



# newyddion news release

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## Partnership proves successful in reducing pollution

Close cooperation between volunteers from the Rhymney Riverfly Monitoring Group, part of the Riverfly Partnership, and Environment Agency Wales has paid off. At the end of last month, solicitors for Kingspan Off-Site Limited appeared in Abertillery Magistrate's Court to plead guilty to a charge of polluting the River Rhymney.

The Court's decision to fine the company £6,854.37 including court costs follows a lengthy investigation, by Environment Agency Wales. The Court heard that the company had polluted the river with the chemical Permethrin through airborne saw dust and water draining from treated timber stored on the site.

Environment Agency Wales staff worked closely with the volunteers who had found a significant drop in the biological quality of the water in the river.

Further monitoring confirmed that Permethrin had reduced the numbers of insects that provide a food source to fish and other wildlife.

Dai Walters, Environment Management Team Leader, Environment Agency Wales said:

"We are very grateful to the Rhymney River Flylife Monitoring Group. Their hard work in monitoring the number of fly larvae living in the river, has helped us achieve a good result, improve the quality of the river and avoid even greater damage.

Dai Roberts, Coordinator of the Rhymney River Flylife Monitoring Group, said:

"Our rivers are under increasing environmental pressure and this result shows the contribution that voluntary groups working in association with the Environment Agency can make"

**ENDS**

**For more information contact:**

**Monica Boehringer on 029 2046 6026**

**Email: [monica.boehringer@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:monica.boehringer@environment-agency.gov.uk)**

## Notes to Editors

### 1. Costs

- The Court issued a fine in the amount of £5,000
- Investigation costs £1,267.39
- Legal costs £570.00
- Victims surcharge £15
- TOTAL: £6,854.37

### 2. Water Resources Act 1991, Section 85

Offences of polluting controlled waters

(3) A person contravenes this section if he causes or knowingly permits any trade effluent or sewage effluent to be discharged -

(a) into any controlled waters; or

(b) from land in England and Wales, through a pipe, into the sea outside the seaward limits of controlled waters.

(6) Subject to the following provisions of this Chapter, a person who contravenes this section or the conditions of any consent given under this Chapter for the purposes of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable -

(a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding £20,000 or to both;

(b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both.

3. Kingspan Off-Site Limited is the UK's largest manufacturer of timber-frame and steel components for building units. The company closed their site at Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate near Tredegar in June 2008, following a consolidation of the business to Milton Keynes.

4. Permethrin – What type of substance is it?

Permethrin is a man-made chemical used as an insecticide. It is an odourless, pale brown liquid but is also available in other forms commercially. Permethrin can be harmful to wildlife. For more information, please visit the Environment Agency website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/527.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/527.aspx)

5. Environment Agency Wales is a Welsh Assembly Government Sponsored Body, protecting and improving the environment in Wales for present and future generations. We are responsible for managing flood risk, dealing with pollution incidents, reducing industry's impacts on the environment, cleaning up rivers, coastal waters and contaminated land, and improving wildlife habitats. More information about Environment Agency Wales is available online – [www.environment-agency.wales.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.wales.gov.uk)

6. The Riverfly Partnership brings together anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water course managers and relevant statutory bodies to protect the water quality of our rivers through volunteer action, and increase our knowledge of riverfly populations and conserve their habitats. More information on the Riverfly Partnership, which operates through The Salmon and Trout Association, is available on: [www.riverflies.org](http://www.riverflies.org).

7. Anyone who sees pollution, illegal tipping of waste, poaching, fish in distress, or danger to the natural environment can contact the Environment Agency's emergency hotline on 0800 80 70 60. The hotline operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free and will be treated in the strictest confidence.