW's filter bed consists of plastic media as shown in photograph 2 below. As shown in photograph 3 below, a small leak was evident in the external wall of the filter bed.



Photograph 2: Filter bed



Photograph 3: Leak in filter bed wall

Effluent exiting the filter bed enters a chamber as shown in photograph 4 below. From the post-filter bed chamber, flows are recirculated to earlier part(s) of the treatment process to improve efficiency. Flows are recirculated to a chamber between the septic tank and filter bed. Given the large flow rate observed at the inlet (as shown in photograph 5 below), it is possible that flows are also partly recirculated back to the inlet.



Photograph 4: Post-filter bed chamber



Photograph 5: Inlet

Suspended channels within the post-filter bed chamber direct final effluent to a final effluent sample point as shown in photograph 6 below. At the time of the inspection, the level of effluent within the post-filter bed chamber was lower than the level of the suspended channels. This meant that final effluent was not being directed into the final effluent sample point. Given that the final effluent sample point was found to contain stagnant water only, and that the suspended channels contained vegetation such as grass, it was concluded that final effluent had not reached the final effluent sample point for some time. It is possible that a leak within the post-filter bed chamber may be causing effluent to discharge to ground rather than reaching the level of the suspended channels and being directed into the final effluent sample point. At the time of the inspection, effluent was observed to be discharging into the post-filter bed chamber via a joint in the wall. The integrity of the post-filter bed chamber is therefore in doubt.



Photograph 6: Final effluent sample point

The permitted discharge point into the Afon Wyre was checked as part of the site inspection as shown in photograph 7 below. Final effluent could not be seen to be discharging into the Afon Wyre at this location.



Photograph 7: Permitted discharge point into the Afon Wyre

Non-compliances and actions

As it is suspected that final effluent at Llangwyrfon STW is currently discharging to ground at the location of the post-filter bed chamber rather than to the Afon Wyre, it is likely that CCC are breaching condition 3 of the permit which states that "*the discharge shall be made from an outlet at National Grid Reference: SN 6010 7070 into the Afon Wyre*". In response to this potential breach, NRW ask CCC to conduct a survey of Llangwyrfon STW to (1) identify faults/leaks, and (2) confirm where final effluent is currently discharging. If faults/leaks are identified, NRW ask CCC to confirm when and how these will be rectified. CCC are asked to complete this by the **30 April 2026**.

CCC estimate that the average daily flow from Llangwyrfon STW is 4.2m³/day. This is less than the maximum discharge limit on the permit of 6m³ in any period of 24 consecutive hours. No flow measurement structures have however been provided and maintained to enable the daily volume and instantaneous flow rate of the discharge to be measured or determined as required. This represents a breach under condition 5 of the permit. As the maximum discharge limit is unlikely to be exceeded, a category 4 non-compliance has been recorded above for the breach under condition 5. A category 4 non-compliance represents a non-compliance that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property. To rectify the non-compliance, CCC, in time, must ensure that flow measurement structures are provided and maintained to enable the daily volume and instantaneous flow rate of the discharge to be measured or determined as required. NRW however propose that this action is delayed until CCC have confirmed where final effluent is discharging and whether faults/leaks need to be rectified to enable final effluent to discharge into the Afon Wyre as required by the permit. NRW will remind CCC of the need to install flow measurement structures within a follow-up Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) once the primary action has been completed.

Condition 6 of the permit states that "*a sample point at National Grid Reference SN 6010*

7070 shall be constructed, maintained and appropriately labelled so that a representative sample of the sewage effluent discharged may be obtained. The discharger shall ensure that all constituents of the discharge pass through the said sampling point at all times". Although photograph 6 above shows what appears to be a final effluent sample point at Llangwyrfon STW, the sample point was not appropriately labelled at the time of the site inspection, and a representative sample of the sewage effluent discharged could not be collected from it. As this represents a breach of condition 6, a category 3 non-compliance has been recorded above for a non-compliance that has the potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property. To rectify the non-compliance, CCC, in time, must ensure that all constituents of the discharge pass through an appropriately labelled sample point. NRW however propose that this action is delayed until CCC have confirmed where final effluent is discharging and whether faults/leaks need to be rectified to enable final effluent to discharge into the Afon Wyre as required by the permit. NRW will remind CCC of the need to ensure that all constituents of the discharge pass through an appropriately labelled sample point within a follow-up CAR once the primary action has been completed.

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 required for the permit condition assessed to avoid non-compliance. No non-compliance scored at this time
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

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 Monitoring
- WQ-C5 Installation of monitoring boreholes

WQ D: Information

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

Enforcement response

Any non-compliance with a permit condition 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 twenty working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

Disputing the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If you disagree with the content of this Compliance Assessment Report form, you should submit your concerns, in writing, to the regulating officer who issued it within **15 working days** of its issue. This will be treated as a **Stage 1 review**.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the stage 1 review, you may request a **Stage 2 appeal**. This request must be submitted **within 21 working days** of receiving the response from the stage 1 review.

Further details on our review and appeal process are available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Appeal a regulatory decision from Natural Resources Wales](#)

Concerns Not Related to the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If your concerns do not relate to the content of the Compliance Assessment Report form, you should first attempt to resolve the issue with the regulating officer or their line manager.

If the issue remains unresolved, please contact our **Customer Contact Team**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:00)
- **Email:** enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

They will provide details on how to escalate your concerns through our **Complaints and Commendations procedure**.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you may contact the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 790 0203
- **Email:** 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.