

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0042215

Licence being assessed: 21/57/24/0055.

For: Top Lake Cwmclydach Phase 1, held by Cwm Clydach Community Development Trust.
At: Cwmclydach Community Development Centre, Clydach Road, Tonypandy, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF40 2BD.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 04/07/2023, between 10:00 and 12:00.

Parts of licence assessed: all

NRW Lead Officer: Natalie Wrangham, accompanied by Paul Latham, Emily Roe01, Sion Evans.

Report sent to: Phil Williams, volunteer, on 19/10/2023.

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

Part of licenced activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Licence condition
WR-A2 - Abstraction specified by licence - Points of abstraction	Assessed (A)	
WR-A3 - Abstraction specified by licence - Means of abstraction	Assessed (A)	
WR-A4 - Abstraction specified by licence - Purposes of abstraction	Assessed (A)	
WR-A6 - Abstraction specified by licence - Quantities	C3 Minor	6.1 maximum abstraction quantities
WR-B2 - Abstraction measurement and records - Recording	Assessed (A)	
WR-C1 - Surface/groundwater level and protected flow - Minimum hands-off flow/level requirements	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
WR-A6	Ensure turbine and intake are managed to ensure over abstraction does not occur. Submit records of maintenance of turbine and meter and details of how the abstraction rate is controlled.	06/11/2023

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 or civil sanctions being imposed depending on the circumstances of the offence.

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

Site compliance visit to inspect the abstraction for the Hydropower scheme from the top lake. Officers in attendance were Natalie Wrangham, Paul Latham, Emily Roe and Sion Evans. The weather was overcast with light rain showers.

The weir at the intake was clear of debris with water flowing downstream of the abstraction intake. There did not appear to be any blockages preventing the flow of water.

At the turbine house, no noise from the generator could be heard and there did not appear to be a discharge, so we have assumed the scheme was not generating on the day.

Returns data

Returns data for the past year was requested on 27 July 2023 via email to Spencer Coombs. This was received via post and passed on to the environment team on the 18th August 2023.

I have assessed the data, and can see according to the form that no abstraction has been recorded between 1/04/2022 and 4/11/2022, with abstraction records beginning the week of the 4th November 2022.

The majority of the returns show compliance with the maximum abstraction quantities as stated in condition 6.1 of the licence (100l/s, 8,640m³/d, 1,837,560m³/y), and the yearly abstraction of 533,929.5 m³ is well within the maximum yearly quantity. However 2 exceedances of the maximum instantaneous and daily abstraction quantities were recorded in returns data submitted:

- week of 11/11/2022 - 0.124 m³/s (124 litres/second), 75,159.972 m³/week (average maximum daily of 10,737m³). This is an over abstraction of 1.2 times the maximum daily abstraction rate.
- week of 24/03/2023 - 0.104 m³/s (104 litres/second), 63,017.501 m³/week (average maximum daily of 9002.5m³). This is an over abstraction of 1.04 times the maximum daily abstraction rate.

Actions

In light of the recorded exceedances please ensure the turbine and intake are managed to ensure over abstraction does not occur.

- Submit records of maintenance of the turbine and meter and details of how the

abstraction rate is controlled - by **31st October 2023**

Note - email received from the village trust explaining their may have been an error in the calculation of abstraction quantities. Have given an action to re-assess and re-submit data by 6/11/2023.

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 licence is issued to you under the Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Water Act 2003. You have a responsibility to comply with the conditions of your licence 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.

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 resource action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**WR A: Abstraction specified by Licence**

- WR-A1 Source of supply
- WR-A2 Points of abstraction
- WR-A3 Means of abstraction
- WR-A4 Purposes of abstraction
- WR-A5 Period of abstraction
- WR-A6 Quantities
- WR-A7 Land
- WR-A8 Other specified on licence

WR B: Abstraction measurement and records

- WR-B1 Means of measurement
- WR-B2 Recording
- WR-B3 Reporting

WR C: Surface / Groundwater level and protected flow

- WR-C1 Minimum hands-off flow/level requirements
- WR-C2 Flow/level measurement devices
- WR-C3 Recording
- WR-C4 Reporting

WR D: Environmental monitoring and information

- WR-D1 Recording
- WR-D2 Reporting
- WR-D3 Notifications

WR E: Fish and eel passage

- WR-E1 Infrastructure specified by licence
- WR-E2 Maintenance and records

WR F: Discharge

- WR-F1 Point of discharge
- WR-F2 Infrastructure
- WR-F3 Measurement
- WR-F4 Recording
- WR-F5 Reporting

WR G: Impoundment specified by licence

- WR-G1 Inland water to be impounded
- WR-G2 Manner and extent of impoundment
- WR-G3 Point(s) of impoundment
- WR-G4 Construction and removal requirements
- WR-G5 Other specified on licence

WR H: Borehole infrastructure

- WR-H1 Infrastructure and accessibility
- WR-H2 Maintenance and calibration

Enforcement response

Any licence condition non-compliance is an offence and we may take legal action against you. Action we take can include prosecution or civil sanctions. 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 (Mon to Fri 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.