

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0051611

Permit being assessed: AW1002001

For: Garth Wastewater Treatment Works, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Llais Yr Afon, Garth, Llangammarch Wells, Powys, LD4 4AF.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 21/04/2026, between 09:40 and 10:00.

Parts of permit assessed: See Criteria Below

NRW Lead Officer: Chris Gurney, accompanied by: Kirsty Allwood.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 08/05/2026.

1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
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)	

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-A1	Ensure assets are inspected and maintained in line with DCWW processes.	23/06/2026
WQ-A1	Assess the abundance of snails to ensure no detriment to treatment	23/06/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-A1	Assess the filter bed media and carry out necessary maintenance to prevent ponding of effluent.	23/06/2026

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 OSM site inspection carried out by Natural Resources Wales Officers Chris Gurney and Kirsty Allwood. The Officers were shown around the site by DCWW Area Supervisor, Process Scientist, and Senior Operative.

Site Description

Garth STW is a small sewage treatment works serving a small rural population. The works treats domestic sewage prior to discharge to the Afon Garth Dulas.

Weather conditions

The inspection was carried out under dry conditions with intermittent sunshine, following dry weather the day before.

Inspection

Both officers were given a full site workover from the inlet works through to the final effluent outfall.

Raw sewage is pumped from the inlet well into the inlet and primary settlement tank. There were no inlet screens present, however scum boards are installed within the primary settlement tank to retain floating solids. No solids or rag were observed at the outlet of the primary settlement tank.

Effluent from the primary settlement tank flows into a siphon chamber, which was observed to be functioning correctly, and discharging effluent to the biological filter bed. The distributor arms were observed moving freely, with effluent distributed evenly across the stone media. Some ponding of effluent was observed on the surface of the media.

Action: Assess the filter bed media and carry out necessary maintenance to prevent ponding of effluent.

A significant number of snails were present on the filter bed, which have potential to compromise the biofilm required for effective biological treatment.

Action: Assess the abundance of snails to ensure there is no detrimental effect to treatment.

Effluent from the biological filter then enters a humus tank with retention boards in place for retaining humus solids that may have accumulated during the biological treatment. The effluent at the outfall was free of any solids.

The outlet from the final settlement tank was observed to be free from visible solids. No sewage fungus was observed in the final settlement outflow chamber. The sampling point was clearly marked and accessible. No discolouration, visible solids or sewage fungus were observed at the sample point. The discharge point was not accessed, however the receiving watercourse downstream of the discharge showed no visible evidence of sewage fungus, discolouration or suspended solids at the time of inspection.

The wastewater treatment works appeared to be operating as intended at the time of inspection. The site infrastructure exhibited signs of age-related wear and tear, with minor seepages observed from some concrete structures. These seepages were not observed to be causing environmental impact at the time of the visit.

Action: Ensure assets are inspected and maintained in line with DCWW processes.

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.