

Supporting statement

Clwb Rygbi Bethesda – application for a permit to discharge treated sewage effluent to the Afon Ogwen (pre-application reference PPN-01604)

This statement accompanies the Part B6.5 application submitted on behalf of Clwb Rygbi Bethesda for a permit to discharge treated sewage effluent from the club's premises at Station Road, Bethesda, to the Afon Ogwen. It should be read with the pre-application response from Mr Euryn Roberts and the documents listed at the end.

The club's existing septic tank has failed and no longer treats effluent adequately. It poses a pollution risk to the Afon Ogwen. The current discharges are registered under two exemptions: one to ground at under 2 m³/day and one to the river at under 5 m³/day. The club's use exceeds both limits. The club has therefore commissioned a replacement package treatment plant, a Marsh Ultra:Polylok 180 PE unit designed to BS EN 12255. It will be located next to the existing tank. A Marsh MG2800 grease separator is fitted upstream to protect the biological process from kitchen and bar waste. Waste from visiting camper vans will be kept separate in a sealed cesspool and removed by a licensed carrier.

The maximum daily discharge has been calculated using Flows and Loads 4 at 13 m³/day, as set out in Annex A. The plant is designed to achieve an effluent standard of 20 mg/l BOD, 30 mg/l suspended solids and 20 mg/l ammoniacal nitrogen. The club will operate it under a maintenance contract with an accredited service engineer, with records kept of servicing, filter cleaning and desludging.

The pre-application response considered a discharge to soakaway. Following further discussion with Natural Resources Wales, the club now proposes to discharge to the Afon Ogwen. Treated effluent will pass through a sample chamber and then along a new pipe to an existing culvert behind the first team pitch. The culvert carries surface water from the A5 to the river. The route, sample point and outfall are shown on the enclosed site plan.

The nearest public foul sewer is the Dŵr Cymru main in the A5, approximately 400 m away and uphill of the site. Connecting to it would require a pumping station, about 400 m of rising main pumped against the gradient, and works within the trunk road, along with the ongoing energy and maintenance liability of a pumping station that would stand idle for much of the week. That cost and disruption are disproportionate for a volunteer-run community club. The Afon Ogwen lies approximately 100 m downslope, and treated effluent can reach it by gravity through an existing culvert. Connection to the sewer is therefore neither economic nor practicable. The proposal also replaces a failed septic tank, which provided primary settlement only, with secondary and tertiary treatment, grease separation and a single sampled, permitted discharge. It will therefore bring a clear improvement in the quality of effluent reaching the river.

Work to install the replacement plant is under way, under Building Regulations Initial Notice 0693/26/IN, accepted by Cyngor Gwynedd on 14 September 2026. The club recognises that the new plant must not discharge until a permit has been granted. It will not be commissioned to discharge until then. The club would be grateful if the application could be determined as quickly as possible, given that the existing system has failed and that grant funding for the project depends on the permit.

Enclosures: Part B6.5 form; site plan; NRW pre-application response (PPN-01604); Marsh drawings for the 180 PE Ultra:Polylok, MG2800 grease trap and HSC 3800 cesspool; Marsh tank warranty; Building Control acceptance 0693/26/IN; Flows and Loads calculation

The percolation test is not enclosed because the discharge is no longer to ground.