

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0039201

**Licence being assessed:** WA/366/0008/0008.  
For: The Log House Hydro, held by Apteco Ltd.  
At: The Log House, Capel Curig, Betws-y-Coed, Conwy, LL24 0DS.

**Type of assessment:** Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.  
On 19/01/2022, between 11:00 and 13:00.  
Parts of licence assessed: See below

**NRW Lead Officer:** Swyn Spencer.  
**Report sent to:** James Alty, Managing Director, on 24/03/2022.

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

Part of licenced activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Licence condition
WR-A6 - Abstraction specified by licence - Quantities	Action only (X)	

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

### 2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WR-A6	Licence Holder to supply information on the present blue pipe (see photos)	02/05/2022

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important Information' section below.

### 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

CARS - Apteco Limited, Conwy

The HEP scheme is licenced by abstraction licence WA/366/0008/0008 and Impoundment licence WA/366/0008/0009

Please refer to both CARS form received for each licence.

**This report is in reference to the Abstraction Licence WA/366/0008/0008**

The Apteco Limited Hydro on the Afon Abrach site was visited on the 19.1.2022 by Environment Officer Swyn Spencer and Paul Morgan Land Management Officer at NRW. The weather was cloudy but dry. The scheme was abstracting on the day of the inspection.

The following compliances were noted:

Condition 2.1; point of abstraction as per licence. Correct Grid Reference.

Note: The Hands Of Flow notch was clear during the visit. Therefore complying with the condition as in the impoundment licence 4.5 (as detailed in CAR form CAR\_NRW0039202). If it wasn't it would affect the volume of water going down the Hands Off Flow as in point 9.5 of the Abstraction Licence:

*'As in 9.5 (i) No Abstraction of water shall take place unless the rate of the flow in the Afon Abrach immediately downstream of the authorised point of abstraction, marked as point A' as specified in condition 2.1, is equal to or greater than 7 litres per second and the abstraction shall not cause the flow immediately downstream of said abstraction point to fall below that rate'.*

&

*9.5 (ii) 'The Quantity of water abstracted shall not exceed 70% of the available flow in the Afon Abrach in excess of 7 litres per second.*

Therefore please ensure that the Hands Off Flow (HOF) notch is kept clear at all times (including the area directly behind the HOF notch) to ensure compliance with the flow regime detailed in condition 9.5 of the abstraction licence (ie: a hands off flow of 7 litres per second and an abstraction not exceeding 70% of the remaining flow above 7 litres per second). In order to protect ecology in the downstream watercourse.

Thank you for ensuring the Hands of Flow (Hof) was clear.

Measurements were made to the abstraction screen, residual flow area of the intake, and they were correct as per licence.

Condition 9.4; Grid Reference of point Q/Turbine house is compliant.

Condition 9.7; the screen installed with spacing no greater than 10 millimetres to the discharge outlet pipe, is compliant.

We have no breaches to record during our abstraction water compliance checks on this date. However please take special note of the below variation needed on the licence

regarding a blue pipe.

We have observed a blue pipe. If you are abstracting additional water via this pipe for any purpose it will need to be licenced, although this blue pipe abstraction may be less than 20 cubic metres per day (by itself), in combination with the hydropower scheme, the combined abstraction will exceed 20 cubic metres per day. Action; Please contact the Permitting Team at NRW to discuss this, as if you are abstracting water for any purpose(s) not already included in your licence then you will need a variation to your licence: Permitting Service [permittingservice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:permittingservice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

You will need to submit an application for a variation, details at:

[Natural Resources Wales / Apply to change an existing abstraction or impoundment licence](#)

Following our visit, we took photographs of the blue pipe. Attached.

**CAR sub criteria: WR-A6 Quantities - Action; change permit.**

Please contact me if you require further information:

[swyn.spencer@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:swyn.spencer@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

[swyn.spencer@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:swyn.spencer@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

07854 377 319

*Please note any reference within the CAR/ permit to the Environment Agency means Natural Resources Wales.*

*In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.*

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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.