

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052787

Permit being assessed: S/01/55673/O

For: Pen-Y-Bont-Fawr Wastewater Treatment Works, **held by:** Hafren Dyfrdwy Cyfyngedig

At: B4391, Pent-Y-Bont-Fawr, Oswestry, SY10 0PD.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2606202).

On 09/06/2026.

Parts of permit assessed: Condition 2.3.1(a)

NRW Lead Officer: Bethan Lewis.

Report sent to: Hafren Dyfrdwy Cyfyngedig, Permit Holder, on 28/08/2026.

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	C3 Minor	Condition 2.3.1(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-B3	Complete the actions set out in the details box below by the relevant deadlines. Confirm to NRW when the actions have been completed.	30/10/2026

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.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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

At 21:46 hours on the 09 June 2026, a blockage developed at the inlet to Penybontfawr Sewage Treatment Works's (STW) Rotating Biological Contractor (RBC). The blockage caused screened sewage to discharge to the Afon Tanat via the site's storm outfall.

Although an alarm was generated shortly before midnight, no operational response was initiated by Hafren Dyfrdwy (HD).

HD identified the rag blockage during a site inspection at 14:40 hours on the 10 June 2026. The blockage was removed and normal flows restored by approximately 14:55 hours.

HD confirm that the screened sewage discharging to the Afon Tanat had an ammonia concentration of 31.6mg/l. 45 metres downstream of the storm outfall, the Afon Tanat was found to have an ammonia concentration of <0.55mg/l, which matched that measured upstream.

Condition 2.3.1(a) of permit S/01/55673/O states that a discharge from the storm outfall:

"shall only occur when and only for as long as either:

(i) the flow passed forward is equal to or greater than the overflow setting indicated due to rainfall and/or snow melt or

(ii) the hydraulic capacity of the sewer network downstream of the combined sewer overflow is reached due to rainfall and/or snow melt and the level of storm sewage in the sewer at the combined sewer overflow is greater than the weir level of the overflow structure which is specified as an overflow setting in table S3.3.

The capacity of the sewer network downstream of the combined sewer overflow shall not be altered in any way which would lead to a significant increase in the frequency or volume of the discharge".

As the discharge from Penybontfawr STW's storm outfall on the 09 and 10 June 2026 did not occur due to rainfall and/or snow melt but rather due to a rag blockage at the inlet to the site's RBC, a category 3 non-compliance has been recorded above against condition 2.3.1(a). A category 3 non-compliance represents a non-compliance that has the potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.

In response to the above incident (ref WIRS 2606202), HD confirm that they will undertake the following preventative actions to prevent a recurrence:

Action	Deadline
Increase operational visits to Penybontfawr STW from two to three times weekly with additional tasks focusing on inlet and stilling box health.	Ongoing
Raise a risk on the HD Operational Risk Management Database highlighting the risk of inlet blockages at Penybontfawr STW with	31/08/2026

a view to establishing a solution to be implemented within AMP 8.	
Share lessons learnt following HD's investigation into the alarm handling process to understand why an operational response was not generated during the incident.	30/09/2026
Organise the set up of a low flow alarm which will highlight situations where no or extremely low flows are passing the final effluent sample point.	30/09/2026
Investigate the potential for an alarm to trigger which highlights a reducing discharge flow rate but increasing channel level at the inlet.	30/10/2026

NRW ask HD to complete the actions in the table above by the relevant deadlines and confirm to NRW when the actions have been completed. A deadline of the **30 October 2026** has been set for this.

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.

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.