

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0050926

**Permit being assessed:** BN0015602

**For:** CSO at Pennant STW, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

**At:** Pennant STW, Pennant, Llanon, SY23 5JH.

**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 31/03/2026.

### 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	C3 Minor	2.2.1
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
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 in writing how you intend to prevent partially treated sewage effluent from discharging into the Afon Arth. Also confirm whether the overflow within the chamber following the septic tank should be added to DCWW's list of unpermitted overflows.	12/05/2026
WQ-C4	Confirm whether both overflow points at Pennant STW are monitored by EDM, or whether EDM is restricted to discharges at the inlet overflow only.	12/05/2026

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.

**You are non-compliant with your permit.**

**At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.**

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 Combined Sewer Overflow at Pennant Sewage Treatment Works (STW) (permit number: BN0015602) 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 final effluent permit at Pennant STW (permit number: BN0015601), please refer to Compliance Assessment Report (CAR): CAR\_NRW0050925.

#### **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 storm discharge process by the two DCWW operatives.

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

The population equivalent for the site is 149.

Telemetry, flow meters and Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) are present on site.

#### **Storm discharge process**

Flows enter Pennant STW via the inlet as shown in photograph 1 below. A storm overflow exists at the inlet which is monitored by EDM. Any flows discharging to storm at the inlet pass through a 6mm x 6mm aperture screen as shown in photograph 1. A bar screen exists above the 6mm x 6mm screen, however it was stated that flows would only reach this level in the event of a blockage. A sample point exists at the point of overflow. Flows were not discharging to storm at the inlet at the time of the inspection.



*Photograph 1: Inlet storm overflow*

Flows passing forward from the inlet enter a septic tank followed by the chamber shown in photograph 2 below. An overflow exists within the chamber. The overflow is screened by a 6mm x 6mm aperture box screen which can be seen in photograph 2. The overflow was in operation at the time of the inspection.



*Photograph 2: Chamber following the septic tank*

Flows discharging to storm at the inlet and from the overflow within the chamber following the septic tank combine and jointly discharge into the Afon Arth at SN 50867 63020 as shown in photograph 3 below. A discharge was being made at the outfall at the time of the inspection. Given that flows were not discharging to storm at the inlet at the time of the inspection, the discharge is believed to have consisted of flows from the chamber following the septic tank only. A sewage odour was present at the outfall, however the discharge appeared reasonably clear. The NRW officer did not notice unsatisfactory solid matter within the Afon Arth or on the banks or shoreline in the vicinity of the outfall.



*Photograph 3: Storm discharge point into the Afon Arth at SN 50867 63020*

Condition 2.2.1 and table S3.2 of permit BN0015602 states that only storm sewage may discharge into the Afon Arth at the discharge point at SN 50867 63020. The effluent discharging into the Afon Arth at the discharge point at the time of the inspection was not considered to be storm sewage, but rather partially treated sewage effluent from the treatment process. As this represents a breach of condition 2.2.1, a category 3 non-compliance has been recorded above for a non-compliance that has the potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property. To rectify the non-compliance, NRW ask DCWW to confirm in writing how they intend to prevent partially treated sewage effluent from discharging into the Afon Arth by the **12 May 2026**.

NRW note that the overflow within the chamber following the septic tank is not currently included on DCWW's list of unpermitted overflows. In response to the permit breach described above therefore, NRW also ask DCWW to confirm whether the overflow should be added to DCWW's list of unpermitted overflows by the **12 May 2026**.

#### **Event Duration Monitoring (EDM)**

During 2025, EDM at Pennant STW recorded 201 block counted spills from the site totalling 714.25 hours. The DCWW operatives mentioned at the time of the inspection that Pennant STW experiences high levels of infiltration which contributes to the high number of spills from the site. Due to the high spill numbers, Pennant STW is part of an AMP 8 (Asset Management Period 8) scheme which will examine potential options to reduce the number of storm spills from the site.

For clarity purposes, NRW ask DCWW to confirm whether both overflow points at Pennant STW are monitored by EDM, or whether EDM is restricted to discharges at the inlet overflow only. NRW ask for a response from DCWW in writing by the **12 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 contents 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](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.