

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Bespoke permit

We have decided to grant the permit for Blaenrhos operated by Mr Derek Smith.

The application number is PAN-002974

The permit number is EPR/BB3091ZN

The permit regulates an existing discharge of primary treated sewage effluent; a maximum of 1m³/day, treated by a septic tank and infiltration system. The system serves a single domestic property of up to 3 bedrooms. The discharge does not qualify for an exemption due to proximity to a borehole used as a private water supply.

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

Purpose of this document

This decision document:

- explains how the application has been determined
- provides a record of the decision-making process
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account
- justifies the specific conditions in the permit other than those in our generic permit template.

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Structure of this document

- Annex 1 the decision checklist
- Annex 2 the consultation responses

Annex 1: decision checklist

This checklist should be read in conjunction with the Duly Making checklist.

Aspect	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
Consultation		
Scope of consultation	The consultation requirements were identified and implemented. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 6 High Profile Sites, our Public Participation Statement and our Working Together Agreements.	✓
Responses to consultation	<p>The consultation responses (Annex 2) were taken into account in the decision.</p> <p>The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.</p>	✓
Operator		
Control of the facility	We are satisfied that the applicant (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with EPR RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of operator.	✓
European Directives		
Applicable directives	All applicable European directives have been considered in the determination of the application.	✓
The site		
Extent of the site of the facility	<p>The operator has provided a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility including discharge points.</p> <p>A plan is included in the permit and the operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.</p>	✓
Environmental Risk Assessment and operating techniques		
Environmental risk	<p>We have carried out a risk assessment on behalf of the operator.</p> <p>The operator considers this risk assessment is satisfactory.</p>	✓
Operating techniques	We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes.	✓

Aspect	Justification / Detail	Criteria met
		Yes
	The proposed techniques / emission levels for priorities for control are in line with the benchmark levels contained in the TGN and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.	
The permit conditions		
Considerations of foul sewer	We agree with the operators justification for not connecting to foul sewer.	✓
Operator Competence		
Environment Management System	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management systems to enable it to comply with the permit conditions. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 5 on Operator Competence.	✓
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR)		
Considerations of SMNR - Compliance with our General Purpose	We are satisfied that this decision is compatible with our general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources"	✓

Annex 2: Consultation responses

Summary of responses to consultation and the way in which we have taken these into account in the determination process.

Response received from
Rhys Evans (Environmental Health – Ceredigion County Council)
Brief summary of issues raised
<p>In response to your consultation relating to the environmental permit application above, I can confirm that Blaenrhos, Blaenporth is on our Register of private water supplies as a single domestic supply, and as such is exempt from the requirements of the Private Water Supply Regulations (Wales) 2017. There is no requirement for the Authority to monitor single domestic supplies, unless requested by the owner or occupier. In this case, if the current or future owners of Blaenrhos were to request our service, the supply would always come out as 'high risk' and fail a Private Water Supply Risk Assessment due to the proximity of the septic tank and soakaway to the borehole. UV treatment at Blaenrhos will mitigate against bacteriological contamination of the borehole from the foul system, however the risk of other contaminants from the foul system affecting the potability of the borehole is a risk factor which UV treatment alone will not remedy.</p>
Summary of actions taken or show how this has been covered
<p>NRW's Geoscience department confirmed that contamination of the private water supply from the existing treated sewage discharge is unlikely as the discharge is cross gradient. However, the operator confirmed the private water supply was tested and Escherichia coli (E. coli) was found to be present in the water sample but the source has not been identified. The operator confirmed that UV disinfection treatment will be installed on the private water supply to mitigate against any bacteriological contamination. In addition, the existing treated sewage discharge will now be regulated and the operator will have to comply with conditions in an environmental permit. This includes operating the septic tank and infiltration system in accordance with an appropriate management system to ensure the sewage treatment system is maintained regularly and operates effectively to minimise the risk of pollution.</p>