

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052362

Permit being assessed: BF0169101

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

At: Wind Road, Ystradgynlais, Swansea, SA9 1AE.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On 30/06/2026, between 11:08 and 11:55.

Parts of permit assessed: Various

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

Report sent to: Regulatory Compliance Officer, Regulatory Compliance Officer, on 15/07/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	C3 Minor	1.1.1
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	C3 Minor	3.3.4
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-C4 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Action only (X)	
WQ-B2 - Water Quality - Operations - The site	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-B3	Confirm when damage to the PSTs was first identified and	31/08/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	undertake suitable repairs as soon as possible.	
WQ-B3	Please send by email a copy of the Operating Manual for the site.	31/08/2026
WQ-B3	Undertake standard checks to ensure filter arms are clear and the beds are not overburdened with grass growth in line with DCWW maintenance practices	31/08/2026
WQ-B1	Ensure all monitoring points are accessible in line with permit conditions	31/08/2026
WQ-B3	Provide photo evidence the lagoon area is accessible and contents have been returned to main flows in line with the permit.	31/08/2026
WQ-C4	Confirm if discharge to environment has EDM sensor in place, its location and location of the sensor readout if applicable.	31/08/2026
WQ-B2	Share latest available growth scheme plans for Ystradgylais WWTW.	31/08/2026

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

On 30 June 2026 myself and Kirsty Allwood attended site on a pre-arranged OSM inspection. The weather was cloudy but dry. We were met on site by the Area Supervisor and Senior Operator, thank you both for your time during the inspections.

We started at the inlet, where the UWW Crude sample point was clearly labelled, though access to the sample point was unclear. There was also a penstock immediately downstream of the storm overflow weir, the purpose of which was unclear. There was some storm sewage in the base of the first chamber, this appeared minimal and the DCWW operatives on site advised there had been issues with the return pumps so temporary pumping was in place as required. The EDM sensor was in place for operation into storm storage. The two large circular storm tanks were both empty.

The two screens were both operational though showed signs of ageing.

The Ferric dosing point was not in use at the time.

The grit trap was operating and no issues were noted.

Flows then passed into the distribution chamber via 2 siphons, with the Humus Sludge return

entering at this chamber. The MCERTS flow monitoring points were from each siphon but not visible. Both primary settlement tanks (PSTs) showed signs of wear/damage. The first had a section of weir plate missing, allowing solids to flow over and into the next stage of treatment while the second was no longer collecting/removing the scum from the surface causing it to build. It is unclear how long they have been operating like this but will need repairs.

ACTION: Confirm when damage to each PST was first identified.

ACTION: Undertake suitable repairs to both PSTs to ensure both are operating as designed.

From there flows enter another distribution chamber which is level controlled. We were advised on site one of the filter beds (number 3) was not in use so flows were pumped across the three remaining beds. Filter bed 3 required bearing changes for the filter arms hence being out of use. All three beds had significant grass growth with varying levels of moss growth across the top of the media.

All beds had some blockages on the filter arm jets creating uneven and sporadic distribution. This has been classed as a Cat 3 breach as distribution should be even across the filter beds to avoid ponding or detriment to the treatment. We were advised on site this is a daily task, which indicates the screening is inadequate or insufficient and may need further investigation.

ACTION: Please send by email a copy of the Operating Manual for the site.

ACTION: Undertake standard checks to ensure filter arms are clear and the beds are not overburdened with grass growth in line with DCWW maintenance practices.

All filter beds had significant weed growth around the perimeter making visual checks of the drainage channels impossible.

Flows then pass to a pair of Humus tanks, both had significant pond-weed covering the tops but no significant carryover or signs of sewage fungus.

From here the flows head via the sample point to the outfall, the sample point was clearly marked.

The two sludge storage towers were not inspected but are in a bunded area and appeared compliant.

The Storm Storage Lagoon was not inspected as we were advised there was no access due to vegetation growth. This means we are unable to confirm the storm storage is compliant until it can be confirmed the lagoon has been returned to main flows. This has been classed as a Cat 3 breach as the monitoring points (including the Settled Storm Effluent Sample point) should be accessible at all times in line with condition 3.3.4.

ACTION: Ensure all monitoring points are accessible in line with permit conditions.

ACTION: Provide photographic evidence the lagoon area is able to be accessed safely at all times and the contents have been returned to main flows in line with the Permit.

We then inspected the control area for the works, with both MCERTs Flow meters and EDM level sensors. Only 1 EDM sensor was seen, it is unclear if there is another EDM sensor on site reporting discharge to the environment.

ACTION: Confirm if discharge to the environment has EDM sensor in place, it's location and the location of the sensor readout if applicable.

While on site, it was discussed that the site has a Growth scheme due in AMP8, which potentially includes the increase in depth of the filter beds. Please confirm the latest available details for the scheme.

ACTION: Share the latest available Growth scheme plans for Ystradgynlais works.

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.