

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0051936

Permit being assessed: CB3194CP

For: SWN YR AFON CSO, Ystradgynlais, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Off A4067, Caer Bont, Ynys Isaf, Powys, Ystradgynlais, Powys, SA9 1RY.

Type of assessment carried out: Audit,

Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2604453).

On 20/05/2026.

Parts of permit assessed: Various

NRW Lead Officer: Chris Gurney.

Report sent to: Regulatory Compliance Officer, Regulatory Compliance Officer, on 20/05/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	C2 Significant	2.3.1
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	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-C4	Confirm when the alarm was first received by DCWW and what trigger level it is set to.	01/07/2026
WQ-B1	Review monitoring and maintenance schedule for network to try avoid future blockages	01/07/2026
WQ-B3	Confirm what efforts were made to remediate the area around the CSO Outfall.	01/07/2026
WQ-A1	Outline what actions DCWW are going to take in AMP8 to try	01/07/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	reduce sewer abuse in the catchment.	

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.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

On the 29 April 2026 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) received a Self-Report from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) that was logged at 13:33. The self report contained information regarding a discharge from the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) near Ystradgynlais known as Swn Yr Afon. The Self Report outlined a Cello alarm had triggered attendance to site with Pollution Tech on route as well.

This was followed up with a 'Final' Self Report outlining the blockage had been identified and cleared – a lump of wet-wipes/rags/cloths – and network was operating as designed. There was no visual impact observed downstream and ammonia sample done on site was approx. 0.06 mg/l.

A storyboard was then sent across on the 15 May 2026 with additional information.

The storyboard includes a screenshot of the Cello levels which indicates that the blockage likely occurred around 14:00 on the 28th April, and text alongside the screenshot indicates the first spill to environment was around 19:20 that same day. The levels then lowered slightly overnight (due to the blockage being partial only) then with a subsequent spill to the environment between 07:45 and 13:00 on the 29/4/26.

This indicates either an issue with the alarm system or a delayed response to the alarm being raised by DCWW.

ACTION: Confirm when the alarm was first received by DCWW and what trigger level it is set to (before spill or at spill point).

The permit for this CSO is for Storm Sewage only and should only discharge due to rainfall or snow-melt. The blockage that caused the discharge is therefore a breach of permit conditions and has been categorised as Cat 2 given the reasonably foreseeable impact of untreated sewage effluent entering the River Tawe for 6 hours.

A sample was taken by DCWW operatives to assess impact, however this sample was taken at approximately 15:00, around 2 hours after the spill stopped discharging so is unlikely to have captured any elevated levels from the discharge. Photos included in the storyboard also indicate some rag/debris on the riverbank from the spills, but this is not mentioned in the storyboard – Condition 2.3.2 of the permit requires any 'unsatisfactory

solid matter' to be removed where possible.

ACTION: Confirm what efforts were made to remediate the area around the CSO outfall.

The storyboard also makes mention that Sewer Abuse is common in the area and a previous wet-wipe education campaign appears to have been largely unsuccessful. Given this is a known problem, it suggests additional efforts should be made to avoid future reoccurrence.

ACTION: Outline what actions DCWW are going to take in AMP8 to try and reduce Sewer Abuse in this catchment.

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.