

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050939

Permit being assessed: BP0284301

For: ABERAERON STW INLET PS DOLWEN, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: ABERAERON STW INLET PS, DOLWEN, LAMPETER ROAD ABERAERON, ,, .

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 19/02/2026, between 10:40 and 11:01.

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	C4 No impact	5

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	Ensure that an appropriately labelled sample point is provided to enable representative samples of the discharge to be obtained.	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 Aberaeron Sewage Treatment Works (STW) inlet pumping station (permit number: BP0284301) 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 (permit number: BP0284201), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR_NRW0050938.

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.

Summary

The site inspection commenced at 10:40 hours on the 19 February 2026 and concluded at 11:01 hours. The weather at the time of the inspection was dry. Some heavy showers had occurred the previous day.

Sewage from the villages of Temple Bar, Felinfach and Ciliau Aeron feed into the inlet pumping station's wet well as shown in photograph 1 below.



Photograph 1: Wet well

Under normal conditions, duty and standby pumps pump sewage from the wet well to Aberaeron STW. Telemetry is available at the inlet pumping station to monitor levels and flows. A mobile generator can be installed at Aberaeron STW to provide power to the inlet pumping station in the event of an external power supply failure.

An emergency discharge may occur from the wet well if sewage reaches the height of the screened overflow at the top of the wet well as shown in photograph 2 below. The screen is a perforated screen with an aperture smaller than 10mm in one dimension as required by condition 7(a) of the permit. At the time of the inspection, the level of sewage within the wet well was significantly lower than the level of the emergency overflow. No emergency discharge was therefore being made from the inlet pumping station at the time of the inspection.



Photograph 2: Overflow screen

Emergency discharges from the inlet pumping station combine with final effluent from Aberaeron STW before discharging to coastal waters of Cardigan Bay via Aberaeron SPS.

Condition 5 of permit BP0284301 states that "*an appropriately labelled sample point shall be provided and maintained at National Grid Reference SN 4692 6095 ... so that a representative sample of the Discharge may be obtained*". The DCWW operatives were not aware of a sample point at the inlet pumping station at the time of the inspection, and no signage indicated that a sampling point existed on site. As this represents a breach of condition 5, a category 4 non-compliance has 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 an appropriately labelled sample point is provided to enable representative samples of the discharge to be obtained by the **09 June 2026**.

Although the access track to the inlet pumping station is constructed of hardstanding, it was noted during the site inspection that a layer of mud and moss was present at the surface of the access track as shown in photograph 3 below. Although not a breach of permit, NRW advise DCWW to maintain the access track as necessary to ensure that tankers can access the inlet pumping station during an emergency.



Photograph 3: Access track to the inlet pumping station

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.