

Determination report

Licence number: WA/065/0016/0019/R001

Application reference number: PAN-032703

Site name: The B4547 and A4244 roads near Pentir, Gwynedd

Report of an application for a same terms renewal of full abstraction licence number WA/065/0016/0019.

The impact of the abstraction was originally assessed in our report dated 15/05/2023.

Purpose of this document

This determination report:

- explains how the application to renew the licence has been determined
- provides a record of the decision-making process
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account
- justifies any further conditions in the licence other than those applied as standard.

Unless the determination report specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

NRW has decided to issue the licence.

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

A glossary of acronyms used can be found at the end of this document in [Annex 2](#).

Application details

Application details	
Applicant name and address	Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd Kent House 14-17 Market Place London W1W 8AJ
Existing licence number	WA/065/0016/0019
New licence number	WA/065/0016/0019/R001

There were no departures from the application form, however, the applicant did confirm, in subsequent communications, the new expiry date required for the renewed licence (30/06/2027) and that this was anticipated to cover the over-run of the work with some contingency built in.

Administrative details

Criteria	Details
Validation	<p>The applicant has submitted all the required information for a complete and valid application.</p> <p>The application was validated on 05/05/2026. This means we considered it was in the correct form, the correct application fee had been received, and that the application contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination</p> <p>The applicant demonstrated that they are entitled to apply for the abstraction licence, as they have a right of access to the abstraction points.</p>
Additional Information / reports supplied	Not applicable.
Commercial confidentiality / National security	Not applicable to this application.
Advertisement	The application to renew the existing licence was received late (licence due to expire 30/06/2026 and application to renew received 01/05/2026 ie less than three months before the expiry date) so Natural Resources Wales was unable to apply the advertising exemption. However, it has decided to dispense with the need for advertising

	<p>under Regulation 7(4) of the Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/641).</p> <p>A dispensation notice was signed on 26/05/2026 by an authorised person. Notice of this proposal has not been advertised and no statutory bodies have been notified as the proposal is not subject to advertising.</p>
External Consultation	It was not necessary to consult with external bodies, because the proposal is not subject to advertising.

Statutory duties

Aspect	Criteria met	Justification / detail
Water Framework Directive	Yes	This proposed activity has screened out of requiring a Water Framework Directive Assessment. NRW are satisfied that there will be no deterioration in quantitative or ecological status as a result of the components of the activity authorised by the licence because this is a same terms renewal, the abstraction points are not within any protected areas, there are no recorded concerns from specialists, and the renewed licence will be time-limited.
The National Site Network and Ramsars	Yes	<p>This activity was assessed under the Habitats Regulations by the Natural Resources Wales when the original licence was granted.</p> <p>This project is a renewal of a current permission which complies with NRW agreed criteria for ruling out significant effects of a renewal without conducting a project-specific LSE test. Therefore, it is considered not likely to have a significant effect on any Ramsar sites / sites designated under the National Site Network, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>In line with our guidance, this renewal can be automatically screened out as not likely to have a significant effect.</p>
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Areas of	Yes	This activity was assessed under the CRow Act by the Natural Resources Wales when the original licence was granted, document dated 03/05/2023.

Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)		
Protected rights and lawful users of water	Yes	It was not necessary to reconsider protected rights and lawful users of water as part of the renewal. There have been no changes to the previously licensed abstraction.

Tests to renew the licence

Test	Criteria met?	Justification / detail
Environmental sustainability	Yes	We have reviewed the risk to the environment and deem that the abstraction continues to be sustainable.
Justification of need	Yes	<p>The applicant has abstracted between 2.1-4.2% of the maximum licenced annual quantity since abstraction started. The quantities required to be licenced were based on an estimation of the amount of groundwater that could be intercepted along with predicted rainfall levels that could also fill up the construction sites, so could never be any more than a best guess. The applicant only requires the licence for an additional year to enable them to complete the construction work. The applicant is returning all of the water abstracted to the environment making this activity non-consumptive, the work is only expected to continue for a maximum of one more year, and no concerns have been raised that it is impacting water availability for the environment or other users. It seems appropriate to, therefore, leave the licenced quantities as are, even though the proportion of the maximum licenced quantity being abstracted is very small.</p> <p>We have reviewed the applicant's returns data and deem that there is a continued justification of need for the water.</p>
Water efficiency	Yes	We have reviewed the applicant's water efficiency measures and have deemed them reasonable.

Changes to licence conditions

Condition number	Change
Condition 9.5	Removed. No longer required as abstraction has commenced.

Other considerations

Test	Criteria met?	Justification / detail
Biodiversity and sustainable development, and Considerations of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	Yes	<p>The principles of biodiversity and sustainable development are embodied in the conditions attached to the licence.</p> <p>We are satisfied that this decision is compatible with NRW's general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources.</p>
Time limit	Yes	A time limit of 30/06/2027 has been included in accordance with the additional time required by the Licence Holder to complete the construction work.
Special agreements	Yes	No special agreements applied.
Measurement of water abstracted	Yes	<p>The Licence Holder will be required to measure the quantities of water being abstracted by measuring the number of hours of operation of the pumps multiplied by the defined output of the pumps in one hour.</p> <p>The records of the weekly quantities abstracted will need to be submitted to NRW on an annual basis (within 28 days of 31 March in each year) or within 28 days of NRW requesting the records in writing. The Licence Holder will also be required to keep all records for at least 6 years and to make them available for inspection during all reasonable hours.</p>

Cost / benefit analysis

Assessment of probable benefits and costs of proposed option to the:	
Water Resources/ The Environment	There is low risk of environmental damage occurring as a result of this proposal. The proposal accords with local water resources policy and is sustainable.
The applicant	The applicant will incur the costs of installing and maintaining the method of abstraction and of measuring the volumes of water they abstract. The applicant will have to pay the application fee and an annual subsistence charge based on their licensed quantity.
Natural Resources Wales	Natural Resources Wales will incur the cost of determining the application and enforcing the licence. These costs will be partly recovered through the application charge and annual charges, where applicable. In determining the licence in accordance with local and national policy, Natural Resources Wales is fulfilling its duties as a regulator.
The economic and social well being of the rural community.	No adverse effects upon the social and economic well being of local communities in the rural area are perceived as a result of this proposal.

Conclusion and decision

Full and due consideration has been given to any representations made, and due regard has been taken of protected rights and other lawful interests.

The principles of sustainable development are embodied in the conditions attached to the licence.

The conditions incorporated on the licence are considered to be necessary and reasonable in the light of the available and presented evidence. The conditions are also considered to be consistent with appropriate standards for enforcement by Natural Resources Wales.

NRW has therefore approved the application and issue of Licence number WA/065/0016/0019/R001 with the conditions as drafted.

Annex 1 – Administration

Purpose code and loss factor

Primary Code	Secondary Code	Use	Loss factor
I: Industrial, Commercial, Public Services	CON: Construction	660: Dewatering	Very Low

Finance

The licence will be subject to annual charges under paragraph 6.1 of [Natural Resources Wales's water abstraction charges scheme](#)

Annex 2 - Glossary of acronyms used in this document

ALS	Abstraction Licensing Strategy
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CRoW	Countryside Rights of Way
EFI	Environmental Flow Indicator
FRAP	Flood Risk Activity Permit
GES	Good Ecological Status
GW	Groundwater
HAF	Hydro abstraction factor
HEP	Hydro-electric power
HES	High Ecological Status
HIA	Hydrological Impact Assessment
HoF	Hands-off flow
HoL	Hands-off level
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PALS	Permitting and Licensing System
PPS	Public Participation Statement
PWS	Public Water Supply
Q ₃₀	Flow exceeded 50% of the time period considered
Q ₅₀	Flow exceeded 50% of the time period considered
Q ₇₀	Flow exceeded 70% of the time period considered
Q ₉₅	Flow exceeded 95% of the time period considered
RBMP	River Basin Management Plans
ROA	Rights of Access (e
RSA	Restoring Sustainable Abstraction
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SINCs	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (Local Wildlife Sites)
SMNR	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WAT	Welsh Archaeological Trust
WFD	Water Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)
WFS	Water Feature Survey
WIA	Water Industry Act
WR	Water Resources