

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050545

Permit being assessed: BN0099101

For: LLANILAR STW LLANILAR ABERYSTWYTH, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: LLANILAR STW LLANILAR ABERYSTWYTH, LLANILAR ABERYSTWYTH, ABERYSTWYTH, ABERYSTWYTH, ABERYSTWYT.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 02/10/2025, between 10:52 and 11:51.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 05/02/2026.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C4 No impact	4
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Action only (X)	

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 where final effluent from Llanilar STW is currently discharging, and confirm whether any actions are required to ensure compliance with condition 3.	05/05/2026
WQ-C1	Ensure that the final effluent sample point is appropriately labelled.	05/04/2026
WQ-C4	Confirm whether the effluent pooling around the MCERTS flow meter pipework was caused by a leak. If so, confirm	05/04/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	whether any works are required to rectify the leak.	

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 Llanilar Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (permit number: BN0099101) 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 10:52 hours on the 02 October 2025 and concluded at 11:51 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry. It had also 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.

Llanilar STW is visited by a site operator twice a week, although this can be increased to three times a week if low pH levels are identified (see further detail below).

The population equivalent for the site is 669. When excluding non-residents, this reduces to 654.

A fixed generator at Llanilar STW ensures that the site can continue to operate in the event of an external power supply issue.

Treatment Process

Sewage is pumped to Llanilar STW from two pumping stations in the village of Llanilar. No storm overflow exists at Llanilar STW. Storm overflows exist at the terminal pumping stations instead.

Llanilar STW's inlet is shown in photograph 1 below. Sewage is pumped from the inlet to a perforated screen as shown in photograph 2 below. Screenings are squeezed to release effluent before being deposited into a skip/bin as shown in photograph 3 below.



Photograph 1: Inlet



Photograph 2: Perforated screen



Photograph 3: Screenings deposited into skip/bin

Following screening, flows enter an aeration lane as shown in photograph 4 below. Flows exiting the aeration lane pass a sludge lift wheel as shown in photograph 5 below. Activated sludge is returned to the aeration lane. Sludge is also occasionally pumped to a sludge holding tank on site as shown in photograph 6 below.



Photograph 4: Aeration lane



Photograph 5: Sludge lift wheel



Photograph 6: Sludge holding tank

Flows that pass the sludge lift wheel subsequently enter a final settlement tank as shown in photograph 7 below. A sensor records the level of sludge within the final settlement tank. As can be seen in photograph 7, vegetation was growing in the centre of the final settlement tank at the time of the inspection. Although this was not causing an obvious issue, DCWW are advised to monitor and manage the vegetation growth as necessary.



Photograph 7: Final settlement tank

Flows exiting the final settlement tank pass an MCERTS flow meter as shown in photograph 8 below. The MCERTS flow meter was last certified on the 10 April 2024. As can be seen in photograph 8, effluent was pooling around the flow meter pipework at the time of the inspection. NRW ask DCWW to confirm whether the pooling effluent was caused by a leak, and if so, to confirm whether any works are required to rectify the leak. NRW ask for a response by the **05 April 2026**.



Photograph 8: MCERTS flow meter

Photograph 9 below shows the on-site visual display for the MCERTS flow meter. At the time of the inspection, the rate of discharge from Llanilar STW was recorded as 0.35l/s. If a leak was present in the flow meter pipework, the rate of discharge may have been greater than this.



Photograph 9: MCERTS flow meter on-site visual display

Near the MCERTS flow meter, pH and suspended solids probes monitor final effluent quality. The probes are linked to the site's telemetry meaning that an alarm is raised if pH and suspended solids reach certain levels. The DCWW operatives mentioned that for unknown reasons, final effluent at Llanilar STW often becomes acidic. When this occurs, DCWW release a pH corrector into the aeration lane and closely monitor pH levels afterwards.

Before discharging from site, final effluent passes a final effluent sample point. Final effluent appeared clear at the sample point at the time of the inspection. The sample point was however not appropriately labelled as required by condition 4 of the permit. 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 the non-compliance, NRW ask DCWW to ensure that the final effluent sample point is appropriately labelled by the **05 April 2026**.

As part of the site inspection, the NRW officer viewed the STW site diary. The diary is used by the site operator to record actions and monitoring undertaken during their site visits. The NRW officer noted that the operator had recorded the ammonia concentration of the final effluent during their visits. The ammonia concentration was often recorded as <1mg/l, which is significantly lower than the permitted ammoniacal nitrogen limit on the permit (15mg/l).

At the end of the inspection, an attempt was made to view the final effluent outfall into the Afon Ystwyth. The outfall could not however be located. The DCWW operatives commented that the river channel had changed significantly since their last visit. It is therefore possible that the headwall may either have been washed away or buried into the riverbank. As condition 3 of the permit requires final effluent to be discharged into the Afon Ystwyth via a 250 millimetre diameter pipe at National Grid Reference SN 6200 7570, NRW ask DCWW to confirm where final effluent from Llanilar STW is currently discharging, and to confirm whether any actions are required to ensure compliance with condition 3. NRW ask for a response by the **05 May 2026**.

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 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.