

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0050938

**Permit being assessed:** BP0284201

**For:** ABERAERON STW, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

**At:** ABERAERON STW, DOLWEN, LAMPETER ROAD, ABERAERON, .

**Type of assessment carried out:** Site Inspection,

**Reason:** Routine.

**On** 19/02/2026, between 10:00 and 10:40.

**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-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	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 Aberaeron Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (permit number: BP0284201) 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 STW inlet pumping station (permit number: BP0284301), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR\_NRW0050939.

For observations concerning the Settled Storm and Emergency Overflow at Aberaeron Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) (permit number: BP0284101) please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR\_NRW0050940.

### **General Observations**

The site inspection commenced at 10:00 hours on the 19 February 2026 and concluded at 10:40 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry. Some heavy showers had occurred 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.

The population equivalent for Aberaeron STW is 3490.

### **Treatment Process**

Two rising mains enter Aberaeron STW, one from Aberaeron SPS (permit number: BP0284101) and the other from Aberaeron STW's inlet pumping station (permit number: BP0284301) located outside of Aberaeron STW's perimeter fence. MCERTS flow passed forward (FPF) meters have been installed on both rising mains as they enter Aberaeron STW. The on-site visual display for these flow meters showed 29.7l/s passing forward from Aberaeron SPS at the time of the inspection, and 27.4l/s passing forward from Aberaeron STW's inlet pumping station.

Flows from Aberaeron SPS and Aberaeron STW's inlet pumping station combine and are screened by the encased screw screen shown in photograph 1 below. Screenings removed from the discharge are deposited into a nearby skip.



*Photograph 1: Inlet screen*

Following screening, flows enter an anoxic zone before splitting into two aeration lanes as shown in photograph 2 below. The anoxic zone starves the microbes before they enter the oxygen enriched environment of the aeration lanes, improving the effectiveness of this part of the treatment process. The aeration lanes at Aberaeron STW are aerated by three blowers. These blowers consist of both duty and standby blowers.



*Photograph 2: Aeration lanes*

Flows discharging from the aeration lanes enter two final settlement tanks, one of which is shown in photograph 3 below. Sludge levels within the final settlement tanks are monitored. Alarms are raised if sludge levels reach certain thresholds.



*Photograph 3: One of two final settlement tanks*

Activated sludge from the final settlement tanks is returned to the aeration lanes. Surplus activated sludge (SAS) on the other hand is taken to the sludge holding tank shown on the right of photograph 4 below. The sludge is subsequently thickened by a sludge thickener on site. Thickened sludge is returned to the sludge holding tank on the left of photograph 4 prior to its collection and transfer from site by tanker.



Photograph 4: Sludge holding tanks

A flow meter has been installed to monitor final effluent flows discharging from the final settlement tanks. The on-site visual display for the flow meter showed 36l/s of final effluent discharging from the final settlement tanks at the time of the inspection.

Final effluent eventually reaches an appropriately labelled final effluent sampling point as shown in photographs 5 and 6 below. A suspended solids probe has been installed at the final effluent sampling point to continuously monitor final effluent quality. At the time of the

inspection, the suspended solids concentration of the final effluent was shown to be 4.8mg/l, well below the permitted look-up-table (LUT) limit of 60mg/l. Alarms are automatically raised if the suspended solids concentration of the final effluent reaches certain thresholds.



*Photograph 5: Final effluent sampling point signage*



*Photograph 6: Final effluent sampling point*

After passing the final effluent sampling point, final effluent discharges to coastal waters of Cardigan Bay via Aberaeron SPS.

### **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), 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.