



## What has happened?

On 17 May, we received a report of pollution in the River Ogmore near Penybont wastewater treatment works (WwTW).

Penybont WwTW is located near Ogmore beach and helps us to treat wastewater services to around 160,000 customers in the Bridgend area. After being treated, it is usually returned safely to the environment in line with our regulatory permits. No major burst has been detected, but a small underground leak from the site has been identified that has resulted in some wastewater flowing through a banking into a stream that feeds into the river. The wastewater is mixed with groundwater and is contained to a small area adjacent to the treatment works.

## How serious is this pollution?

This is mostly groundwater which contains a small element of wastewater. However, despite this small leak into a very large estuary, we're taking this seriously given how close we are to local bathing waters. As a precaution, this is why we are advising local customers to avoid going into the sea at Ogmore until wider sampling has been completed over next few days.



## Do you know why it's happened?

We have taken a number of measures which include testing the sewers coming into the site, along with other pipelines within the boundary of the site. Having now assessed our tanks and infrastructure on site, we have identified an underground leak on one of the site's treatment tanks.

## What next?

Our priority is containing this leak to limit any impact on the river and bathing beach. We are also emptying the tank (by directing flows into another tank on site). Customers may have seen a green/red colour in the river but this is the dye being used to locate the leak. This is not harmful to the environment.

We aim to fully contain the leak today before we can assess the tank in more detail and start the repair work. However, this will be challenging given the size of the site but we are undertaking daily ecological assessments to avoid any impact on the environment.

## Is it safe to enter the water in the river or at Ogmore Beach?

As investigations continue and any repair work is undertaken, as a precaution due to any impact on water quality, we advise people not to enter the water close to the treatment works, the mouth of the estuary or on Ogmore beach, until water quality tests are completed.

This is a very complex issue, and we apologise for the inconvenience caused as we aim to resolve the matter as soon as possible and limit the impact on the environment.

**Please note that this incident is not impacting on our wastewater services to customers or any other water course or bathing waters.**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact [sewerage.services@dwrcymru.com](mailto:sewerage.services@dwrcymru.com).

