

CRoW Act 2000: Natural Resources Wales application for permission - Formal Notice

Natural Resources Wales Formal Notice.

Requirements of Section 28I of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000.

Duty in relation to granting any consent, licence or permit for activities likely to damage Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Guide to filling in this form for Natural Resources Wales staff:

To be completed by Permitting Officers for any applications for a permission which the Natural Resources Wales has considered under S28G duties to protect and enhance SSSIs. This applies to all proposed permissions within a SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI boundary which are likely to damage its special features.

Refer to OI 140_10 'Applying the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 to applications for permits with potential for impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)', including the flowchart in Appendix 2.

Pink italic text – drafting notes, to be deleted before completion/consultation.

Blue text – examples, to be replaced with permission-specific information.

Ensure you have completed all sections.

1. Natural Resources Wales area/region/NPS hub:	Wales, Cardiff, Ty Cambria
2. Name of SSSI:	Afon Teifi SSSI
3. Type of permission:	Environmental Permit
4. Date for Natural Resources Wales permit determination:	15/06/2019
5. Predicted 28 day date for response from NRW conservation/ecology (under S28 I(4)):	N/A – Filed for Audit
6. Natural Resources Wales reference no:	PAN-004721
7. National grid reference:	SN 18065 44002
8. Description of proposal:	The application is for a new discharge to surface water of 1.5 cubic metres per day of secondary treated sewage effluent, the system will serve a single domestic property. The treatment comprises of a package treatment plant built to British Standards. The discharge is directly into the Afon Piliau which reaches the Afon Teifi after approximately 2.5km. The site was previously derelict.

9. Is the proposed activity within (wholly or partially) the SSSI boundary?

No

The discharge is approximately 450-500m upstream of the site (see map below)



10. Has there been any pre-application discussion or correspondence with NRW conservation/ecology

No

11. What aspect(s) of the proposed permission may damage the features which are of special interest for the SSSI?

The following 'Operations Requiring Consent' (or other activities associated with the permission) that may cause damage) are relevant to the proposed permission.

Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials.

The following SSSI features and mechanisms of impact have been considered to assess the likelihood of damage:

The Afon Teifi SSSI is designated for the following features:

- Range of river plant communities including those characterised by water crowfoot
- Associated riverside habitats, including marshy grassland, swamp, saltmarsh and broadleaved woodland
- Nutrient-poor mildly acidic upland lakes (the Teifi Pools)
- Fish (Atlantic Salmon, Bullhead and three species of Lamprey)
- Otters
- Unusual flowering plants and mosses, including floating water-plantain, northern yellow-cress and multi-fruited river
- Rare and scarce insects and other invertebrates, including club-tailed dragonfly and freshwater pearl mussel
- Breeding river and wetland birds
- Bottle-nosed dolphins

12. Decision

- i) The proposed permission is **not likely to damage** any of the flora, fauna or geological or physiological features which are of special interest.

I have taken the following information from 'Afon Teifi – Site of Special Scientific Interest, Your Special Site and its Future'.

The management plan for the SSSI states that the designated features will be adversely affected by a deterioration in the water quality within the Afon Teifi and its tributaries. This proposal is for the discharge of 1.5m³/day of secondary treated sewage effluent, the treatment comprises of a Package Treatment Plant which conforms to the British Standard of all effluent meeting 20:30:20 mg/l of BOD: Suspended Solids: Ammonia. The applicant has confirmed they will maintain the system in line with a stringent management system to ensure the quality of the effluent does not drop below these levels. Given the low volume, the dilution the effluent will receive in the watercourse (which has constant flow) and the distance before the effluent will reach the SSSI boundary (450m+), I can conclude there will be no significant impact on the water quality within the SSSI from this proposal. As there are no nearby discharges I will not assess this proposal in combination with nearby discharges, although any future proposals which will affect the water quality will need to be assessed in combination with this discharge.

The management plan also states that any significant alterations from the natural flow regime within the Teifi and its tributaries may jeopardise the status of the designated features. The volume limit within any permit issued for this proposal will be 1.5m³/day, this means the average flow originating from the plant will be 0.017l/s, a very insignificant flow considering the size of the watercourse the effluent will be entering, therefore this proposal will not cause any significant alteration to the flow rate and as a consequence the proposal will not impact the designated features of the SSSI.

Natural Resources Wales is minded to:
Issue the permission

13.Name and job title of Natural Resources Wales officer:	Elliot Burge Water Quality Permitting Officer
14.Date form sent to NRW conservation/ecology	N/A Filed for Audit
For Natural Resources Wales use only, once NRW conservation/ecology response received	
15.NRW conservation/ecology comment on assessment:	<i>Please delete as appropriate:</i> i) NRW conservation/ecology advise the operation can go ahead ii) NRW conservation/ecology advise the operation can go ahead with conditions iii) NRW conservation/ecology advise against permitting the operation Please ensure that the NRW conservation/ecology response is attached to this Formal Notice.
16.Name and job title of NRW conservation/ecology officer:	
17.Date of receipt of NRW conservation/ecology response:	