

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0050925

**Permit being assessed:** BN0015601

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

**At:** PENNANT STW, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN.

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

**Reason:** Routine.

**On** 19/02/2026, between 09:01 and 09:46.

**Parts of permit assessed:** See criteria listed below

**NRW Lead Officer:** Bethan Lewis.

**Report sent to:** CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 19/03/2026.

### 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-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 Pennant Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (permit number: BN0015601) 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 the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) at Pennant STW (permit number: BN0015602), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR\_NRW0050926.

### **General Observations**

The site inspection commenced at 09:01 hours on the 19 February 2026 and concluded at 09:46 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 outfall, with the DCWW operatives explaining how the works operated.

Pennant STW is visited by a site operator once a week.

The population equivalent for the site is 149.

Telemetry and flow meters have been installed on site.

### **Treatment Process**

Flows at Pennant STW are first treated by a septic tank as shown in photograph 1 below. The septic tank is desludged every few months, as and when required.



*Photograph 1: Septic tank*

Flows discharging from the septic tank reach a stone media filter bed as shown in photograph 2 below. The arms of the filter bed were rotating unhindered at the time of the inspection. Effluent was being evenly distributed across the surface of the filter bed.

Given Pennant STW's location, a covering of moss was present at the surface of the filter bed. This was also noted during NRW's last inspection of Pennant STW on the 18 September 2020 as detailed in Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) CAR\_NRW0037449. At the time of the most recent inspection, the DCWW operatives explained that moss can cause a deterioration in final effluent quality if cleared too frequently, or infrequently. Given the quantity of moss observed at the surface of the filter bed at the time of the most recent inspection, it was stated that DCWW would arrange for the moss to be cleared to avoid a deterioration in final effluent quality and to avoid effluent ponding at the surface of the filter bed.

As no screen exists at the inlet to Pennant STW, rags also accumulate at the surface of the filter bed. Rags are periodically cleared by hand from the surface of the filter bed.



*Photograph 2: Filter bed*

Photograph 3 below shows the outflow from the filter bed. The outflow appeared clear at the time of the inspection with no evidence of rags or other matter discharging from the filter bed.



*Photograph 3: Outflow from filter bed*

After discharging from the filter bed, effluent discharges to a final settlement tank as shown in photograph 4 below. Flows exiting the final settlement tank appeared clear at the time of the inspection. The final settlement tank is desludged every three months. When incoming flows are low, flows are recirculated from the final settlement tank back to the filter bed to keep the filter bed wet. The recirculation flow is monitored by an MCERTS flow meter.



*Photograph 4: Final settlement tank*

Final effluent from Pennant STW subsequently discharges into the Afon Arth as shown in photograph 5 below. The final effluent outfall acts as the site's final effluent sampling point as shown in photograph 6 below. Final effluent discharging at the outfall appeared clear and odourless at the time of the inspection. The NRW officer did not notice a discoloured plume or evidence of sewage fungus within the Afon Arth at the final effluent discharge point.



*Photograph 5: Final effluent discharge point into the Afon Arth*



*Photograph 6: Final effluent sampling point signage*

As has been mentioned in previous Compliance Assessment Reports (see CAR\_NRW0037449), infrastructure at Pennant STW, namely the septic tank and filter bed, appear old and in a poor state of repair. The DCWW operatives mentioned that Pennant STW is part of an AMP 8 (Asset Management Period 8) scheme looking at reducing the number of storm spills from the site. As part of this scheme, it is possible that the site's infrastructure may be improved.

### **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 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](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.