

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045485

Licence being assessed: WA/065/0004/018.

For: Afon Merch at Hafod-y-Llan, held by National Trust Renewable Energy Limited.

At: Hafon-y-Llan, Beddgelert, LL55 4NQ.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 04/10/2024, between 11:00 and 12:30.

Parts of licence assessed: All

NRW Lead Officer: Laura Jones, accompanied by Sioned Jones.

Report sent to: Wynn Owen, Caretaker, on 23/10/2024.

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-A5 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Period of abstraction	Assessed (A)	
WR-A6 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Quantities	Assessed (A)	
WR-A8 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Other specified on licence	Assessed (A)	
WR-B1 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction measurement and records - Means of measurement	Assessed (A)	
WR-B2 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction measurement and records - Recording	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

The abstraction licence to abstract water for Afon Merch at Hafod-Y-Llan, Beddgelert is due for renewal on the 31st March 2025. Laura Jones from the Conwy Environment Management team visited the site on the 4th October 2024 and met with the caretaker Mr Wynn Owen.

1. Source of Supply

Inland water (river) known as Afon Merch at Hafod-Y-Llan, Beddgelert, Gwynedd

No issues were identified.

2. Points of Abstraction

At national grid reference SH 62967 51607 at the point marked "Point A" on the map

No issues were identified.

3. Means of Abstraction

Intake works and gravity feed pipe with an internal diameter not exceeding 180 millimetres

No issues were identified

4. Purpose of Abstraction

Power production

No issues were identified

5. Period of Abstraction

All year.

No issues were identified.

6. Maximum Quantities of Water to be Abstracted

3110.4 cubic metres per day

1135296 cubic metres per year

At an instantaneous not exceeding 36 litres per second

Returns data has been sent to NRW on a regular basis these have been checked and no issues have been identified.

7. Means of Measurement of Water Abstracted

7.1 The licence holder shall determine the quantity of water abstracted by reference to the kilowatt-hours generated, as measured by a kilowatt-hours meter multiplied by the conversion factor determined using the calculation checklist attached to the licence

The licence holder shall retain supporting documentation relating to details of the methodology and calculations used to convert electricity generated to the quantities abstracted and make them available to the NRW on request

No issues were identified

8. Records

The licence holder shall record readings of the electrical output and the corresponding quantity of water abstracted at the same time each week, as determined using the calculation checklist attached to the licence or at such other intervals as may be approved by the NRW in writing

Abstraction returns have been received for each year the scheme has been operating, these have been checked and no over abstraction has been found.

9. Further Conditions

9.1 For the purpose of the licence, references to 'hydropower scheme' shall mean all works consisting of a new concrete weir, a gravity feed pipe with an internal diameter not

exceeding 10 millimetres, a Coanda intake screen, a forebay tank, a compensation flow notch, a turbine and discharge outlet pipe with a 10 millimetre spaced screen.

No issues were identified

9.2 The licence holder shall construct, operate and maintain the hydropower scheme in accordance with the specifications and drawings

No issues were identified

9.3 The licence holder shall, as far as reasonably practicable, ensure that no water flows through the turbine if the licence holder is unable to generate power.

No issues were identified

9.4 The licence holder shall return all of the water abstracted in pursuance of this licence to the Afon Merch at National Grid Reference SH 62949 51388 marked 'Point Q' on the map.

No issues were identified

9.6 No abstraction shall take place unless the licence holder has installed a 3 millimetre Coanda screen to prevent the entrapment, entrainment or impingement of fish at the point of abstraction.

The licence holder shall maintain the fish screen in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and keep records of such maintenance available for inspection

No issues were identified

9.7 No abstraction shall take place unless the licence holder has installed a fish screen with spacing no greater than 10 millimetre to the discharge outlet pipe to prevent the entrapment, entrainment or impingement of fish

The licence holder shall maintain the fish screen in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and keep records of such maintenance available for inspection

No issues were identified

I would like to thank Mr Wynn Owen for taking the time during the visit to take me to the weir structure and the turbine house.

Laura Jones

Swyddog Amgylchedd/ Environment Officer

Tim Amgylchedd Conwy/ Conwy Environment Team
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales
Ffon Symudol/Mobile Phone 07766248453

Siaradwr Cymraeg
Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW.

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.