



ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Office of the Director of Verification

VER/ODV/61497/14 SCN

21 March, 2014

DECC, Room G.07, 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW

Dear Sir,

Inspection Report for **CWPF/14S8/14**

It is my pleasure to submit to you, in accordance with paragraph 63 of Part II of the Verification Annex of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Final Inspection Report on the above inspection, carried out by an OPCW inspection team on the territory of your country.

The report does not contain any reference to uncertainties or issues requiring further attention. The Inspection team found that the information provided by the UK in its communication, dated 18 May 2013 submitted pursuant to Executive Council Decision EC-67/DEC.7, dated 16 February 2012 (hereinafter "the EC Decision") was consistent with its factual findings during the inspection.

In light of the above, the Technical Secretariat concludes that the Rhydymwyn Buffer Depot, (CWPF/14) falls within the scope of operative paragraph 3 of the EC Decision.

I invite you to submit to me any comments you may have on the Report, in writing, not later than 60 days after the inspection. The report and your comments will be forwarded to the Director-General as stipulated in paragraph 63 of Part II of the Verification Annex. The OPCW file on inspection number **CWPF/14S8/14** shall be treated as closed, unless issues raised in your comments require further action.

The final inspection report and all subsequent documentation will be kept in the Technical Secretariat's secure archive in accordance with the procedures set out in the OPCW Manual of Confidentiality Procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Enc: Copy 1-1 of the Final Inspection Report



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FINAL INSPECTION REPORT

This document is the factual, final report referred to in paragraph 62 of Part II of the Verification Annex to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Inspection CWPF/14S8/14 was conducted in accordance with the Executive Council Decision, EC-67/DEC.7, dated 16 February 2012.

The inspected State Party:	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Host State (if applicable):	Not applicable
Inspected Facility :	Rhydymwyn Buffer Depot
Inspection Dates:	
- beginning of the inspection activities	10 March 2014
- end of the inspection activities	11 March 2014

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ITL Initials: 



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I. SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION:

This was the eighth subsequent inspection conducted at the converted chemical weapons production facility Rhydymwyn Buffer Depot, and the first carried out in accordance with the Executive Council decision, EC-67/DEC.7¹. The last inspection at this facility was conducted in February 2012². The request for conversion of the facility³ was approved by the Conference of the States Parties⁴. The facility is located in Mold, Flintshire, North Wales, approximately 40 miles southwest of the point of entry Manchester Ringway Airport.

The facility belongs to an area that has been converted into a nature reserve, designated Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve⁵ and, with the collaboration of the local community, social activities related to ecology and heritage are developed.

Through physical inspection and review of records the inspection team verified that the facility activities are related to environmental, educational and historic purposes. The overall architectural and physical configuration of the whole facility is consistent with the information provided and has no features available for the production of any toxic chemicals.

The inspection team concluded that the information provided by the State Party is consistent with the provisions of the Executive Council decision, EC-67/DEC.7.

1.1 Issues Requiring Further Attention:

None

1.2. Uncertainties:

None

1.3. Co-operation of the inspected State Party:

The inspected State Party and plant site representatives were very co-operative and provided excellent support for the completion of this inspection. The escort team's logistical arrangements for the transfer of the inspection team from the point of entry to the inspection facility, allowed the inspection team to arrive onsite on the same day, receive the pre-inspection briefing and begin inspection activities.

The accommodation location was 40 minutes distant from the inspected site which helped to improve efficiency and smooth the inspection process.

¹ EC-67/DEC.7, "Nature of Continued Verification Measures at Converted Facilities Ten years after the Director's General's Certification of their Conversion", dated 16 February 2012

² CWPF/14S7/12

³ EC-XVIII/NAT.3, dated 25 January 2000, and Corr. 1, dated 14 February 2000, approved by the Executive Council in its decision, EC-XIX/DEC.10, dated 7 April 2000

⁴ C-V/DEC.11, dated 17 May 2000.

⁵ Ministry of Supply No 3 Valley - "This valley is now a haven for wildlife and nature conservation" Summer 2003

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The inspected State Party and plant site personnel granted unimpeded access to the buildings and tunnels and its support infrastructure. A full explanation of the activities conducted on-site was provided by the Nature Reserve manager who clarified any doubts. All requested documents and records were made available to the inspection team.

II. ON-SITE ACTIVITIES AND FACTUAL FINDINGS:

II.1. Pre-inspection briefing:

The pre-inspection briefing (PIB) was presented to the inspection team (IT) by the facility manager, in the visitor's building. The PIB covered the history of the facility, its location and layout, an overview of the current activities, health and safety regulations, administrative and logistical information. In addition, presentations of two videos relating to the former production facility were given.

During the PIB the National Authority representative informed the IT that the information related to compliance with the decision EC-67/DEC.7 had been submitted to the Technical Secretariat in May 2013 and an updated annual declaration was forwarded to Declarations Branch on 7 March 2014. The IT was not aware of these documents and received copies to be used as additional reference during the inspection.

Inspection activities commenced immediately after the PIB with a site tour, which the IT used as an opportunity to familiarise itself with the site layout and location of the declared perimeter. A site map was handed over to help the IT verify the location of the former buildings and structures⁶.

II.2. Factual Findings:

The IT carried out the verification activities under the provisions of the decision of the Executive Council EC-67/DEC.7. These included a physical inspection of the declared perimeter, confirmation of the geographical co-ordinates and verification of relevant documentation related to the activities at the site. Details on the verification activities and respective findings are described as follows:

The Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve is located within the municipal boundaries of the town of Mold. The main access road forms its northern boundary, and there is agricultural land on its west side. It is secured by standard 2.5 m high fencing. The main entrance is located on the north side of the reserve and unguarded. The Nature Reserve is ISO 14001:2004 certified.⁷

The nature reserve occupies an area of 86.9 acres and is owned by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as a nature reserve and managed by Interserve, a contractor who is responsible for the administration and maintenance of the declared site,

⁶ See Annex C.3.1

⁷ See Annex C.3.2

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including the declared perimeter. Another contractor, North East Wales Wildlife is responsible for the nature reserve preservation.

The declared perimeter is located at the southeast side of the nature reserve and from the set of buildings and structures that formerly comprised the chemical weapons storage site the only remaining feature is the tunnel complex, as it is part of the drainage system. It has been maintained and preserved for non-prohibited purposes, with no modifications, in accordance with the conversion request.

Open hours to the general public are from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 17:00 on weekends. All first time visitors receive an induction presentation on safety rules and sign a confirmation register before entering the reserve. Local authorized members open the main gates of the tunnels for historic visits purposes. Visitors are allowed to reach the secondary gates located 5 metres from the primary gate to view the outer area of the tunnels, but no further access is allowed.

For the verification of the tunnel complex, the IT inspected all the caverns and tunnels. The central tunnel entrance serves as the main entrance and northern one as an emergency exit. The tunnels are closed by metal doors and the southern tunnel entrance remains permanently blocked by a brick wall. Access control is exercised for entering them and only the nominated key holders may open the entrance gates.

For inspection purposes, the IT was guided by ISP and site representatives through the underground structures. Along the way, the IT was familiarized with the activities formerly carried therein.

The inspected site carried out an engineering inspection of the caverns in June 2012 and some issues which required repair works were identified. During 2013 several repair works were made to allow the IT to safely enter the caverns. None of these works changed the configurations or added features to the existing tunnels.

Review of records

The IT had access to and reviewed records related to the activities carried out on-site. All records are manually registered and are kept at the visitor centre. The IT reviewed the Visitor's Book containing all registries since the last inspection carried out in February 2012 and compared it with the Cavern Entrance Key Log which contains the names of the personnel authorized by DEFRA to open the tunnel gates for the public and could confirm that the key holders' names frequently appeared in the Visitor's Book*. Also the Health and Safety induction presentation and Group Leader Induction form were reviewed to confirm that information is provided to all visitors.

The IT accessed the Radon Exposure Records which included the radioactivity exposure of the workers that have access to the tunnel and the Health and Safety Procedures related to this hazard, which establish the time limit of exposure inside the tunnels. The latest Radiation

* See Annexe C.33.44

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Report issued by TL Excavations in 17 December 2013⁹ was reviewed and the name of the contractors cross-checked with the Visitor's Book. The IT also verified that the former documents registering the cavern entrance and the Radon exposure were merged after the last inspection.

The latest Report on Inspection, Remedial Works and Monitoring¹⁰ of the underground caverns, which is done annually, was reviewed and the recommendations were checked during the physical inspection of the tunnel.

The IT also requested and had access to the latest results of the chemical analysis of the monitoring wells and verified that the level of organic compounds are below the detection limits of the analytical method employed for their determination¹¹.

The IT verified the list of all chemicals used onsite and checked their material safety data sheets¹².

II.2.1. Mandated aims and particular operational instructions

a) Verify the overall nature of the activity currently conducted at the facility.

All activities carried out onsite are related to routine maintenance, the environmental assessment and preservation of the site which has been consolidated into a wildlife reserve. Maintenance work in the tunnel complex is consistent with the recommendations set forth in the reports on stability inspections provided in the 2012 and 2013 Annual Past Declarations as well as work to ensure the tunnel is safe for entry.

The IT verified through physical inspection and review of records that the facility activities are related to environmental, educational and historical purposes and consistent with the information provided by the ISP in response to the decision of the Executive Council EC-67/DEC.7.

b) Verify the technical nature and number of buildings, structures, and equipment present at the facilities.

The only remaining structure in the declared area is the tunnel complex which is an integral part of the local drainage systems. The IT physically inspected the underground structures namely the caverns and tunnels. There are two available entrance gates into the tunnel. The central entrance serves as the main entrance whilst the northern is for emergency exit. Both are closed by metal doors. A third entrance, south of the other two, is permanently closed with a brick wall.

⁹ See Annex C.3.5, 6 & 7

¹⁰ See Annex C.3.8

¹¹ See Annex C.3.9

¹² See Annex C.3.10

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Two ventilation shafts remain at the ends of the south and north tunnels respectively. The tunnel floor was covered in puddles of water. The water collection tower inside the tunnel complex remains functional. All observations were consistent with those reported by the previous inspection teams as well as with the information provided in declarations.

The overall architectural and physical configuration of the whole facility is consistent with the information provided and has no features available for the production of any toxic chemicals.

c) Verify the types and quantities of chemicals, if any, produced, processed, or consumed at the facilities in the preceding calendar year.

The facility has not produced or processed any chemicals in the preceding calendar year and the IT verified that there is no equipment installed for such purposes.

The 2012 declaration contained extensive information related to the use and consumption of chemicals exclusively employed for household cleaning and machinery maintenance purposes. These included among others, soaps, ant-rust aerosols or diesel for vehicles. The IT reviewed records of this use as well as some remaining stock. All quantities consumed were consistent with the activities carried out in the reserve.

The IT is of the opinion that the purpose of use of these chemicals is not related to the information required to be provided in declarations. The IT and ISP agreed that the consumption of chemicals for these purposes should be excluded in future declarations.

d) Confirm that the inspection team is at the site to be inspected. This can be accomplished by utilising visual and map reconnaissance, a declared site diagram and/ or approved position locating equipment.

The IT has confirmed that the location of the site to be inspected was correct by means of visual verification of the address, map reconnaissance, and approved position locating equipment. The exact location was measured at the entrance of the main gate of the tunnel complex. Details are provided in Annex A1.

e) Verify that the information on the facilities, which has been provided by the State Party, is consistent with the provisions of the Executive Council decision EC-67/DEC.7, dated 16 February 2012.

As a result of inspection activities of the nature reserve and the declared perimeter, i.e., physical inspection of buildings, structures and equipment and review of relevant documents and records, the IT concluded that the information provided by the Inspected State Party in its latest declaration¹³ is consistent with the requirements of the Executive Council decision EC-67/DEC.7, dated 16 February 2012.

¹³ Rhydymwyn – Annual Past Declaration 2012, dated 18th January 2013

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III. ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER ATTENTION:

None

IV. UNCERTAINTIES:

None

V. REPORT OF ANY INCIDENTS IN RELATION TO INSPECTION ACTIVITIES:

None

VI. INSPECTION EQUIPMENT RELATED ISSUES, IF ANY:


None

VII. COOPERATION OF INSPECTED STATE PARTY:

The ISP and plant site representatives were very co-operative and provided excellent support for the completion of this inspection. The escort team's logistical arrangements for the transfer of the IT from the POE to the inspection facility, allowed the IT to arrive onsite at the same day, receive the PIB and begin inspection activities

The accommodation location was 40 minutes distant from the inspected site which helped to improve efficiency and smooth the inspection process.

The ISP and plant site personnel granted unimpeded access to the buildings and tunnels and its support infrastructure. A full explanation of the activities conducted on-site was provided by the Nature Reserve manager who clarified any doubts. All requested documents and records access to data to complete the records review were made available for the IT.

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VIII. LIST OF ANNEXES:

Annex A: Administrative Data

- A.1: Precise location, address and geographical co-ordinates of the inspected facility / site
- A.2: List of inspectors
- A.3: Inspected State Party representatives
- A.4: Sequence of events – dates and times

Annex B: List of Buildings, Structures and Areas inspected under the Inspection Mandate

Annex C: Diagrams, Photographs and Documents

- C.1: Items taken off-site
- C.2: Inventory list of the contents of the sealed container left on-site
- C.3: List of items reviewed and returned to the ISP

Annex D: List of Samples Taken

- D.1: For on-site analysis
- D.2: For off-site analysis

Annex E: Result of On -Site Analysis and Other Measurements

- E.1: Result of on-site analysis
- E.2: Result of Non Destructive Evaluation (NDE)
- E.3: Result of other measurements

Annex F: Records of Tags and Seals

- F.1: Consolidation of tags and seals applied at the site in the past and their current status
- F.2: New tags and seals applied (if any) and retained at the end of the inspection

Annex G: List of Interviews Conducted

Annex H: Equipment-Related Details

- H.1: Equipment excluded by the inspected State Party at the POE
- H.2: Inspection team equipment and related protocols, if any, used during the inspection
- H.3: Inspection team equipment decontamination
- H.4: Other information to be conveyed to the Secretariat in relation to inspection team equipment
- H.5: Equipment and related protocols, if any, provided by the inspected State Party
- H.6: Equipment requested to be left behind/destroyed by the inspection team / ISP

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Annex I: Record of Findings

I.1: Chemical Weapons Production Facilities

I.1.1: Inventory and status of buildings

I.1.1.1: Inventory of specialised buildings

I.1.1.2: Inventory of standard buildings

I.1.2: Inventory and status of specialised equipment

I.1.2.1: Main production train (separate for synthesis and purification, as appropriate)

I.1.2.2: CW filling equipment

I.1.2.3: Other specialised equipment

I.1.2.4: Specialised equipment temporarily converted/to be temporarily converted for CW destruction purposes

I.1.3: Inventory of standard equipment

I.1.3.1: Standard equipment to be destroyed

I.1.3.2: Standard equipment converted/to be converted for purposes not prohibited

I.1.3.3: Standard equipment temporarily converted/to be temporarily converted for CW destruction processes

I.1.3.4: New production equipment in converted facility

Annex J: Comments from the inspected State Party

Annex K: Differing observations made by inspectors, in accordance with paragraph 62 of Part II of the Verification Annex, if any

IX. SIGNATURE

This final inspection report has been printed in one copy on 19 March 2014.

Inspection Team Leader

ITL Initials:

ANNEX A: ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A.1: Precise location, address and geographical co-ordinates of the inspected facility/site:

Name: Rhydymwyn Buffer Depot

Address: 17 Nant Alyn Road, Rhydymwyn, Mold, Flintshire, North Wales, CH7 5HQ

Geographical Co-ordinates:

Declared		Verified	
53°11'11"N	03°11'11"W	53°11'11"N	03°11'11"W

A.2: List of inspectors:

No.	Name	UNLP No.	Function
1.	[REDACTED]	213168	[REDACTED]
2.	[REDACTED]	225640	[REDACTED]

A.3: Inspected State Party representatives:

No.	Names of State Party representative(s)	Function
1.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
4.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
5.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
6.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
7.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
8.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

A.4: Sequence of Events - date and time:

	Event	Date GMT/Local	Time GMT/Local
1.	Notification to Inspected State Party		
2.	Acknowledgement by Inspected State Party		
3.	Arrival of Inspection Team at Point of Entry	10/03/2014	10:00
4.	Remittance of Inspection Mandate to the ISP	10/03/2014	10:30
5.	Arrival at Inspection Site	10/03/2014	12:00
6.	Beginning of Pre-Inspection Briefing	10/03/2014	12:10
7.	Completion of Pre-Inspection Briefing	10/03/2014	12:45
8.	Beginning of Inspection Activities	10/03/2014	13:25
9.	Extension requested/granted	NA	NA
10.	Completion of Inspection	11/03/2014	11:00
11.	Beginning of Post-Inspection Procedures	11/03/2014	11:00
12.	End of Post-Inspection Procedures	11/03/2014	17:00
13.	Departure to Point of Exit	12/03/2014	14:30

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ANNEX B: LIST OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND AREAS INSPECTED UNDER THE INSPECTION MANDATE

No.	Abbreviation	Name	Function
1.		The tunnel complex	Part of local drainage system
2.		Declared area	Wildlife restoration and preservation, historical and education programs

ANNEX C: DIAGRAMS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTS:

C.1: Items taken off-site:

No.	Item ID	Type	Confidentiality Classification	Remarks
1.	CWPF/14S8/14/5728/013	Videos	Unclassified	USB stick containing historical /educational videos from the PH

C.2: Inventory list of the contents of the sealed container left on-site:

None

C.3: List of items reviewed and returned to the ISP:

No.	Record Name/ Designation (Original)	Confidentiality Classification	Remarks
1.	ICI Valley: Computer modified map of declared area indicating location of remaining building	Unclassified	
2.	ISO 14001:2004 Certificate	Unclassified	Dated 11 August 2011
3.	Visitor Book	Unclassified	Since last inspection
4.	Cavern Entrance Key Log	Unclassified	Since last inspection
5.	Radon Expose Records	Unclassified	Kept for 40 years
6.	Health and Safety Procedures issued by Carillon	Unclassified	25/June/2007
7.	Radiation Report by TL Excavations	Unclassified	17 December 2013
8.	Report on Inspection, Remedial Works and Monitoring, job No.NL00910 by Wardell Armstrong	Unclassified	March 2013
9.	Annual Environmental Monitoring Report No30006/2012 by Environmental Science Group	Unclassified	January 2014
10.	COSHH Register Doc. No IFM-03-FM-08.1	Unclassified	

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ANNEX E: RESULT OF ON-SITE ANALYSIS AND OTHER MEASUREMENTS:

Not applicable

ANNEX F: RECORD OF TAGS AND SEALS:

None

ANNEX G: LIST OF INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED:

None

ANNEX H: EQUIPMENT-RELATED DETAILS:

H.1: Equipment excluded by the inspected State Party at POE:

None

H.2: Inspection team equipment and related protocols, if any, used during the inspection:

No.	Equipment type	Equipment ID	Number of units	Remarks
1.	Global Positioning System (GPS)	1BQ038864	1	
2.	Computer	3Q3GYN1, 5P2GYN1	2	
3.	Printer	MY77P5Z1C0	1	
4.	eUSB Stick	0073553, 0121752	2	

H.3: Inspection team equipment decontamination:

None

H.4: Other information to be conveyed to the Secretariat in relation to inspection team equipment:

None

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H.5: Equipment and related protocols, if any, provided by the inspected State Party:

No.	Equipment type	Equipment used for	Number of units	Remarks
1.	Fluorescent vest	Inspection of tunnel complex	2	Site H&S requirements
2.	Safety helmet	Inspection of tunnel complex	2	Site H&S requirements
3.	Emergency escape breathing apparatus	Inspection of tunnel complex	2	Site H&S requirements
4.	Flash Light	Inspection of tunnel complex	2	Site H&S requirements

H.6: Equipment requested to be left behind/destroyed by the inspection team / ISP:

None

ANNEX I: RECORD OF FINDINGS:

I.1: Chemical Weapons Production Facility:

I.1.1: Inventory and status of buildings:

I.1.1.1: Inventory of specialised buildings:

None

I.1.1.2: Inventory of standard buildings:

No	Standard building name	Description	Status	References, comments, date
1.	Tunnel Complex	Part of local drainage system	Retained	No Modifications Observed, 11/03/2014

I.1.2: Inventory and status of specialised equipment:

None

I.1.3: Inventory of standard equipment:

None

ANNEX J: COMMENTS FROM THE INSPECTED STATE PARTY:

The ISP would like to thank the IT for the very friendly and professional cooperation. All inspection activities were conducted in a timely and efficient manner with no disruption to the site and its representatives.

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