

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0052847

Licence being assessed: WA/067/0010/011.

For: Abstraction for spray irrigation at Sealand, **held by:** WT Banks & Co (Farming) Ltd.

At: .

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 31/07/2026, between 10:20 and 11:00.

Parts of licence assessed: 2 - Point of abstraction. 3 Means of abstraction. 6 Maximum quantities. 7 Means of measurement. 8 Records

NRW Lead Officer: Philip Barrett, accompanied by Caitlin McHugh.

Report sent to: License contact, License contact, on 03/09/2026.

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

Part of licenced activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant licence condition
WR-A2 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction specified by licence - Points of abstraction	Assessed (A)	
WR-B1 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction measurement and records - Means of measurement	C3 Minor	7. MEANS OF MEASUREMENT OF WATER ABSTRACTED
WR-B3 - Water Abstraction - Abstraction measurement and records - Reporting	C3 Minor	8 RECORDS

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WR-B1	Ensure a meter is fitted to each pump while an abstraction is taking place	11/09/2026
WR-B3	Submit the return for the period 1st April - 30th September from 2019 to the current year	02/10/2026

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important Information' section below.

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.

You are non-compliant with your licence.

At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.

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

A compliance inspection was carried out on 31/07/26 to the abstraction that takes place from a reach of Sealand Main Drain under licence WA/067/0010/011.

The visit found that 2 pumps were positioned within the reach. Pump 1 wasn't running, but had signs that it had recently run from the water marks around it. This was located at NGR SJ 34846 68263. Pump 2 was running and water could be seen spraying crops in a nearby field. This was located at NGR SJ 36828 66889.

Pump 1



Pump 2



Condition 2 of the license covers the point of abstraction as:

2.1 Between National Grid References SJ 33955 67720 and SJ 36363 66242 marked 'A1'

and 'A2' on the map.

2.2 Between National Grid References SJ 36826 66870 and SJ 37620 66982 marked 'B1' and 'B2' on the map.

Both pumps were located between the points of the reach marked between 'A1' and 'A2' in conditions 2.1

Condition 7 of the license covers the means of measurement of water abstracted as:

7.1

(i) The Licence Holder shall use one meter for each separately identified point of abstraction to measure quantities of water abstracted.

(ii) No abstraction shall take place unless the Licence Holder has installed any meters required in (i) above.

Both pumps were checked and found that no meters were in place on the pipe leading to them from the watercourse, or on the pipe leading from them to the spray head. Pump number 2 had what appeared to be a flow sensor fitted, but the cable from this was found not to be connected.



Condition 3 of the license covers the means of abstraction as:

3.1 Portable pumps: A maximum of three in use at any one time, each with a maximum instantaneous rate not exceeding 11 litres per second.

Condition 6 of the license covers the maximum quantities of water to be abstracted

as:

6.1 The aggregate quantity of water authorised to be abstracted under this licence for the purpose of spray irrigation shall not exceed:

113.65 cubic metres per hour

1,227.42 cubic metres per day

67,962.7 cubic metres per year

At an instantaneous rate not exceeding 32 litres per second.

The 2 pumps being used were within the maximum number of the license. However, as they were not metered, it wasn't possible to assess the instantaneous flow rate of the above conditions.

The lack of meters was raised with the licence contact on the day. It was explained that the meters and other parts (batteries etc) were stolen the previous day. The batteries had been replaced and an order placed for replacement meters, which will be fitted once they are delivered in the coming days. A request was made to provide the meter make and serial numbers once these are known.

To date, these have not been provided.

Condition 8 of the license covers the records as:

8.1 The Licence Holder shall take and record readings of the meters specified in condition 7.1 at the same time each month during the whole of the period during which abstraction is authorised or as otherwise approved in writing by the NRW.

8.2 The Licence Holder shall send a copy of the record required by condition 8.1 or summary data to the NRW within 28 days after 31 October in each year and also within 28 days of being so requested in writing by the NRW.

During the discussion with the license contact, it was mentioned that meter readings have been taken and documented in the site office. There are no returns showing for this license on the NRW returns portal. The returns will need to be submitted on the web based portal. If an account hasn't been created, this will need creating by contacting the Water Resources Returns team by emailing on waterresources.returns@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk When emailing, please reference the license number (shown above).

It was found that concrete slabs had been placed in the watercourse downstream of each of the pumps to hold the water back. This is classed as an impoundment and would require a licence. Guidance for this can be found on the NRW website at <https://naturalresources.wales/?lang=en> permits and permissions>water abstractions and impoundment licences.

As the impoundment isn't covered by this license, this will be picked up separately and has not been scored within this report.

Concrete slab below pump 1



Concrete slab below pump 2



Actions:

- **Ensure the abstraction is metered correctly by the 11th Sept 26**
- **Provide the make and serial numbers of all meters by the 11th Sept 26**
- **Submit the abstraction quantities to the online portal for the period 1st April - 30th September from 2019 to the current year by 2nd Oct 26**
- **Remove the concrete slabs immediately**
- **Apply for an impoundment license if you wish to impound the flow in the watercourse**

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further if needed.

Phil Barrett

0300 065 3670

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 required for the licence condition assessed to avoid non-compliance. No non-compliance scored at this time
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

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 non-compliance with a licence condition 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 twenty working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

Disputing the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If you disagree with the content of this Compliance Assessment Report form, you should submit your concerns, in writing, to the regulating officer who issued it within **15 working days** of its issue. This will be treated as a **Stage 1 review**.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the stage 1 review, you may request a **Stage 2 appeal**. This request must be submitted **within 21 working days** of receiving the response from the stage 1 review.

Further details on our review and appeal process are available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Appeal a regulatory decision from Natural Resources Wales](#)

Concerns Not Related to the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If your concerns do not relate to the content of the Compliance Assessment Report form, you should first attempt to resolve the issue with the regulating officer or their line manager.

If the issue remains unresolved, please contact our **Customer Contact Team**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:00)
- **Email:** enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

They will provide details on how to escalate your concerns through our **Complaints and Commendations procedure**.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you may contact the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 790 0203
- **Email:** 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.