



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/South East
2. Name of SSSI:	Mynydd Llangynidr SSSI 32WXK
3. Type of permission:	Environmental permit variation
4. Date for Natural Resources Wales permit determination:	13/04/2021
5. Predicted 28 day date for response from NRW conservation/ecology (under S28 I(4)):	13/04/2021
6. Natural Resources Wales reference no:	EPR/BV5386IX/V006
7. National grid reference:	315022, 212113

8. Description of proposal:

GS Yuasa Battery Manufacturing UK Limited at Rassau Battery Manufacturing Site in Ebbw Vale manufactures valve regulated, sealed, lead acid batteries. The main raw materials used are lead and sulphuric acid. The site also manufactures lead oxide, an essential ingredient in the production of batteries.

Several batch processes take place to produce the batteries, including melting of lead ingots to form the battery plates and pellets, production of lead oxide from lead pellets in rotary mills, production of lead paste for the manufacture of the battery plates, injection moulding of battery cases, and final charging of the batteries.

There is currently a total of 84 releases to air. There are two releases to sewer from the two on site effluent treatment plants and one release of uncontaminated surface water to Cwm Nant Melyn. Ambient monitoring for lead is undertaken around the site and at a local sensitive receptor.

The operator has applied to vary their permit to incorporate a replacement lead oxide mill and associated equipment, as well as confirming approved facilities for solvent and resin storage and preparation, and additional (non-scheduled) component assembly activities.

The operator proposes to install and include the following equipment at the site (associated with the new mill):

- **New 24 tonne lead oxide mill, replacing some of the existing capacity;**
- New 20 tonne capacity silo to serve the new mill;
- New conveyor systems to serve the new process.
- New cutting and brushing machine with additional local exhaust vent.

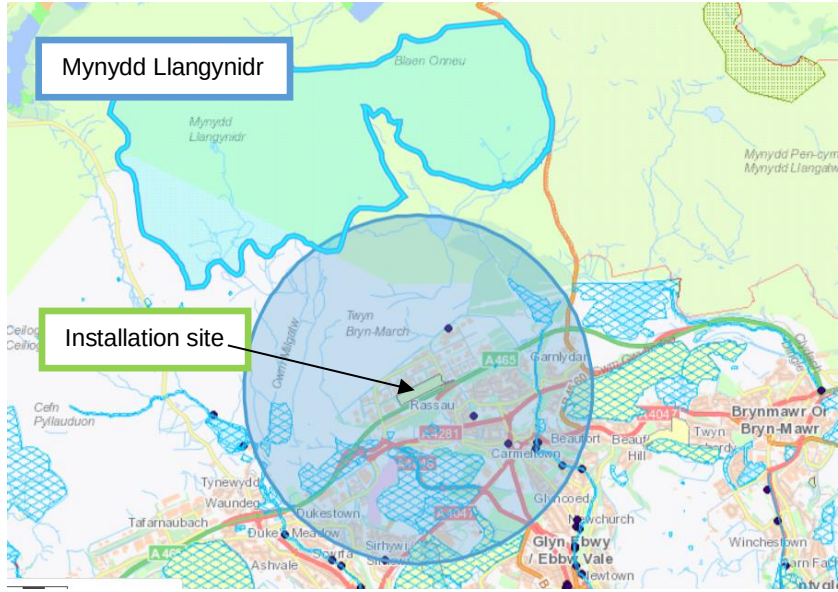
The operator also proposes the following facilities and activities which are not directly associated with the new mill:

- Replacement accelerator, industrial methylated spirits (IMS) and methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) storage;
- New drum rotator mixing process;
- Assembly and testing of Lithium-ion battery modules (non-permitted);
- Manufacture of energy storage containers; and
- The site ADEPT unit (advanced multi-energy management and optimisation time-shifting platform) (non-permitted).

It is not expected that there would be any significant increase in throughput or raw materials use at the site due to the incorporation of the new mill and silo. The site currently has 4 mills (numbers 4-7). Mill 4 is a small (8 tonne capacity) mill which can only produce approximately 2 tonnes of lead oxide per day. Mills 5 and 6 are each 14 tonne capacity mills with a combined output of 14 tonnes of lead oxide per day. Mill 7 is a 24 tonne capacity mill, producing approximately 18 tonnes of lead oxide per day. In total, the site can currently produce approximately 34 tonnes of lead oxide per day. The new mill is a 24 tonne capacity mill, and will be run 24 hours a day, 5 days a week to meet current demand and to future proof the site's lead oxide production capacity.

It is proposed that as soon as the new mill (Mill 8) is online that Mill 4 will be decommissioned and Mills 5 and 6 will become back-up systems. Mill 7 will continue to run as normal but the proposed working shifts are expected to change from 24 hours a day, 6 days a week to 24 hours a day, 5 days a week. The proposed operations will increase the site's overall capacity to approximately 40 tonnes lead oxide per day.

The two existing pellet cast furnaces currently operate for 312 hours per week to produce lead pellets to feed the existing mills. It is proposed that with the incorporation of the new mill and new working shifts, the running hours for the furnaces will reduce to a total of 240 hours per week.

	The site currently has 6 lead oxide silos, each with a total capacity of 20 tonnes. However, these are only filled to a maximum of 18 tonnes. Each mill also as a dedicated pellet silo with a capacity of 45 tonnes each. Three new conveyors will be fitted which will link into the existing pellet caster and storage system to feed the new mill, and a new 20 tonne lead oxide silo will be built for Mill 8. A new screw conveyor will transfer the lead oxide from the bucket elevator of the new mill to the new lead oxide silo. All new conveyor systems will be enclosed and will be similar to the existing conveyors, linking into the existing system as required. The lead oxide silo that currently received material from Mill 4 will also be decommissioned once the new mill is operational. An additional local exhaust ventilation emission point will be required from a new cutting and brushing machine. This and the emission point for new Mill 8 will be the only two new emission points in the permit. 
9. Is the proposed activity within (wholly or partially) the SSSI boundary?	NO The SSSI is located approximately 1.82km from the installation.
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 two things identified by NRW which might impact on the special features of the SSSI are: 1. Obscuring the visibility of features such as the doline field with dense growth of trees or fly-tipping. 2. Quarrying currently occurs at the edge of the site, and any extension of quarrying into the SSSI would result in permanent destruction of karst and cave features. It is not therefore expected that the proposed changes at Rassau Battery Manufacturing Site will impact the SSSI
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. This is because there is no impact pathway from the proposed project for the SSSI features to be affected. Natural Resources Wales is minded to: Issue the permission
13.Name and job title of Natural Resources Wales officer:	Llinos Owen Senior Officer (Installations and RSR Permitting)

14.Date form sent to NRW conservation/ecology	16/03/2021
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
16.Name and job title of NRW conservation/ecology officer:	Ken Perry, Senior Officer, South Powys Team as TOP for Grade 7 Team Leader
17.Date of receipt of NRW conservation/ecology response:	9/4/21