

Chief Executive
Ceredigion County Council
Penmorfa
Aberaeron
Ceredigion
SA46 0PA

Dyddiad/Date: 1 December 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Incident: 2004932
Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 –

Pollution of an unnamed tributary of the Afon Teifi from sewage effluent outfall at Llandygwydd Sewage Treatment Works (BH0063801).

On the 9th of July 2020 Natural Resources Wales received a report of sewage odour at a brook in Llandygwydd. Llandygwydd STW is located upstream of the reported area and there have been issues with sewage effluent treatment at the site, with warnings having been issued for permit exceedances in the past couple of years. Llandygwydd STW is operated by Ceredigion County Council so Cari Barker (STW Project Manager) was contacted and informed me that a maintenance crew would be sent out to monitor the site and carry out testing.

On the 20th of July 2020, I received photos from Cari Barker showing the sewage effluent outfall taken on the 15th of July 2020. As you can see from the photograph overleaf, there is evidence of sewage fungus around the discharge pipe and in the watercourse.



Photograph 1: Sewage effluent outfall at Llandygydd STW

Sewage fungus

Water quality sampling has not been carried out at the sewage works for several months and therefore there are no final effluent analytical results to fully assess the effluent quality and impact on the receiving watercourse. Photographs of the outfall however show that there has been a localised environmental impact on the receiving watercourse through the growth of sewage fungus, which is a thick filamentous growth that develops in surface waters contaminated with organic pollutants including sewage effluent. The effects of sewage fungus growth on a watercourse can include lowering the dissolved oxygen in the water making oxygen less available for fish, their eggs as well as the macroinvertebrate fauna.

We have decided to issue Ceredigion County Council with a **warning letter** (see enclosed) based on our assessment of the impact to the receiving watercourse from photographic evidence.

Finally, if you wish to discuss the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Yours faithfully,

E.J. Sharp

Emma Sharp
Swyddog Tim yr Amgylchedd/Environment Team Officer
Tîm Rheoli Amgylchedd Ceredigion / Ceredigion Environment Team

Ffôn/Tel 0300 065 3308
Ebst/Email emma.sharp@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk