

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0039218

**Licence being assessed:** WA/067/0003/021.

For: Afon Clochnant Impoundment, held by Berwyn Hydro Limited.

At: Afon Clochnant, Llandrillo, Corwen, Denbighshire, LL21 0TD.

**Type of assessment:** Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 12/01/2022, between 13:50 and 15:10.

Parts of licence assessed: Manner and extent of impoundment

**NRW Lead Officer:** Corinna Van Cayzeele, accompanied by Richard Pierce, George Nuttall.

**Report sent to:** Mr. Richard Ramsay, Director, on 28/01/2022.

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

Part of licenced activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Licence condition
WR-G2 - Impoundment specified by licence - Manner and extent of impoundment	Assessed (A)	

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

### 2. What action is required?

No action required.

### 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.

**At this time, we do not intend to take any further action.**

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

The Berwyn Hydro power scheme consists of two intakes on separate watercourses just upstream of the confluence. The intake on the Afon Clochnant is authorised by abstraction licence WA0670003020 and impoundment licence WA0670003021 and the intake on the Nant Cwm Tywyll is authorised by abstraction licence WA0670003022 and impoundment licence WA0670003023. The pipelines from both intakes join and take water to a single turbine house.

In August 2016, an inspection had identified that the intake structures and the pipelines were not built in accordance with the technical drawings in the applications. Compliance with the drawings was conditioned in the licences. At the time of the inspection, the manner of construction of the intakes, and the placement of the pipeline in the watercourse posed barriers to fish migration, hydromorphology and sediment transport in the rivers. In 2020, the operators applied to vary the licenses with new technical drawings for the structures that addressed the issues identified. The variations were issued in November 2020. Due to the Fisheries closed season for in-river works (15 May to 17 October) and the potential nesting season of Red kites in the area (March to August), the operators only had a short time window in September and October 2021 to complete the alterations.

We visited the site on 12 January 2022 in the presence of Mr. Owain Jones and can confirm that the hydropower scheme now matches the drawings and maps referred to in the current licences.

We specifically checked that:

- All pools under and next to the intake screens now have a minimum height of 300mm, therefore being safe for fish migrating downstream;
- The pipelines that had previously presented an obstruction within the river channels are now secured outside the channel as shown in the drawings and maps referred to in the licences;
- There are no gaps between the intake structures and the adjacent rock
- The pipe dimensions match the drawings and are suitable to deliver the licensed flow regime;
- The outfall is discharging through a grid mesh and is constructed in a way that minimizes erosion.

Due to the flow conditions, it was not possible to view the outfall properly. We therefore remind the operators to ensure that the outfall screening meets the licence condition 9.7 in the abstraction licences: The spacing of the grid should be no greater than 30mm and there should be no gaps that could enable fish to enter the outfall pipe.

We were delighted to see how well the alterations had been made and how natural boulders had been incorporated into the layout, enabling geo- and hydromorphological variety in the river.

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 only relating to the activity assessment
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

### If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend non-compliance for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. These will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

**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 licence condition non-compliance 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 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

**What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?**

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Mon to Fri 08:00 – 18:00), or email [enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at [ask@ombudsman.wales](mailto: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.