

20 August 2025

Dear Charlotte,

Invalid Application

Application reference number: PAN-029812

Site reference: Rhydlanfair, Afon Iwrch

In response to your letter, I have copied your questions onto this sheet and put them in blue then answered them appropriately in black beneath each question. Please let me know if you require any further information.

Application Type

On Application Form WRA, you indicated you wished to apply for a 'New impoundment licence' and on WRE you indicated 'Removal of an existing impoundment'.

From reviewing the forms, I understand that the proposal is for the 'Removal of an existing impoundment', is this correct?

NWRT Response: Correct

Applicant details for North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd

On Application Form WRA you indicated that the applicant was a **charity**; and the form indicated the following information would be necessary for a Charity:

'You must provide the full names and addresses of all trustees and the name and address of the person authorised to receive the licence on their behalf.'

Under the applicant details you provided Company number 06100324; and the form indicated the following information necessary for a **registered company**:

'If you are a registered company or charity or a limited liability partnership, you must provide your registration number and your UK registered address.'

From reviewing the [Charity Commission for England and Wales register](#) and [Companies House](#), I can see that North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd is a registered charity and company.

Please confirm whether 'North Wales Rivers Trust Ltd' wish to apply as a charity, or a registered company and provide the necessary information italicised above.

NWRT Response: Yes we would like to respond as a charity,

o **Charity number:** 06100324

o **Charity Address:** Arfonnia, High Street, Harlech, Gwynedd LL462YB

o **Address of Trustees:**

- WINSTONE, Alan James - Park Croft, Bwlch, Tyn-Y-Gongl, Wales, LL74 8RF

- WHITE, Christopher John - Gwel Yr Afon, Llanddoged, Llanrwst, Conwy, Wales, LL26 0TY
- THOMAS, Roger Frederick - Gwel Yr Afon, Llanddoged, Llanrwst, Gwynedd, LL26 0TY
- MILNER, Nigel James, Dr - Brithdir, Benllech, Marianglas, Anglesey, Wales, LL73 8PG
- FERGUSON, Philip - Llwyn Hwlcyn, Llwyn Hwlcyn, Llanbedr, Gwynedd, Wales, LL45 2HT
- FENNER, Nathalie, Dr - Gwel Yr Afon, Llanddoged, Llanrwst, Conwy, Wales, LL26 0TY

Declaration Signature / Authorisation

You have signed Application Forms WRA and WRE, however, who should sign the application forms or authorise you to apply on their behalf will depend upon the applicant type, as follows:

- **Registered company** - Company director or Company secretary.
- **Charity** - A person authorised to sign documents on behalf of the charity.

□ Please provide authorisation inline with the above requirements.

□ **NWRT Response:** Laura Owen Sanderson CEO, NWRT laura@northwalesriverstrus.org

Overflow or crest level

□ What is the overflow or crest level of the impoundment (in metres above Ordnance Datum)?

□ **NWRT Response:** ~168.3m

Geomorphology Stage 1 Photo Survey

On Application Form WRE and in your email dated 01/07/2025, you indicated that you had sent your Geomorphological photo survey and an Archaeology report to us, however, only the Archaeology report was attached.

□ Please submit your Geomorphological Stage 1 Photo Survey to us.

□ **NWRT Response:** See attached

As detailed in our pre-application response, the survey should be completed using the guidance set out on the '[Geomorphology photo surveys for hydropower developments](#)' page of our website (please note that although this guidance is written for hydropower schemes, the basic principles of completing photo surveys apply).

Proposed Design of Structure

As detailed in our pre-application response and on Application Form WRE you must provide technical

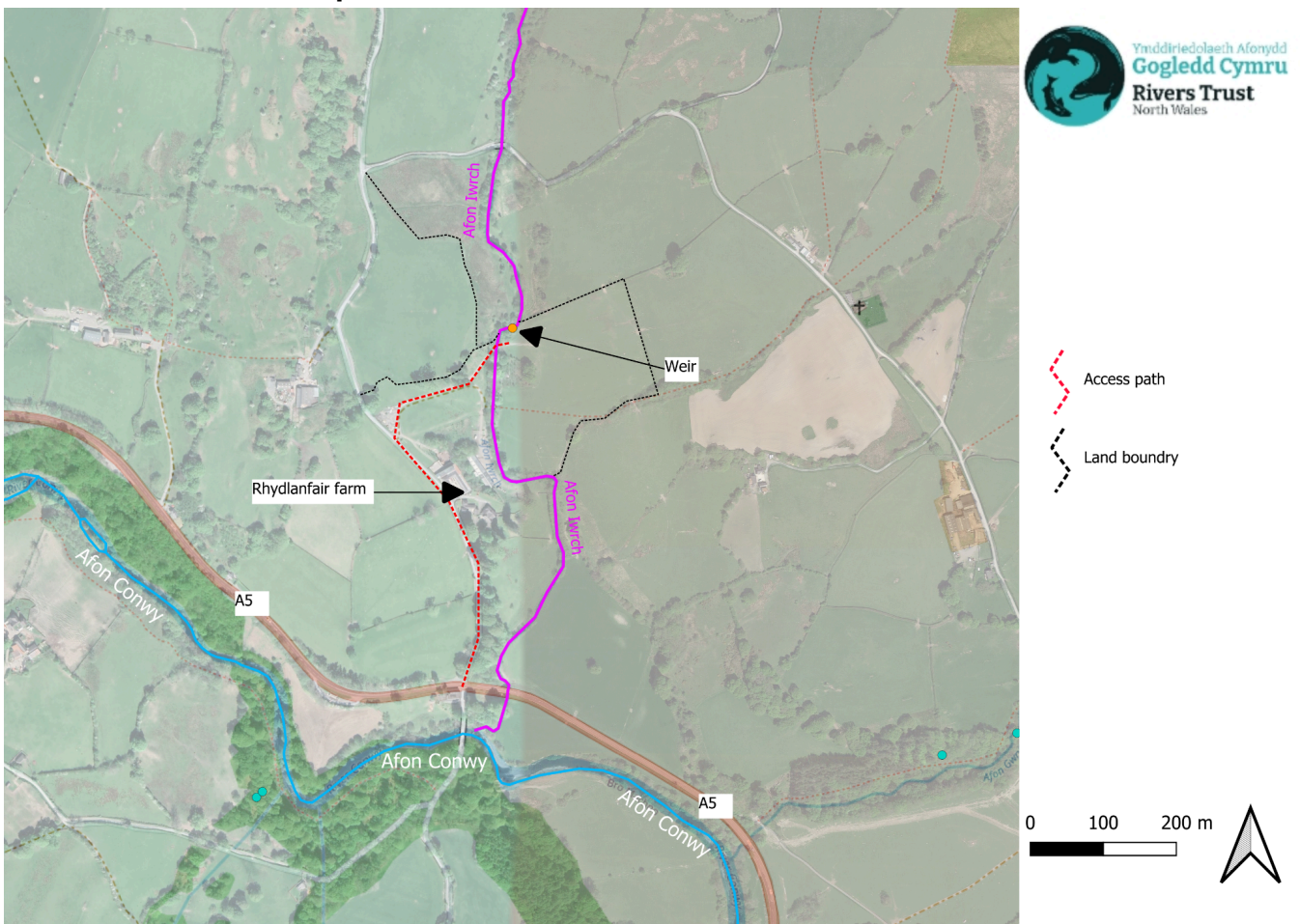
drawings to illustrate your proposed changes to the weir which meet the following minimum requirements:

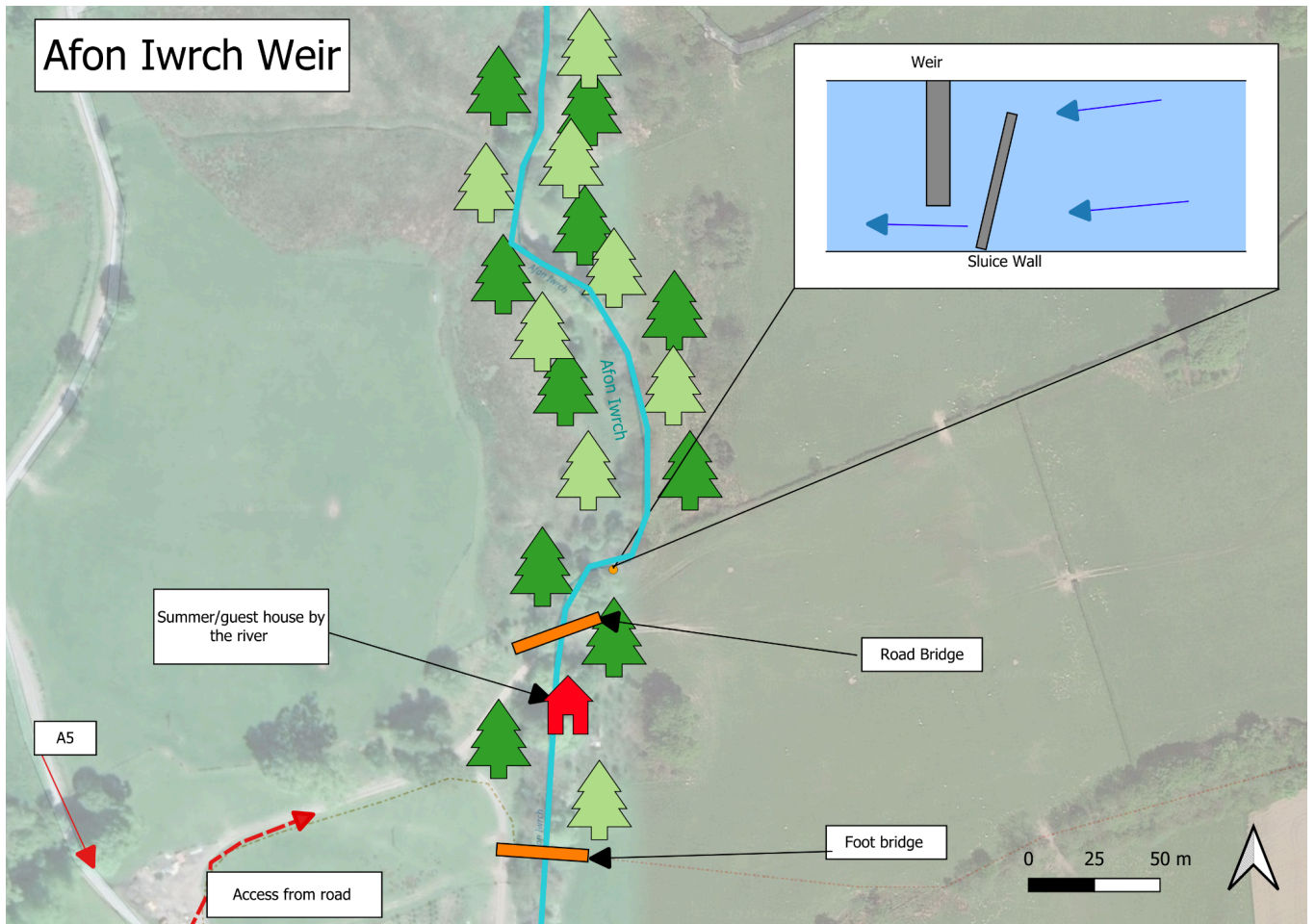
- **Location Plan** at 1:5000, 1:10,000 or larger scale subject to the extent of the development.
- **Plan, profile and cross-section drawings** to capture changes to the impoundment structure at a scale of 1:50 or higher resolution to show construction detail. You must include relevant datum levels with reference to an appropriate datum point (e.g. metres above Ordnance Datum), dimensions and scale.

□ Please provide a location plan, plan, profile and cross-section design drawings in line with the above minimum requirements.

□ **NWRT Response:**

○ **Location plan**





o Plan



Front view of weir that is to be removed

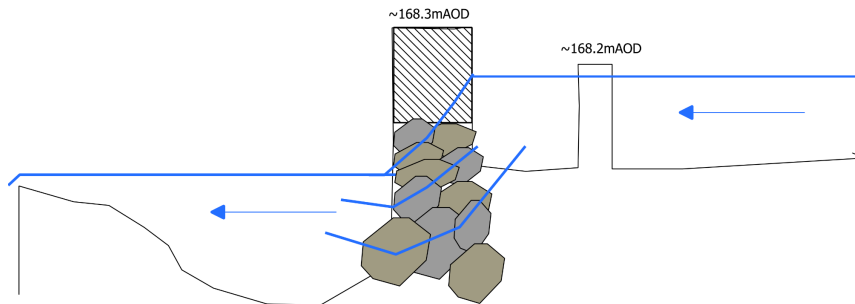


removed

Side view of weir and sluice that are to be

o Profile and cross-section design

Cross section looking at the weir from the side of the left bank (Facing North West). River flowing from right to left (NE to SW). Weir notch closest to the left bank and a sluice wall sitting behind it



□ Application Form WRE also requires a design statement to indicate how the structure will operate. Therefore, as the proposal is to remove the existing impoundment, please provide further information on how the proposal will impact on flows.



NWRT Response:

- As of the latest available information, the Afon Iwrch in Gwynedd, Wales, is classified under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Cycle 3 as having a 'Moderate' ecological status. This classification indicates that while the river meets some environmental quality standards, there are aspects that require improvement to achieve 'Good' status.

The 'Moderate' status suggests that certain biological or chemical elements in the river do not fully meet the desired ecological conditions. Common issues affecting rivers in this category include agricultural runoff, physical modifications to the river channel and potential pollution from wastewater discharges.

Removing a man-made weir can significantly improve river quality by restoring the river's natural flow, which helps transport sediment properly and prevents the buildup of silt and stagnant conditions upstream. Without the barrier, fish and other aquatic species can migrate freely, boosting their populations and enhancing biodiversity — a key indicator of ecological health. The removal also improves water quality by increasing oxygen levels and maintaining natural water temperatures, both of which are vital for a healthy river ecosystem. Additionally, it allows the river to recreate its natural sequence of habitats, such as riffles and pools, which support a wide range of plants and animals. Overall, a free-flowing river becomes more resilient to pressures like pollution, droughts, and floods, making it better able to achieve the 'Good' status required by the Water Framework Directive

Thank you for taking the time to process my application.

Kind regards

Elis Lloyd Williams
River Project Officer