

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.

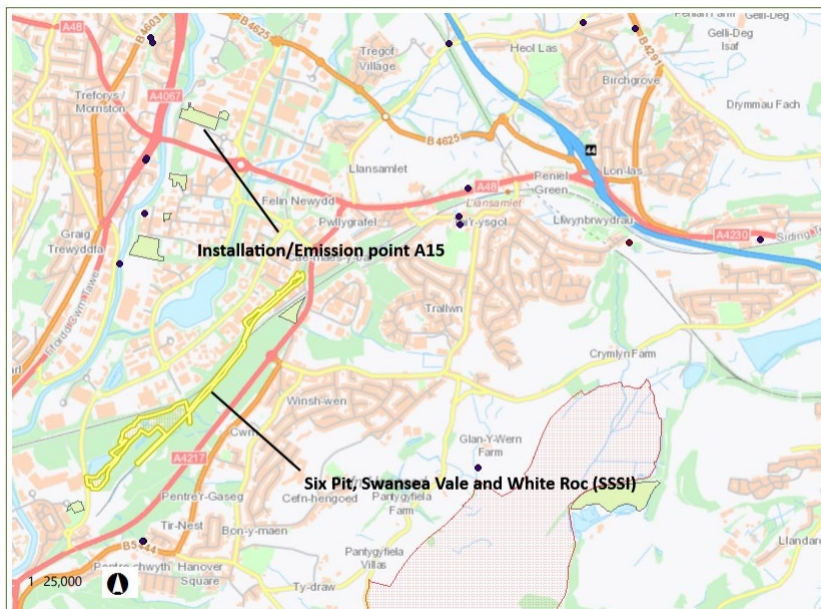
Blue text – examples, to be replaced with permission-specific information.

Ensure you have completed all sections.

1. Natural Resources Wales area/region/NPS hub:	Wales, Cardiff, Ty Cambria
2. Name of SSSI:	Six Pit, Swansea Vale and White Rock (32WY5)
3. Type of permission:	Environmental Permit
4. Date for Natural Resources Wales permit determination:	08/05/2021(original statutory) 08/06/2021
5. Predicted 28 day date for response from NRW conservation/ecology (under S28 I(4)):	
6. Natural Resources Wales reference no:	EPR/VP3339PD/V012
7. National grid reference:	SS 67678 97967 Electrical Carbon, Swansea, Upper Fforest Way, Morriston, Swansea, SA6 8PP
8. Description of proposal:	<p>This is a normal variation for the installation as the applicant has changed their abatement plant for the emission points (A15) from a wet scrubber to a horizontal deep Bed filter (using activated carbon medium). The change to abatement also resulted in a new stack which has decrease the emission point height from 12 meters to 4 meters. The initial H1 assessment submitted however show an increase in the process contribution over the old stack.</p> <p>As a result, the operator has agreed to decrease the emission limit values for Benzo-a-pyrene from 0.01 mg/m³ to 0.005 mg/m³ and particulate matter from 5 mg/m³ to 4 mg/m³. This would allow Benzo-a-pyrene to have a lower process contribution with the new stack</p> <p>One SSSI is located within 2000 meters of the emission point/installation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six Pit, Swansea Vale and White Rock (32WY5)

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

No- approximately 1110 meters from the emission point/ installation boundary



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.

7. Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials.

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

- Calaminarian Grassland –
- Metalophyte Lichens
- Spring Sandwort *Minuartia verna*

Mechanisms of Impact: Emission of particulate matter (PM₁₀) and benzo-a-pyrene from the installation/Emission point A15.

The variation is to change the abatement plant for the emission point. The increase in ground level concentration as a result of the decrease in stack height had been addressed by decreasing the emission limit values for benzo-a-pyrene and particulate matter from the emission stack. This has resulted in the process contribution (ground level concentration) and mass emission (kg/year emitted) for benzo-a-pyrene being lower than the level of the old abatement plant. While particulate matter does not have an environmental standard, it can contribute to smothering. However, the increase in process contribution is a ground level increase at the stack and the SSSI is located 1100 meters away from the installation/ emission point and therefore unlikely to affect by the localised increase. The variation will also result in the maximum emission limit value to be decreased from 5 mg/m³ to 4 mg/m³. This will reduce the mass emission (kg/year) of particulate that is being emitted from the site.

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.

No mechanism/pathway for damage to the features of the SSSI from the changes to the site as a result of the variation.

**Natural Resources Wales is minded to:
Issue the permission**

13.Name and job title of Natural Resources Wales officer:	William Wallace Installations Permitting Officer
14.Date form sent to NRW conservation/ecology	10/05/2021
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:	Gareth Bowen Conservation Officer Swansea Environment Team
17.Date of receipt of NRW conservation/ecology response:	07/062021