

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052074

Permit being assessed: AG0011001

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

At: PENDOYLAN STW, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 05/05/2026, between 12:00 and 12:30.

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 02/07/2026.

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-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	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-A1	1. Investigate what improvements can be made to the treatment process and reed bed maintenance to reduce the impact on the receiving environment. Feedback to NRW on next steps to be taken and expected timeframes.	31/07/2026
WQ-C1	2. Model the discharge against known WFD drivers and feedback the results to NRW.	31/07/2026
WQ-C1	3. Confirm what flow monitoring is in place to assess the daily volume of 69 cubic metres and dry weather flow of 23 cubic metres, and provide data for these for the past 2 years for	20/07/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	compliance assessment.	
WQ-B1	4. Consider initiating a permit review to update it to modern conditions in light of the repeated issues and environmental impact of discharge at present, considering the information from other actions listed above, and inform NRW of decisions made.	30/09/2026

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.

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

Site report

On Tuesday 5th May 2026, Officers C RHODES and H WARBURTON attended Pendoylan Sewage Treatment Works (STW) for a routine inspection in relation to permit reference **AG0011001**. 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.

The permitted discharge limits for this site are shown below. Unlike others in the catchment, there is no limit set for Ammonia at this site. The site discharges into the Pendoylan Brook which later joins the River Ely and is permitted for Final Effluent only.

BOD mg/l	Ammonia (N) mg/l	Suspended solids mg/l
90	N/A	70

Inlet and screening

There are no inlet screens at this site but there is a scum board at the entrance to two primary settlement tanks; solids settlement is emptied weekly along with the humus tank. Some solids and toilet paper was observed (pictured below) and a steady but low flow*.



Secondary treatment

This is comprised of two gravity filter beds which appear to have improved in condition compared to previous inspections. No ponding at the surface was observed and ventilation gaps previously giving rise to effluent seepage have since been filled in (see photos below). At the time of visit, *water was being added to the flow at the inlet via hose to keep the rotator arms moving regularly and dilute the effluent during low flows.

Overall, the beds appeared to be better maintained than previous visits and a visual improvement in the gravel/filter media, however there was still a strong odour present throughout the site and vegetation growth. DCWW Operatives reported that consideration is being given to replacing the filter media under general maintenance.





Following this, filtered flow settles in humus tanks which are emptied weekly. At the time of inspection, fungus and land spill were observed, pictured below, the latter likely a spill from the last tanker. No solids were observed floating atop the humus tank.



Tertiary treatment

From the humus tanks, effluent goes through a reed bed before leaving site which was reportedly dug out and replanted following previous inspections, but not to current specifications; DCWW are therefore considering redoing this to bring up to date. The reed bed itself was still stagnant, with pooling effluent (as noted previously) and trees growing within it, hence does not appear much changed from previous visits and would benefit from some significant maintenance.



Outfall

The Final Effluent (FE) sample point was clearly labelled and accessible within the site compound; effluent appeared visibly clear but white fungus was observed at the base of the outlet pipe, consistent with previously identified ammonia issues at this site.



At the outfall itself (accessible from the site), the FE appeared clear in composition but exuded a notable odour and white fungus deposits were visible for 5-10 metres from the outlet pipe, approx. 2 metres of which was overland flow before reaching Pendoylan Brook. This same issue was first identified in the 2022 inspection and has continued to remain present despite some small site maintenance.



Discharge point flowing overland to reach watercourse



Discharge point close-up and sewage fungus

Operational sampling data reviewed from the site records showed Ammonia readings to have been taken as 12.4 mg/l on the date of inspection, with 12-13 mg/l being a consistent recent trend. Although this site does not currently have Ammonia limits within its permit, this concentration far exceeds what would be considered acceptable limits and discharges into the Ffynnon Cattwg eventually joining the River Ely, which is classified as Poor ecological status under Water Framework Directive with invertebrates as the driving element.

It is noted – for operational use only – that the “check” marker for the site is 10 mg/l and the “alert/seek help” marker is 15 mg/l. **Overall, the permit is out-dated and in need of review to update in line with modern conditions.**

A data audit was also conducted by Officer RHODES on 4th June 2026 prior to issue of this CAR, to assess compliance with Condition 2 based on monitoring samples taken between 2021 and 2026:

- BOD results typically ranged from 4 mg/l to the mid-teens, with one exceptional outlier at 65 mg/l, still within the 90 mg/l permitted limit.
- Suspended solids were consistently around 5 mg/l, with the highest reading being 10 mg/l, well within the 70 mg/l limit.

The data audit therefore found a pattern of continued compliance with the permitted parameters, notwithstanding the Ammonia concerns discussed above.

Summary and actions

Due to the age of the permit, there are currently no conditions specifically referring to emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits. Nevertheless, despite an investigation and works done at site following previous inspections, the site still **presents a pollution risk** with regards to Ammonia. As such, whilst the inspection found no non-compliance with listed conditions, an incident will be recorded in WIRS in due course and actions considered to pursue this further.

Please also see Action 3 to further determine compliance with Condition 2 flow monitoring. The actions are as follows:

1. Investigate what improvements can be made to the treatment process and reed bed maintenance to reduce the impact on the receiving environment. Feedback to NRW on next steps to be taken and expected timeframes. **Action only, 31/07/2026.**
2. Model the discharge against known WFD drivers and feedback the results to NRW. **Action only, 31/07/2026.**
3. Confirm what flow monitoring is in place to assess the daily volume of 69 cubic metres and dry weather flow of 23 cubic metres, and provide data for these for the past 2 years for compliance assessment. **Action only, 20/07/2026.**
4. Consider initiating a **permit review** to update it to modern conditions in light of the repeated issues and environmental impact of discharge at present, considering the information from other actions listed above, and inform NRW of decisions made. **Action only, 30/09/2026.**

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.