

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050940

Permit being assessed: BP0284101

For: Settled Storm and Emergency Overflow at Aberaeron SPS, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Foreshore Car Park, Off Lower Regent Street, Aberaeron, SA46 0BN.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 19/02/2026, between 11:10 and 11:47.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 09/03/2026.

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	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	C4 No impact	3.2.4

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C4	Install a settled storm and emergency sample point at Aberaeron SPS in accordance with condition 3.2.4.	09/06/2026

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 Settled Storm and Emergency Overflow at Aberaeron Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) (permit number: BP0284101) 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.

For observations concerning Aberaeron Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (permit number: BP0284201), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR_NRW0050938.

For observations concerning Aberaeron STW inlet pumping station (permit number: BP0284301), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR_NRW0050939.

Summary

The site inspection commenced at 11:10 hours on the 19 February 2026 and concluded at 11:47 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry. Some heavy showers had occurred the previous day.

Sewage arriving at Aberaeron SPS undergoes grit classification. Sewage is then either pumped to Aberaeron STW by three foul pumps (one duty and two assist pumps) or stored in a storm tank which sits beneath much of the site. The storm tank was found to be empty at the time of the inspection.

Flows passed forward (FPF) from Aberaeron SPS are monitored by an MCERTS FPF meter situated at Aberaeron STW. The on-site visual display for the FPF meter was viewed as part of the site inspection undertaken at Aberaeron STW at 10:00 hours on the 19 February 2026 (see CAR_NRW0050938). The on-site visual display showed 29.7l/s passing forward from Aberaeron SPS at the time of the inspection.

On occasions when storm tank capacity is reached at Aberaeron SPS, flows are directed towards the 6mm x 6mm mesh screen shown in photograph 1 below. The screen is mechanically cleaned. A telemetry alarm system has been installed to give the operator immediate notification of a failure of the screen cleaning mechanism. As can be seen in photograph 1, fat deposits were present within the screening chamber. It was stated that fat deposits are a common occurrence at Aberaeron SPS. To avoid blockages, the screening chamber is cleaned before and after each bathing water season (15 May - 30 September). NRW advise DCWW to continue to monitor the growth of fat deposits at Aberaeron SPS and to consider undertaking local campaigns to raise awareness of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG).



Photograph 1: Screen

Final effluent from Aberaeron STW and emergency discharges from Aberaeron STW's inlet pumping station reach Aberaeron SPS and combine with settled storm and emergency discharges from Aberaeron SPS. Combined discharges are then pumped out to coastal waters of Cardigan Bay by two pumps.

Condition 3.2.4 requires that an accessible settled storm and emergency sample point is located at Aberaeron SPS at SN 45890 63210. No designated settled storm or emergency sample point currently exists at Aberaeron SPS. A category 4 non-compliance has therefore been recorded above against condition 3.2.4. 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, NRW ask DCWW to install a settled storm and emergency sample point at Aberaeron SPS in accordance with condition 3.2.4 by the **09 June 2026**.

Tanker access is provided and maintained at Aberaeron STW to enable the removal of sewage by tanker when necessary.

Settled storm discharges at Aberaeron SPS are monitored by Event Duration Monitoring (EDM). EDM was installed at Aberaeron SPS on the 17 December 2019. In 2025, EDM recorded 67 block counted spills from Aberaeron SPS totalling 942 hours. EDM was operational 99.9% of the time.

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 contents of this Compliance Assessment Report (CAR), or are unable to meet the deadline set above, 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.