Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0053119

Permit being assessed: CM0004201

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

At: Track off A541, Rhydymwyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5JH.

Type of assessment carried out: Check Monitoring/Sampling,

Reason: Routine.

On 24/09/2026, between 15:00 and 16:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Emission to Water

NRW Lead Officer: Ewan Byers, accompanied by: Amy Chisnell.

Report sent to: CARS Mailbox, CARS Mailbox, on 05/10/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
WQ-A1 - Water Quality - Management - General management	Action only (X)	
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-C1	- To improve procedures regarding sludge management to prevent further exceedances of suspended solids	05/11/2026
WQ-A1	- To have a maintenance technician assess the performance of the anoxic mixer and to repair/replace if necessary	19/10/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B3	- To ensure the site operator routinely inspects the outfall and to keep a record of this	19/10/2026
WQ-A1	- To carry out any necessary repairs on the housing of the outfall	05/11/2026

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 the 16th September 2026, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) notified Natural Resources Wales (NRW) of a permit exceedance at Rhydymwyn Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW).

This notification was in relation to a sample that was taken on the 9th September 2026. The sample result gave a Suspended Solids reading of 80mg/l against the regulations limit of 50mg/l.

This site benefits from the look up table procedure which allows a specified number of exceedances before an absolute failure is recorded. This is the 2nd exceedance for Suspended Solids at this site within the last 12-month period. This result has been recorded as an exceedance, any further exceedances before 10th July 2027 will result in a failure.

Because this site is considered at risk of a failure, Environment Officers from NRW attended Rhydymwyn WwTW on 24th September 2026. They were met onsite by one of DCWW's Pollution Technicians and one of their Process Scientists.

Following a site inspection, no major operational issues were identified and the final effluent appeared good in nature (low turbidity and no foul odour). The site's suspended solids exceedances were discussed but no conclusive cause of these was given.

It was noted that there was a lot of noise and vibration coming from the site's anoxic mixer. In addition, the outfall appeared to be in poor condition and there seemed to be some uncertainty regarding its location (see image below).



ACTIONS:

- To improve procedures regarding sludge management to prevent further exceedances of suspended solids

- To have a maintenance technician assess the performance of the anoxic mixer and to repair/replace if necessary

- To ensure the site operator routinely inspects the outfall and to keep a record of this

- To carry out any necessary repairs on the housing of the outfall

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.