

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045397

Licence being assessed: WA/057/0021/003.

For: Taff Bargoed Park, held by Friends of Taff Bargoed Park Limited.

At: Taff Bargoed Park, Trelewis, Treharris, CF46 6AP.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 02/10/2024, between 12:30 and 13:30.

Parts of licence assessed: All

NRW Lead Officer: Ceri Malone, accompanied by Natalie Wrangham.

Report sent to: Paul Kent, Operator, on 10/10/2024.

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

Part of licenced activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Licence condition
WR-A1 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Source of supply	Assessed (A)	
WR-A2 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Points of abstraction	Assessed (A)	
WR-A3 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Means of abstraction	Assessed (A)	
WR-A4 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Purposes of abstraction	Assessed (A)	
WR-A6 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Quantities	Assessed (A)	
WR-B2 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction measurement and records - Recording	Assessed (A)	
WR-B3 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction measurement and records - Reporting	Assessed (A)	
WR-F1 - Water Abstraction - Discharge - Point of discharge	Assessed (A)	

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

No action required.

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

Full Licence to Abstract Water - Friends of Taff Bargoed Park Limited WA/057/0021/003

Site Report

Arrived: 12:30

A compliance visit for the permit was undertaken on 02/10/2024. Two Natural Resources Wales colleagues, one Environment Officer and one Senior Officer were present. An operator for Friends of Taff Bargoed hydropower system was on site to provide access and discuss its operation. The weather was dry at the time of the visit with moderate cloud cover. Flow levels in the river were moderate. Permit conditions for WA/057/0021/007 were also checked as part of the site visit but assessed separately.

The intake was checked which was situated at the location described on the permit – NGR ST 10174 97311. A gravity feed pipe then transports flows to the turbine house which was operating at the time of our visit. An assessment of the intake has been completed as part of permit CAR_NRW0045396.

Abstraction quantities have the following maximum limits:

- Daily: 54,432m³
- Yearly: 11,406,887 m³

The quantity of water abstracted since 2019 has been checked as part of this assessment.

Calculations from weekly submissions by the operator have shown that at no point have the daily or yearly maximum quantities been exceeded. Yearly abstraction records have been as follows:

WA/057/0021/003 Yearly Abstraction			
Year	Abstraction Volume (m ³)	Limit (m ³)	Pass/Fail
2019-2020	10,952,426	11,406,887	Pass
2020-2021	9,222,724	11,406,887	Pass
2021-2022	8,678,552	11,406,887	Pass
2022-2023	6,550,559	11,406,887	Pass
2023-2024	10,676,381	11,406,887	Pass

Water was returned to the Taff Bargoed at NGR ST 10222 97109 as per 9.4. of the permit. The outfall is formed from a concrete blockstone channel with a mesh screen. The outfall appeared to be unimpeded and cleared of debris at the time of our visit (photograph 1).



Photograph 1: Outfall from the Turbine House

The turbine house was visited and the control panel was functioning and maintenance records being kept. The last update was from the day of our visit. The operator explained that the maintenance schedule for the scheme included monthly service checks carried out by himself (photograph 2). A 6 monthly stripdown, clean and an annual flush through is carried out by Hydromatch Limited. The system is shut down automatically in low flows but can also be stopped manually for maintenance.

CINK Hydro - Energy k.s.		
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Date	Working hours	Carried out service
27/04/24	60089 hrs 33546 hrs INT 223037 FIT	turbine bearings serviced intake screen cleaned visual checks
30/05/24	annual service full details see report	
FIT	FIT	251021
06/06/24	244153 FIT 51722 hrs 3396326 INT	turbine bearings serviced visual inspection
31/07/24	62371 hrs 3406320 hrs 273933 FIT	turbine bearing lubrication visual checks shut down
06/09/24	63176 hrs 281453 FIT 341416 INT	turbine bearing lubrication and visual checks
02/10/24	63789 hrs 309475 FIT 3442358 INT	turbine bearing lubrication and visual checks

Photograph 2: Maintenance Schedule

Left: 13:30

Breaches of permit condition:

N/A

Action required by dates specified:

N/A

Other advisory comments:

Upstream of the intake there are concrete groynes in the channel which are maintained by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. We were informed by the operator that these are cleared annually. At the time of the visit there was a lot of debris collected on the groynes (photograph 3). Whilst this is not a part of the HEP scheme nor noted on the permit, it has the potential to cause issues with fish movement up and downstream. I have listed an action for myself to contact Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and make them aware of the debris build-up.



Photograph 3: Groynes with Debris

Contact details:

If you have any queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details: Ceri Malone, Environment Officer,
Ceri.Malone@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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.