

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050233

Permit being assessed: BP0169901
 For: Marlas STW SPS, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
 At: Bryn Alwg, North Cornelly, Bridgend, CF33 4DJ.

Type of assessment carried out: Other, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2508989).

On 22/12/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: 2 Operations

NRW Lead Officer: Natalie Wrangham.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, mailbox, on 23/12/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	C4 No impact	2.2.1 The discharge activities shall take place at the discharge point marked on the site plan at schedule 7 to this permit, and as listed in table S3.2; and the operating techniques that are the subject of conditions prefixed by 2.3, shall be applied at the location shown, or otherwise described, in schedule 7.
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	C4 No impact	2.3.1 For activity A2 referenced in schedule 1, table S1.1, the activity shall, subject to the conditions of this permit, be operated using the techniques and in the manner described in the documentation specified in schedule 1, table S1.2, unless otherwise agreed in writing by

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
		Natural Resources Wales
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	Assessed (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	Create and provide pumping station key protection measures document to include emergency response plan	02/02/2026
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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

Incident overview - WIRS ref 2508989

There have been ongoing issues with bursts along the rising main at Kenfig since 2023. DCWW are investing in replacing approximately 4.5km of the rising main to address this issue which is currently programmed to be completed for commissioning in late 2026. The Afon Cynffig / Kenfig has a WFD Cycle 3 2024 interim status of good.

From DCWW storyboard - *Following recharging of a repaired section of the rising main further bursts were noted in several locations downstream and following escalation internally it was decided that this section of main was no longer serviceable and that a significant over-pumping operation was to be set-up to bypass and prevent further bursts. The station had remained largely isolated from 25.09.25 with only brief recharges, however due to dry weather and an extensive tankering operation the asset had not discharged. Following heavy rainfall on 03/10/25 the asset went into spill and following a conversation with NRW Senior Officer the incident was self-reported.*

Marlas SPS - Site went into emergency spill at 05:00am on Friday 3rd October. Marlas SPS has been tankered continuously following a burst rising main (WIRS 2508789) although following heavy rainfall throughout the night tankers were not able to keep up with flow.

Marlas SPS has remained in spill throughout the day.

Verbal communication has been made with NRW's senior officer alongside an ongoing silver incident response overseeing installation of a temporary overland pumping arrangement due to the main condition.

With regards to this incident, Marlas SPS was in spill between 3/10/2025 – 12/10/2025, 19/10/2025 - 6/11/2025 and 12/11/2025 – 14/11/2025 according to the EDM telemetry data provided by the Operator. There are some concerns by DCWW about the accuracy of the EDM data, and they believe it may have been over-recording spills. The data also shows the pumps at the pump station did not become operational again until 7/11/2025. As stated in the information received by DCWW, tankering from the asset was already in place, but the capacity of the tankering operation was exceeded during periods of heavy rainfall causing the asset to discharge to the watercourse.

DCWW have recently installed approximately 1.6km of temporary over-ground pipeline to bypass a section of mains pipework where the bursts have occurred.

Environmental Impact Monitoring

Monitoring of the Afon Kenfig (visual observations and water quality sampling) was undertaken by the Operator at several locations between 4/10/2025 and 7/11/2025:

- Site 1 – 10 metres upstream of the discharge outfall
- Site 2 – 10 metres downstream of the discharge outfall
- Site 3 – 150 metres downstream of the discharge outfall
- Site 4 – 600 metres downstream of the discharge outfall
- Site 5 – 1700 metres (1.7km) downstream of the discharge outfall

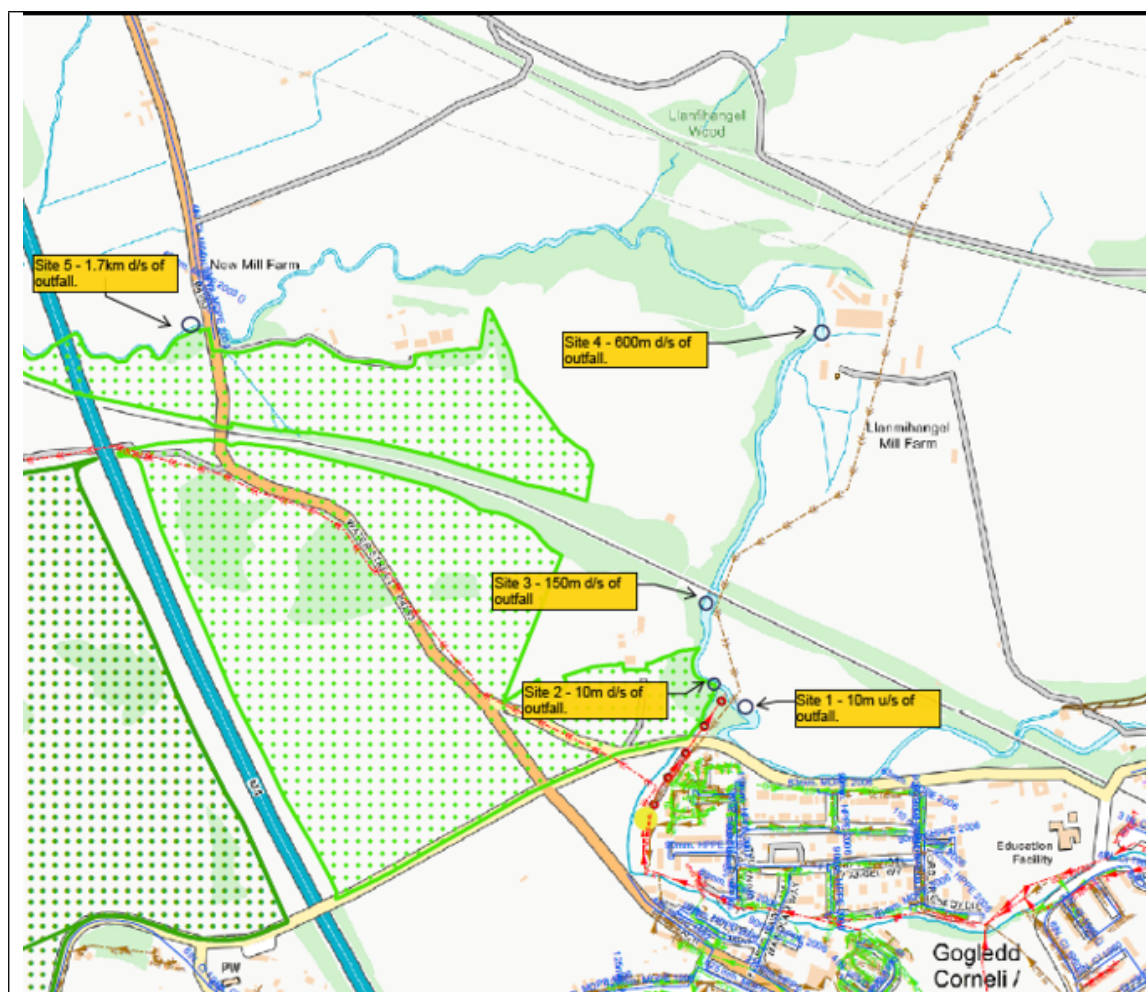


Image 1: Map of monitoring locations

Operator water quality samples (lab tested) during spill operation detailed in table below show ammonia readings of above 0.6 milligrams per litre (0.6mg/l is taken from WFD guidance) at Site 2 on the following dates:

Date	Ammoniacal Nitrogen (mg/l)	Biological Oxygen Demand (mg/l)	Chemical Oxygen Demand (mg/l)
04/10/2025	1.44	<8	<50
05/10/2025	0.7	2	<51
06/10/2025	5.05	10	62
21/10/2025	1.05	<2	22
24/10/2025	0.68	2	23
25/10/2025	1.95	5	32
26/10/2025	2.58	15	40
27/10/2025	1.53	5	19
03/11/2025	0.55	2	<20
04/11/2025	5.25	<9	58
06/11/2025	2.38	7	28
07/11/2025	1.55	7	<20

Table 1: Operator water quality samples lab results

Most of these readings dramatically reduce by the time the river is retested at Site 3, however on some occasions the impact could be measured at sites further downstream. This includes:

- 06/10/2025 where a reading of 0.97mg/l was taken at Site 5
- 21/10/2025 where a reading of 0.65mg/l was taken at Site 5
- 25/10/2025 where a reading of 1.22mg/l was taken at Site 5, although an unexplained increase is recorded at Site 4
- 27/10/2025 where a reading of 0.79mg/l was taken at Site 5
- 03/11/2025 where a reading of 1.06mg/l was taken at Site 5, however this is an increase on what was measured at site 2 and site 4, so increase is possibly a result of another input or erroneous.
- 04/11/2025 where a reading of 1.07mg/l was taken at Site 5
- 06/11/2025 where a reading of 0.48mg/l was taken at Site 5
- 07/11/2025 where a reading of 0.5mg/l was taken at Site 5

DCWW have stated that they instructed their consultant to carry out an environmental impact survey on the watercourse, and will share the final report with NRW.

Compliance with permit conditions

Condition 2.1.1 - The only activities authorised by the permit are the activities specified in schedule 1 table S1.1.

Table S1.1 Activities

Activity reference	Description of activity	Limits of specified activity
A1	Discharge of storm sewage via POINT OF DISCHARGE	N/A
A2	Discharge of sewage in emergency via POINT OF DISCHARGE	<p>An emergency shall be defined as the period when the sewage pumping station is inoperative as a result of one or more of the following, which is not due to the act or default of the operator, its agents, representatives, officers, employees or servants;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electrical power failure; • mechanical breakdown of duty and standby pumps; • rising main failure; • blockage of the downstream sewer.

This discharge can be classed as activity A2 – Discharge of sewage in emergency, as the incident was a rising main failure which led to the pump station being unable to operate as designed. - **Compliant**

Condition 2.2.1 The discharge activities shall take place at the discharge point marked on the site plan at schedule 7 to this permit, and as listed in table S3.2; and the operating techniques that are the subject of conditions prefixed by 2.3, shall be applied at the location shown, or otherwise described, in schedule 7. – Discharged in accordance with permit into the Afon Kenfig at permitted location as listed in table S3.2. However, the operating techniques detailed by condition 2.3 are not available - see condition 2.3.1 below. **Partial compliance**

Condition 2.3.1 For activity A2 referenced in schedule 1, table S1.1, the activity shall, subject to the conditions of this permit, be operated using the techniques and in the manner described in the documentation specified in schedule 1, table S1.2, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales.

Table S1.2 Operating techniques			
Activity reference	Description of documentation	Parts	Date Received
A2	Pumping station key protection measures	All	Upon request by Natural Resources Wales

This document cannot be found for this asset, as referenced in an email from DCWW on 08/12/2025, therefore NRW will assume the document in question has not been produced. The operator is non-compliant with this condition therefore NRW cannot determine operation in accordance with the documented techniques. – **Non-compliant**

Condition 4.3.1 Natural Resources Wales shall be notified as soon as reasonably practicable following detection, within the site of the regulated facility of any malfunction, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident, or emission of a substance not controlled by an emission limit which has caused, is causing or may cause significant pollution. Any other significant adverse environmental effects, which may have been caused by the activity, shall also be notified to Natural Resources Wales as soon as reasonably practicable following detection. - **Compliant**

Actions to be taken

- Create and provide pumping station key protection measures document to include emergency response plan – by **02/02/2026**

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 only relating to the activity assessment
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

If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend non-compliance for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. These will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

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 Installation of monitoring boreholes

WQ D: Information

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance 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 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at 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.