

Sent by e mail

22 November 2023

Dear Elin Roberts

SCREENING OPINION UNDER THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007 (as amended)

SC2304 Barmouth North Promenade Flood Alleviation Scheme

I am writing further to your request for a screening opinion, duly made on 26/09/2023, made in accordance with The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) ("The Regulations").

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening procedure is to determine whether the proposed works require an Environmental Impact Assessment and submission of an Environmental Statement (ES).

In reaching our Screening Opinion we have considered the proposed works against Schedule A1 and A2 of the above regulations.

Screening Opinion

It is our opinion that the works fall within the categories of project listed within Schedule A2, paragraph 69 of the above regulations (refer below), and therefore must be considered in terms of its size, nature and location having regard to the relevant criteria listed in Schedule 1 of the above regulations.

'Para 69 Coastal work to combat erosion and maritime works capable of altering the coast through the construction of, for example, dykes, moles, jetties and other sea defence works, excluding the maintenance and reconstruction of such works.'

We have considered your Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion Report (dated 01/09/2023), and the relevant supporting documentation and have determined based on the information provided that the project requires environmental impact assessment. We consider that this decision has been reached in agreement between Gwynedd Council and NRW Permitting Service, in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Marine Works Regulations.

We have come to this conclusion based on the likely significant impacts of the project, specifically with regard to the location within the Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau Special Area of

Conservation (SAC) and the proximity of the project to the Aber Mawddach Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The size and design of the project is likely to lead to significant impacts as the development is directly adjacent to the sand flat feature of the Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC. The imported beach nourishment material and rock toe armour element of the project will be deposited directly within the intertidal marine environment below Mean High Water Springs. Direct impacts to this feature and the intertidal and marine environment, including secondary impacts resultant from impacts to coastal processes may cause significant effects. Working methods over the 12-month construction period are also likely to have a direct impact on habitats and species, including features of the aforementioned SSSI and SAC, e.g. noise and artificial lighting from construction methods, impacts on intertidal and marine habitats from plant used to reprofile and recharge the beach with shingle. Although it is acknowledged that mitigation measures and safe standard working practices may reduce the overall impacts of the development (as stated within the EIA screening opinion information provided), the proximity of sensitive environmental receptors and the nature of the development does mean that the scheme should be considered and assessed further in terms of environmental impacts.

As only a screening opinion has been requested, we have not consulted on what the ES should include (Scoping Opinion). If you have not already done so, we would encourage to submit a request for a Scoping Opinion under the regulations.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

As part of the screening exercise, we have also considered whether the proposed project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any site designated as a European site of conservation importance under the above Regulations.

It is our initial view that the following site could be impacted by the proposal; Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC.

We would encourage you to contact Natural Resources Wales to receive further pre-application advice on this project.

This Screening Opinion will be publicised on our website and on our Public Register.

If you have any questions about your permits or licenses and/or site management, please contact our Customer Care Centre on 03000 653 000.

Yours sincerely

Seran Davies

Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Litt'.

Dr. Emmer Litt

Marine Licensing Team Leader

Natural Resources Wales