

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0051826

Permit being assessed: AG0017801

For: Drope (Westbury Homes) Wastewater Treatment Works, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Track off Drope Road, Cardiff, CF5 4TZ.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 05/05/2026, between 09:45 and 10:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Relevant conditions

NRW Lead Officer: Charlotte Rhodes, accompanied by: Harry Warburton.

Report sent to: DCWW CARS Mailbox, DCWW CARS Mailbox, on 14/05/2026.

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-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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-A1	Confirm when the Compliance Recovery Plan works are due to take place, particularly the installation of submersible pumps in the aeration lane.	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

Site report

On Tuesday 5th May 2026, Officers C RHODES and H WARBURTON attended Drope Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) for a routine inspection in relation to permit reference **AG0017801**. Officers wish to thank the Catchment Performance Manager and Operational Supervisor for meeting them at site. The inspection took place during a period of predominantly dry weather.

Inlet

The site is fed from a combined gravity sewer and thus receives a high concentration of solids at the inlet. The previous inspection in April 2024 noted lots of potato peelings present, which appears to have been mostly resolved through communication with local businesses. The screen has also been refurbished since the last inspection, though there are plans to proactively install a new one in line with the 6mm diameter condition held on most other sites of this nature. The grit plant has historically been out of service and is intended to stay offline as not essential to the treatment process.



Aeration lanes

There is a thick foam throughout the aeration lane obscuring the effluent from view – pictured below. This is reportedly due to low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels supporting foam-causing bacteria,

in addition to the temporary pumps being at surface level (visible in the photo). Replacement of these with permanent submersible pumps is planned for this year, along with a new inlet screen, new Return Activated Sludge (RAS) return, and the installation of a MECANA pile cloth filter unit under the Compliance Recovery Programme due to an increase in the population this WwTW serves.

Bicarb dosing is done on an ad-hoc basis to manage fluctuations in pH levels in the aeration lane, and once the above new equipment is installed the whole plant will be cleaned out and returned to service.



Final settlement and outfall

Desludging was taking place at the time of visit, during which flows are pumped back to the aeration ditch through two sludge holding tanks. Prior to beginning this process the final effluent (FE) had been checked and was found to be well within permitted limits.

A significant build up of sludge was observed in the centre of the settlement tank, pictured below, which has become home to some growing weeds. When operators were asked about this, they explained that the recirculation pump can't keep up with the desludging process due to the excess foam, this therefore risks the sludge blanket dropping under the baffle into the FE if out of service for too long. To manage this, the sludge holding tanks are alternated and the desludging/scraping of FE lane conducted several times per week.



Once returned to service after desludging, the FE appeared to be running clear - pictured below. The outfall was not accessible during this visit due to weed growth; it was noted best to revisit in the autumn/winter next time. The MCERTS flow monitoring meter is located after the FST prior to discharge and has valid certification until October 2029, in line with Condition 3.3.3. This is noted as a WQ-C4 compliance.



Actions / further comments

In summary, we currently find the site to be compliant with its permit. The following actions are given just for information:

1. Confirm when the Compliance Recovery Plan works are due to take place, particularly the installation of submersible pumps in the aeration lane. **[Action only, 09/06/2026]**.

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.