

Record of a Habitats Regulations Assessment of a project

March 2016

OGN 200 Form 1

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1. Project Details

1(a): Project details where an external party has applied to NRW for any form of authorisation	
Application reference number (if applicable)	RML2446
Date application received	13 June 2024
Applicant details	School of Ocean Science, Bangor University
Activity proposed	Benthic sampling for educational purposes across North Wales
Relevant legislation	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
Location	Various locations off the North Wales coast



Application documents

RML2446 - Application Form
RML2446 - 2023 Maps of sampling area Part I and Part II updated Katrien
RML2446 - Anglesey_polygon_April2023_points

	RML2446 - Anglesey_polygon_April2023_points_excel RML2446 - Teaching_polygon_April2023_points RML2446 - Teaching_polygon_April2023_points_excel RML2446 - Archaeology RCAHMW - Correspondance RML2446 - Crown Estate SR-BgU-17 Correspondance RML2446 - MCA Correspondance RML2446 - Trinity house - Navigation
Environmental Statement	N/A
Pre-application correspondence	N/A
NRW team responsible for drafting this HRA report, and name of lead officer	Jack Thompson – Marine Licensing Team

2. Determining the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.1 Is the whole of the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of one or more Natura 2000 sites, for the purposes of conserving the habitats or species for which the Natura 2000 site(s) is/are designated?	No
2.2 Is there a possibility that the project could affect a different Natura 2000 site to the one(s) the project is intended to conserve?	N/A
2.3 Is it necessary to carry out an HRA?	Yes

3. Considering the likelihood of a significant effect (LSE)

3.1 Renewal of a permission on the same or more restrictive terms as the extant permission

Is this project a renewal of a current permission which complies with NRW approved criteria for ruling out significant effects of renewals (see section 6.2A of OGN 200) without conducting a project-specific LSE test?	No
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3.2 Likelihood of significant effects (LSE) test

3.2.1 Which Natura 2000 sites might be affected by the proposal?	Based on the project specification or information provided in the application, it is considered that the following Natura 2000 sites have features which could be affected by the project: Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC Dee Estuary SAC Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC Holy Island Coast SAC North Anglesey Marine SAC Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC West Wales Marine SAC Liverpool Bay SPA Anglesey Terns SPA Dee Estuary SPA Lavan Sands, Conwy Bay SPA Dee Estuary Ramsar The potential for the project to affect the following Natura 2000 sites was also initially considered, but can be ruled out without further consideration: N/A				
3.2.2 Screening assessment					
	<table> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="477 1236 2063 1273">Assessment of likelihood of significant effect</th></tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="477 1273 1182 1332">I Relevant conservation objectives</th><th data-bbox="1182 1273 2063 1332">II Potential impact pathway</th></tr> </table>	Assessment of likelihood of significant effect		I Relevant conservation objectives	II Potential impact pathway
Assessment of likelihood of significant effect					
I Relevant conservation objectives	II Potential impact pathway				
Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC					

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	RANGE The overall distribution and extent of the habitat features within the site, and each of their main component parts is stable or increasing. For the intertidal mudflats and sandflats feature these include; • Muddy gravel communities • Dwarf eelgrass, <i>Zostera noltei</i> beds • Sediment communities at Traeth Lafan For the reef feature these include; • Reef communities in high energy wave-sheltered, tide-swept conditions • Under-boulder, overhang and crevice communities • Limestone reef communities • Clay outcrop reef communities For the large shallow bay feature these include; • Organically enriched muddy sediment areas STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION The physical biological and chemical structure and functions necessary for the long-term maintenance and quality of the habitat are not degraded. Important elements include; - geology, - sedimentology, - geomorphology, - hydrography and meteorology, - water and sediment chemistry, - biological interactions. This includes a need for nutrient levels in the water column and sediments to be: • at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations • within ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long term maintenance of the features species populations, their abundance and range. Contaminant levels in the water column and sediments derived from human activity to be: • at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations • below levels that would potentially result in increase in contaminant concentrations within sediments or biota	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Reefs		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Large shallow inlets and bays		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

	- below levels potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the features species populations, their abundance or range. Restoration and recovery This includes the need for restoration of some reef features such as underboulder, overhang and crevice communities, and of some mudflat and sandflat features such as the muddy gravel habitats and sheltered muddy habitats. All of these habitats are also part of the large inlets and bays feature. TYPICAL SPECIES The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of typical species is such that habitat quality is not degraded. Important elements include: - species richness: - population structure and dynamics, - physiological health, - reproductive capacity - recruitment, - mobility - range As part of this objective it should be noted that: - populations of typical species subject to existing commercial fisheries need to be at an abundance equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term - the management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the habitat feature, is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term. A glossary of terms is included at Appendix 1.	
Liverpool Bay SPA		
Red-Throated Diver	The conservation objective for Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA Interest feature: Internationally important non-breeding population of red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

	Subject to natural change, maintain or enhance the red-throated diver population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. The interest feature red-throated diver will be considered to be in favourable condition only when both of the following two conditions are met: (i) The size of the red-throated diver population is at, or shows only non-significant fluctuation around the mean population at the time of designation of the SPA. to account for natural change; (ii) The extent of the supporting habitat within the site is maintained.	
Common Scoter	The conservation objective for Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA Interest feature: Internationally important non-breeding population of common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>). Subject to natural change, maintain or enhance the common scoter population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. The interest feature common scoter will be considered to be in favourable condition only when each of the following two conditions is met: (i) The size of the common scoter population is at, or shows only non-significant fluctuation around the mean population at the time of designation of the SPA to account for natural change; (ii) The extent of the supporting habitat within the site is maintained.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Little Gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>) (over winter)	The conservation objective for Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA Interest feature: Internationally important non-breeding population of Little Gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>). Subject to natural change, maintain or enhance the little gull population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. The interest feature little gull will be considered to be in favourable condition only when each of the following two conditions is met: (i) The size of the little gull population is at, or shows only non-significant fluctuation around the mean population at	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

	the time of designation of the SPA to account for natural change; (ii) The extent of the supporting habitat within the site is maintained.	
Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) (breeding)	The conservation objective for Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA Interest feature: Internationally important non-breeding population of little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>). Subject to natural change, maintain or enhance the little tern population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. The interest feature little tern will be considered to be in favourable condition only when each of the following two conditions is met: (i) The size of the little tern population is at, or shows only non-significant fluctuation around the mean population at the time of designation of the SPA to account for natural change; (ii) The extent of the supporting habitat within the site is maintained.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) (breeding)	The conservation objective for Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA Interest feature: Internationally important non-breeding population of Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>). Subject to natural change, maintain or enhance the common tern population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. The interest feature common tern will be considered to be in favourable condition only when each of the following two conditions is met: (i) The size of the common tern population is at, or shows only non-significant fluctuation around the mean population at the time of designation of the SPA to account for natural change; (ii) The extent of the supporting habitat within the site is maintained.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Assemblage of over 20,000 waterbirds	The conservation objective for Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA Interest feature: Non-breeding assemblage of over 20,000 waterbirds	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

	Subject to natural change, maintain or enhance the waterbird assemblage and its supporting habitats in favourable condition The interest feature waterbird assemblage will be considered to be in favourable condition only when each of the following two conditions is met: (i) The size of the waterbird assemblage population shows only non-significant fluctuation around the mean at the time of designation to allow for natural change; (ii) The extent of the waterbird assemblage supporting habitat within the site is maintained. Explanatory information for the waterbird objectives The peak mean waterbird population of 55,597 is a combination of the red-throated diver and common scoter estimates in the surveys 2001/02 – 2006/07.	
Anglesey Terns SPA		
Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisae</i>	• The size of the population should be stable or increasing, allowing for natural variability, and sustainable in the long term. • The distribution of the population should be being maintained, or where appropriate increasing. • There should be sufficient habitat, of sufficient quality, to support the population in the long term. • Factors affecting the population or its habitat should be under appropriate control.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>		No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>		No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Dee Estuary SAC		

Estuary	The conservation objective for the “estuaries” feature of the Dee Estuary SAC is to maintain the feature in favourable condition, as defined below: The “estuaries” feature will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the aggregate total extent of all estuarine communities² within the site is maintained; ii. the spatial distribution³ of estuarine communities² within the site is maintained; iii. the extent of individual estuarine habitat features⁴ within the site is maintained; iv. the variety and relative proportions of sediment and rocky substrates within the estuary is maintained; v. the variety and extent of any notable subtidal sediment communities⁵ is maintained; 61 vi. the variety and extent of notable intertidal hard substrata communities⁶ is maintained; vii. the spatial and temporal patterns of salinity, suspended sediments and nutrients concentrations are maintained within limits sufficient to satisfy the requirements of statements (i) to (vi) above.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	The conservation objective for the “mudflats and sandflats” feature of the Dee Estuary SAC is to maintain the feature in favourable condition, as defined below: The “mudflats and sandflats” feature will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the total extent of mudflat and sandflat communities² within the site is maintained;	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	ii. the proportions of individual mudflat and sandflat communities² within the site are maintained; iii. the topography of the intertidal flats and the dynamic processes of channel migration and sinuosity across the flats are maintained; iv. the abundance of typical species³ of the mudflat and sandflat feature within the site is maintained.	
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	The conservation objective for the “Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand” feature of the Dee Estuary SAC is to maintain the feature in favourable condition, as defined below: The “Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand” feature will be considered to be in favourable condition when both: subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions (i) to (v) are met: i. the total extent of pioneer saltmarsh vegetation communities² within the site is maintained; ii. the presence of pioneer saltmarsh vegetation communities² as part of transitions from intertidal sediment communities to higher saltmarsh are maintained; iii. the abundance of the typical species³ of the pioneer saltmarsh vegetation communities² is maintained; iv. the abundance of the notable species⁴ of the pioneer saltmarsh vegetation communities² is maintained. and, regardless of natural processes¹, condition (v) is also met: v. the overall extent and abundance of common cord grass <i>Spartina anglica</i> is not increasing within the pioneer saltmarsh zone.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.

Atlantic salt meadow	The conservation objective for the “Atlantic salt meadow” feature of the Dee Estuary SAC is to maintain the feature in favourable condition, as defined below: The “Atlantic salt meadow feature” feature will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the total extent of Atlantic salt meadow vegetation communities² within the site is maintained; ii. the proportions of individual Atlantic salt meadow vegetation communities² within the site are maintained; iii. the zonation of Atlantic salt meadow vegetation communities² and their transitions to fresh water and terrestrial vegetation are maintained; iv. the morphology of saltmarsh creeks and pans and the process of their evolution are maintained; v. the extent of ungrazed areas of salt meadow within the estuary is maintained and there is no increase in grazing intensity over the rest of the salt meadow; vi. the relative abundance of the typical species³ of the Atlantic salt meadow vegetation communities² is maintained; vii. the abundance of the notable species⁴ of the Atlantic salt meadow vegetation communities² is maintained.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	The conservation objective for the “annual vegetation of drift lines” feature of the Dee Estuary SAC is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The “annual vegetation of drift lines” feature will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met:	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.

	i. the extent of coarse sediment / shingle formations capable of supporting drift line vegetation communities² within the site is maintained; ii. the presence of annual drift line vegetation communities³ within the site is maintained; iii. the presence of the typical species⁴ of the annual drift line vegetation communities² is maintained.	
<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (river lamprey)	The conservation objective for the “<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (river lamprey)” feature of the Dee Estuary SAC is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The “river lamprey” feature will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the migratory passage of both adult and juvenile river lamprey through the Dee Estuary between Liverpool Bay and the River Dee is unobstructed by physical barriers and / or poor water quality; ii. the five year mean count of river lampreys recorded by the Chester Weir fish trap is no less than 55 under the monitoring regime² in use prior to notification [<i>i.e. 100% of the mean annual count during the five years for which data are available prior to notification: 1993, 1997-2000</i>]; iii. the abundance of prey species³ forming the river lamprey’s food resource within the estuary, is maintained.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea lamprey)	The conservation objective for the ‘<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (sea lamprey)’ feature of the Dee Estuary SAC is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The “sea lamprey” feature will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the migratory passage of both adult and juvenile sea lampreys through the Dee Estuary between Liverpool Bay and the River Dee is unobstructed by physical barriers and / or poor water quality;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.

	ii. the five year mean count of sea lampreys recorded by the Chester Weir fish trap is no less than 18 under the monitoring regime² in use prior to notification [i.e. 100% of the mean annual count during the five years for which data are available prior to notification: 1993, 1997-2000]; iii. the abundance of prey species³ forming the river lamprey's food resource within the estuary, is maintained.	
Pen Lllyn a'r Sarnau SAC		
Reefs	RANGE The overall distribution and extent of the habitat features within the site, and each of their main component parts is stable or increasing. For the reef feature these include: -Rocky intertidal reefs -Rocky subtidal reefs -Extensive boulder and cobble reefs – the sarnau -Biogenic reefs (horse mussel <i>Modiolus modiolus</i> reef / green crenella <i>Musculus discors</i> reef and Honeycomb worm <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reef -Carbonate reef formed by methane gas leaking from the seabed. For the intertidal mudflat and sandflat feature these include: -<i>Mya arenaria</i> and polychaetes in muddy gravel -Eel grass <i>Zostera marina</i> beds. -Muddy gullies in the Mawddach estuary. For the Salicornia feature this includes: -Communities characterised by the species <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i>. For the intertidal mudflats and sandflats and sandbanks features this requires an overall stability or increase in the amount of the feature, taking into account the areas of long term stability and localised losses and additions arising from environmental processes.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.
Large shallow inlets and bays		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater at low tide		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.
Estuaries		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.
Coastal Lagoons		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	For estuaries this includes the stability of sandy sediments in proportion to the muddy sediments. Restoration and recovery As part of this objective it should be noted that; for the estuaries feature additional land which should form an integral part of the estuarine ecosystem should be restored	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Atlantic salt meadows	STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION The physical, biological and chemical structure and functions necessary for the long-term maintenance and quality of the habitat are not degraded. Important elements include:	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	-geology -sedimentology -geomorphology, -hydrography and meteorology -water and sediment chemistry -biological interactions.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	This includes a need for nutrient levels in the water column and sediments to be: -at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations within ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long term maintenance of the features species populations, their abundance and range. Contaminant levels in the water column and sediments derived from human activity to be: -at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations below levels that would potentially result in increase in contaminant concentrations within sediments or biota below levels potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the features species populations, their abundance or range. For Atlantic saltmeadows this includes the morphology of the saltmarsh creeks and pans Restoration and recovery As part of this objective it should be noted that; for the estuaries feature the structure and functions of the estuaries that have been damaged/degraded by the constraints of artificial structures such as flood banks, are restored.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

	TYPICAL SPECIES The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of typical species are such that habitat quality is not degraded. Important elements include: -species richness -population structure and dynamics, -physiological health, -reproductive capacity -recruitment, -mobility -range As part of this objective it should be noted that: -populations of typical species subject to existing commercial fisheries need to be at an abundance equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term -the management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the habitat feature, is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term. Restoration and recovery As part of this objective it should be noted that; for the reefs feature the potential for expansion of the horse mussel <i>Modiolus modiolus</i> community off the north Llŷn coast is not inhibited.	
Grey Seal	POPULATIONS The population is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitat. Important elements are population size, structure, production, and condition of the species within the site. As part of this objective it should be noted that : -for bottlenose dolphin, otter and grey seal;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. Underwater noise produced by grab sampling activities is negligible and will not result in disturbance or long term displacement of species. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Bottlenose dolphin	contaminant burdens derived from human activity are below levels that may cause physiological damage, or immune or reproductive suppression -grey seal populations should not be reduced as a consequence of human activity - Disturbance by human activity is below levels that suppress reproductive success, physiological health or long-term behaviour”.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. Underwater noise produced by grab sampling activities is negligible and will not result in disturbance or long term displacement of species. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Otter	RANGE	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. Underwater noise produced by grab sampling activities is negligible and will not result in disturbance or long term displacement of species. No loss of habitat due to the small

	The species population within the site is such that the natural range of the population is not being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. As part of this objective it should be noted that for bottlenose dolphin, otter and grey seal -Their range within the SAC and adjacent inter-connected areas is not constrained or hindered -There are appropriate and sufficient food resources within the SAC and beyond The sites and amount of supporting habitat used by these species are accessible and their extent and quality is stable or increasing SUPPORTING HABITATS AND SPECIES The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of habitats and species required to support this species is such that the distribution, abundance and populations dynamics of the species within the site and population beyond the site is stable or increasing. Important considerations include; -distribution, -extent, -structure, -function and quality of habitat, -prey availability and quality. As part of this objective it should be noted that; -The abundance of prey species subject to existing commercial fisheries needs to be equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term. -The management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the species feature, is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term. -Contamination of potential prey species should be below concentrations potentially harmful to their physiological health.	scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC		
Embryonic shifting dunes	A HRA template for this SAC hasn't been created however, the conservation objectives can be found here:	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. Underwater noise produced by

Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i> and Humid dune slacks) Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharitiontype vegetation Transition mires and quaking bogs Petalwort <i>Petallophyllum ralfsii</i> Shore dock <i>Rumex rupestris</i> Great Crested newt Estuaries <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	https://naturalresources.wales/media/670652/abermenai-to-aberffraw-dunes-wes32-plan.pdf The conservation objectives seek to maintain/improve the extent, quality and population of the listed features.	grab sampling activities is negligible and will not result in disturbance or long term displacement of species. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
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Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Atlantic salt meadow Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Coastal Landforms and the processes controlling beach and dune development Precambrian rocks exposed in coastal cliffs foreshore exposures and inland outcrops Intertidal rocky shore communities Vegetated shingle / boulders above high water mark Sand-dune heath community (including crowberry <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> and Golden hair lichen <i>Teloschistes flavicans</i>)		
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Vascular plant Assemblage Nail Fungus Poronia punctata The assemblage of nationally rare and nationally scarce stoneworts (Chara ssp) including Chara baltica Medicinal leech, Hirudo medicinalis Over-wintering waders/wildfowl including pintail Anas acuta A non-breeding population of raven Corvus corax Breeding cormorant. Phalacrocorax phalacrocorax		
Dee Estuary RAMSAR		
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland	The conservation objective for the “internationally important wetland regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds	Site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “internationally important wetland regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering waterbird assemblage is no less than 120,726 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; - ii the relative proportions² of waders and wildfowl comprising the wintering waterbird assemblage is maintained; iii. the extent of intertidal flats³ and the spatial distribution⁴ of their constituent sediment community types⁵ is maintained; iv. the extent of saltmarsh⁶ and the spatial distribution⁴ of its constituent vegetation community types⁷ is maintained; v. the extent and spatial distribution⁴ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10 cm in height is maintained; vi. the extent of rocky shore⁸ at Hilbre Island, Middle Eye, Little Eye and Tanskey Rocks is maintained; vii. the extent and height of the shingle spit⁹ at Point of Ayr is maintained; viii. the abundance of waterbird prey species¹⁰ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); ix. greater than 25% cover of both seed bearing plants¹¹ and soft leaved herbs and grasses¹² is maintained during winter across the saltmarsh; x. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around roosting sites¹³, loafing¹⁴ and feeding areas¹⁵;	
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	xi. aggregations of roosting ¹³ , loafing ¹⁴ or feeding ¹⁵ waterbirds are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more redshank of the eastern Atlantic population on passage	The conservation objective for the “passage redshank” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “passage redshank” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the passage redshank population is no less than 8,795 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of redshank prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ redshank are not subject to significant disturbance.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering shelduck of the North-western European population	The conservation objective for the “wintering shelduck” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering shelduck” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met:	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.

	i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering shelduck population is no less than 7,725 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of shelduck prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; v. aggregations of loafing⁷ or feeding⁸ shelduck are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering teal of the North-western European population	The conservation objective for the “wintering teal” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering teal” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering teal population is no less than 5,251 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the extent of saltmarsh⁵ and the spatial distribution³ of its constituent vegetation community types⁶ is maintained; iv. greater than 25% cover of seed bearing plants⁷ is maintained during winter across the saltmarsh; v. the extent of standing water pools or ‘flashes’ in the saltmarsh is maintained;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	vi. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁸ and feeding areas⁹; vii. aggregations of loafing⁸ or feeding⁹ teal are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering pintail of the North-western Europe population	The conservation objective for the “wintering pintail” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering pintail” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering pintail population is no less than 5,407 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the extent of saltmarsh⁵ and the spatial distribution³ of its constituent vegetation community types⁶ is maintained; iv. the abundance and dispersion⁷ of pintail prey species⁸ is maintained at levels required to support the population size in (i); v. greater than 25% cover of soft leaved herbs and grasses⁹ is maintained during winter across the saltmarsh; vi. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around loafing areas¹⁰, and feeding areas¹¹; vii. aggregations of loafing¹⁰ or feeding¹¹ pintail are not subject to significant disturbance.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering oystercatcher of the Europe and North-western Africa population	The conservation objective for the “wintering oystercatcher” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering oystercatcher” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering oystercatcher population is no less than 22,677 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of oystercatcher prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. the extent of rocky shore⁷ at Hilbre Island, Middle Eye, Little Eye and Tanskey Rocks is maintained; vi. the extent and height of the shingle spit⁸ at Point of Ayr is maintained; vii. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁹ and feeding areas¹⁰; viii. aggregations of roosting⁹ or feeding¹⁰ oystercatcher are not subject to significant disturbance.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering	The conservation objective for the “wintering grey plover” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering grey plover” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

grey plover of the Eastern Atlantic population	natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering grey plover population is no less than 1,643 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. The abundance and dispersion⁵ of grey plover prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10 cm in height is maintained v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of	
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering knot of the North-western Canada to North-western Europe population	The conservation objective for the “wintering knot” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering knot” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering knot population is no less than 12,394 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. The abundance and dispersion⁵ of knot prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	vi. aggregations of roosting ⁷ or feeding ⁸ knot are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering dunlin of the Northern Siberia, Europe and Northern Africa population	The conservation objective for the “wintering dunlin” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering dunlin” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering dunlin population is no less than 27,769 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. The abundance and dispersion⁵ of dunlin prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); - iv the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ dunlin are not subject to significant disturbance.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering black-tailed godwit of the Icelandic population	The conservation objective for the “wintering black-tailed godwit” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering black-tailed godwit” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering black-tailed godwit population is no less than 1,747 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>];	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.

	ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. The abundance and dispersion⁵ of black-tailed godwit prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ and feeding⁸ black-tailed godwit are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering bar-tailed godwit of the Western Palearctic population	The conservation objective for the “wintering bar-tailed godwit” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering bar-tailed godwit” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering bar-tailed godwit population is no less than 1,150 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the extent and spatial distribution³ of vegetation less than 10cm in height across the saltmarsh⁵ is maintained; iv. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁶ and feeding areas; v. aggregations of bar-tailed godwit roosting⁶ or feeding or on the intertidal flats or saltmarsh⁴ are not subject to significant disturbance.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland,	The conservation objective for the “wintering curlew” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below:	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

regularly supporting 1% or more wintering curlew of the European population	The interest feature “wintering curlew” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering curlew population is no less than 3,899 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of curlew prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ curlew are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more wintering redshank of the Eastern Atlantic population	The conservation objective for the “wintering redshank” feature of The Dee Estuary Ramsar site is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering redshank” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering redshank population is no less than 5,293 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of redshank prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10 cm is maintained;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ redshank are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Dee Estuary SPA		
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring Annex I species: wintering bar-tailed godwit	The conservation objective for the “wintering bar-tailed godwit” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering bar-tailed godwit” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering bar-tailed godwit population is no less than 1,150 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the extent and spatial distribution³ of vegetation less than 10cm in height across the saltmarsh⁵ is maintained; iv. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁶ and feeding areas; v. aggregations of bar-tailed godwit roosting⁶ or feeding or on the intertidal flats or saltmarsh⁴ are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-6 above is provided in Box 1. NB. Other conservation objectives are to be produced relating to the use of North Wirral Foreshore by bar-tailed godwit because they are a feature of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA, which directly abuts The Dee Estuary SPA and forms part of the area of the Dee Estuary SAC. North Wirral Foreshore includes the	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	key feeding areas for the Dee Estuary bar-tailed godwit population and therefore the Dee Estuary wintering bar-tailed godwit feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA bar-tailed godwit feature are also met in full.	
Interest feature 2: Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring Annex I species: breeding common tern	The conservation objective for the “breeding common tern” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “breeding common tern” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year mean population size for the breeding common tern population is no less than 392 breeding pairs [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean between 1995-1999</i>]; ii. the five year mean productivity of the breeding common tern population is no less than 1.34 chicks fledging per breeding pair per year [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean between 1995-1999</i>]; iii. the abundance of common tern prey species² within the estuary is maintained; iv. common terns are able to pass freely between the Dee Estuary and their breeding site at Shotton Lagoons and Reedbeds without obstruction; v. aggregations of common terns roosting³ on the upper shore over high tide are not subject to significant disturbance; Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-3 above is provided in Box 2. NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by common terns of areas of The Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside the Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include the artificial islands used by the breeding	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	colony at Shotton Lagoons and Reedbeds SSSI. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA breeding common tern feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of Shotton Lagoons and Reedbeds SSSI are also met. These objectives (a-b) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: the size of the breeding colony is not limited by availability of space on artificial nesting platforms; breeding birds are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring Annex I species: breeding little tern	The conservation objective for the “breeding little tern” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “breeding little tern” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year mean population size for the breeding little tern population is no less than 69 breeding pairs [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean between 1995-1999</i>]; ii. the five year mean productivity of the breeding little tern population is no less than 0.80 chicks fledging per breeding pair per year [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean between 1995-1999</i>]; iii. the breeding site² is not subject to significant disturbance; iv. the extent of shingle habitat³ at Gronant, which is suitable for nesting little terns is maintained; v. aggregations of little terns roosting on the beach at Gronant or Point of Ayr over high tide are not subject to significant disturbance.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.
Conservation objective for the internationally	The conservation objective for the “passage Sandwich tern” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small

important population of the regularly occurring Annex I species: passage Sandwich tern	maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “passage Sandwich tern” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year mean peak population size for the autumn passage sandwich tern population is no less than 957 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1995-1999</i>]; ii. aggregations of Sandwich terns roosting² on the upper shore over high tide are not subject to significant disturbance.	scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: passage redshank	The conservation objective for the “passage redshank” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “passage redshank” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the passage redshank population is no less than 8,795 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of redshank prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ redshank are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-8 above is provided in Box 5. NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by redshank of areas of the Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside the Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include the coastal fields along the Welsh shore within the Dee Estuary SSSI used by redshank for feeding. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA passage redshank feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of these coastal fields are also met. These objectives (a-f) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: the extent of coastal grazing marsh is maintained; the extent of all coastal fields is maintained; the extent of wet grassland with standing water including, pools, ditches and channels is maintained; the abundance of redshank prey species including earthworms and leatherjackets is maintained; existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites and feeding areas; aggregations of redshank roosting or feeding on the coastal fields are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering shelduck	The conservation objective for the “wintering shelduck” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering shelduck” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met:	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering shelduck population is no less than 7,725 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of shelduck prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; v. aggregations o	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering teal	The conservation objective for the “wintering teal” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering teal” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering teal population is no less than 5,251 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the extent of saltmarsh⁵ and the spatial distribution³ of its constituent vegetation community types⁶ is maintained; iv. greater than 25% cover of seed bearing plants⁷ is maintained during winter across the saltmarsh; v. the extent of standing water pools or ‘flashes’ in the saltmarsh is maintained;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	vi. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁸ and feeding areas⁹; vii. aggregations of loafing⁸ or feeding⁹ teal are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-9 above is provided in Box 7. NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by teal of areas of the Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside The Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include the coastal fields and pools along the Welsh shore within the Dee Estuary SSSI and at Inner Marsh Farm SSSI, which are used for loafing and feeding. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA wintering teal feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of these habitats are also met. These objectives (a-d) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: the extent of coastal grazing marsh is maintained; the extent of all coastal fields is maintained; the extent of wet grassland and standing water including pools, ditches and channels is maintained; aggregations of teal loafing or feeding on pools and coastal fields are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering pintail	The conservation objective for the “wintering pintail” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering pintail” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering pintail population is no less than 5,407 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>];	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the extent of saltmarsh⁵ and the spatial distribution³ of its constituent vegetation community types⁶ is maintained; iv. the abundance and dispersion⁷ of pintail prey species⁸ is maintained at levels required to support the population size in (i); v. greater than 25% cover of soft leaved herbs and grasses⁹ is maintained during winter across the saltmarsh; vi. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around loafing areas¹⁰, and feeding areas¹¹; vii. aggregations of loafing¹⁰ or feeding¹¹ pintail are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-11 above is provided in Box 8. NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by pintail of areas of The Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside the Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include the coastal fields and pools at Inner Marsh Farm SSSI, which are used for loafing and feeding. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA wintering pintail feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of these habitats are also met. These objectives (a-d) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: the extent of coastal grazing marsh is maintained; the extent of all coastal fields is maintained;	
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	the extent of wet grassland and standing water including pools, ditches and channels is maintained; d) aggregations of pintail loafing or feeding on pools and coastal fields are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering oystercatcher	The interest feature “wintering oystercatcher” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering oystercatcher population is no less than 22,677 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of oystercatcher prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. the extent of rocky shore⁷ at Hilbre Island, Middle Eye, Little Eye and Tanskey Rocks is maintained; vi. the extent and height of the shingle spit⁸ at Point of Ayr is maintained; vii. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁹ and feeding areas¹⁰; viii. aggregations of roosting⁹ or feeding¹⁰ oystercatcher are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-10 above is provided in Box 9.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by oystercatcher of areas of The Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside the Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include the coastal fields along the Welsh shore within the Dee Estuary SSSI used by oystercatcher for feeding and roosting. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA wintering oystercatcher feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of these coastal fields are also met. These objectives (a-f) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: - the extent of coastal grazing marsh is maintained; - the extent of all coastal fields is maintained; - the extent of wet grassland and standing water including pools, ditches and channels is maintained; - the abundance of oystercatcher prey species including earthworms and leatherjackets is maintained; 159 existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites and feeding areas; aggregations of oystercatcher roosting or feeding on the coastal fields are not subject to significant disturbance. Oystercatcher are known to use North Wirral Foreshore SSSI in numbers of significance. North Wirral Foreshore SSSI directly abuts The Dee Estuary SPA and forms part of the area of both the Dee Estuary SAC and the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA. North Wirral Foreshore SSSI includes some of the key feeding areas for the Dee Estuary oystercatcher population and therefore the condition of North Wirral Foreshore SSSI is important in maintaining the overall wintering oystercatcher population in the wider estuary.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of	The conservation objective for the “wintering grey plover” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small

the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering grey plover	maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering grey plover” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering grey plover population is no less than 1,643 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of grey plover prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10 cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ grey plover are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-8 above is provided in Box 10. NB. Grey plover are known to use North Wirral Foreshore SSSI in numbers of national significance. North Wirral Foreshore SSSI directly abuts The Dee Estuary SPA and forms part of the area of both the Dee Estuary SAC and the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA. North Wirral Foreshore SSSI includes some of the key feeding areas for the Dee Estuary wintering grey plover population and therefore the condition of North Wirral Foreshore SSSI is important in maintaining the overall wintering grey plover population in the wider estuary.	scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.
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Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering knot	The conservation objective for the “wintering knot” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering knot” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering knot population is no less than 12,394 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of knot prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ knot are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-8 above is provided in Box 11. NB. Conservation objectives are also to be produced relating to the use of North Wirral Foreshore by knot because they are a feature of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA and pRamsar Site, which directly abuts The Dee Estuary SPA and forms part of the area of the Dee Estuary SAC. North Wirral Foreshore includes some of the key feeding areas for the Dee Estuary knot population and therefore the Dee Estuary wintering knot feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to the Mersey	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.
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	Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA and pRamsar Site wintering knot feature are also met in full.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering dunlin	The conservation objective for the “wintering dunlin” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering dunlin” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering dunlin population is no less than 27,769 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of dunlin prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ dunlin are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-8 above is provided in Box 12. NB. Conservation objectives are also to be produced relating to the use of North Wirral Foreshore SSSI by dunlin because they are a feature of this SSSI, which directly abuts The Dee Estuary SPA and forms part of both the area of the Dee Estuary SAC and the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA. North Wirral Foreshore SSSI includes some of the key feeding areas for the Dee Estuary wintering dunlin population and	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area.

	therefore the Dee Estuary wintering dunlin feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to the North Wirral Foreshore SSSI dunlin feature are also met in full.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering black-tailed godwit	The interest feature “wintering black-tailed godwit” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering black-tailed godwit population is no less than 1,747 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of black-tailed godwit prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ and feeding⁸ black-tailed godwit are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-8 above is provided in Box 13. NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by black-tailed godwit of areas of The Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside the Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include pools and coastal fields along the Welsh shore within the Dee Estuary SSSI, and at Inner Marsh Farm SSSI, used by black-tailed godwit for feeding and roosting. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	wintering black-tailed godwit feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of these pools and coastal fields are also met. These objectives (a-f) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: the extent of coastal grazing marsh is maintained; the extent of all coastal fields is maintained; the extent of wet grassland and standing water including pools, ditches and channels is maintained; the abundance of black-tailed godwit prey species including earthworms, leatherjackets and chironomids is maintained; existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites and feeding areas; 168 aggregations of black-tailed godwit feeding or roosting on the coastal fields are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering redshank	The conservation objective for the “wintering redshank” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering redshank” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering redshank population is no less than 5,293 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	iii. The abundance and dispersion⁵ of redshank prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10 cm is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸; vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ redshank are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-8 above is provided in Box 15. NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by redshank of areas of The Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside the Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include the coastal fields along the Welsh shore within the Dee Estuary SSSI used by redshank for feeding and roosting. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA wintering redshank feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of these coastal fields are also met. These objectives (a-f) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: the extent of coastal grazing marsh is maintained; the extent of all coastal fields is maintained; the extent of wet grassland with standing water including, pools, ditches and channels is maintained; the abundance of redshank prey species including earthworms and leatherjackets is maintained; existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites and feeding areas; aggregations of redshank feeding or roosting on the coastal fields are not subject to significant disturbance.	
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	172 Conservation objectives are also to be produced relating to the use of North Wirral Foreshore SSSI by redshank because they are a feature of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA and pRamsar Site, which directly abuts The Dee Estuary SPA and forms part of the area of the Dee Estuary SAC. North Wirral Foreshore includes some of the key feeding areas for the Dee Estuary redshank population and therefore the Dee Estuary wintering redshank feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pSPA and pRamsar Site wintering redshank feature are also met in full.	
Conservation objective for the internationally important population of the regularly occurring migratory species: wintering curlew	The conservation objective for the “wintering curlew” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “wintering curlew” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met: i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering curlew population is no less than 3,899 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the extent of intertidal flats² and the spatial distribution³ of their constituent sediment community types⁴ is maintained; iii. the abundance and dispersion⁵ of curlew prey species⁶ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); iv. the extent and spatial distribution³ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10cm in height is maintained; v. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites⁷ and feeding areas⁸;	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	vi. aggregations of roosting⁷ or feeding⁸ curlew are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning terms 1-8 above is provided in Box 14. NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by curlew of areas of The Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside the Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include pools and coastal fields along the Welsh shore within the Dee Estuary SSSI used for feeding and roosting. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA wintering curlew feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of these pools and coastal fields are also met. These objectives (a-f) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: the extent of coastal grazing marsh is maintained; the extent of all coastal fields is maintained; the extent of wet grassland and standing water including pools, ditches and channels is maintained; the abundance of curlew prey species including earthworms and leatherjackets is maintained; existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites and feeding areas; aggregations of curlew feeding or roosting on the coastal fields are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Interest feature 16: Conservation objective for the internationally important assemblage of regularly occurring waterbirds	The conservation objective for the “internationally important assemblage of regularly occurring waterbirds” feature of The Dee Estuary SPA is to maintain the feature in a favourable condition, as defined below: The interest feature “internationally important assemblage of regularly occurring waterbirds” will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes¹, each of the following conditions are met:	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	i. the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering waterbird assemblage is no less than 120,726 individuals [<i>i.e. the 5 year mean peak between 1994/95-1998/99</i>]; ii. the relative proportions² of waders and wildfowl comprising the wintering waterbird assemblage is maintained; iii. the extent of intertidal flats³ and the spatial distribution⁴ of their constituent sediment community types⁵ is maintained; iv. the extent of saltmarsh⁶ and the spatial distribution⁴ of its constituent vegetation community types⁷ is maintained; v. the extent and spatial distribution⁴ of saltmarsh vegetation less than 10 cm in height is maintained; vi. the extent of rocky shore⁸ at Hilbre Island, Middle Eye, Little Eye and Tanskey Rocks is maintained; vii. the extent and height of the shingle spit⁹ at Point of Ayr is maintained; viii. the abundance of waterbird prey species¹⁰ are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population size in (i); ix. greater than 25% cover of both seed bearing plants¹¹ and soft leaved herbs and grasses¹² is maintained during winter across the saltmarsh; x. existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around roosting sites¹³, loafing¹⁴ and feeding areas¹⁵; xi. aggregations of roosting¹³, loafing¹⁴ or feeding¹⁵ waterbirds are not subject to significant disturbance. Further explanatory information clarifying the meaning of terms 1-15 above is provided in Box 16.	
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	NB. Additional conservation objectives are provided relating to the use by waterbirds of areas of The Dee Estuary SPA above highest astronomical tide, which are outside the Dee Estuary European marine site. These areas include pools and coastal fields along the Welsh shore 174 within the Dee Estuary SSSI, at Shotton Lagoons and Reedbeds SSSI and at Inner Marsh Farm SSSI, used by waterbirds for feeding, roosting and loafing. Thus The Dee Estuary SPA internationally important assemblage of regularly occurring waterbirds feature can only be in favourable condition if the conservation objectives pertaining to their use of these pools and coastal fields are also met. These objectives (a-f) are provided below for information but they do not qualify as Advice under Regulation 33 (2) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations, 1994: the extent of coastal grazing marsh is maintained; the extent of all coastal fields is maintained; the extent of wet grassland and standing water including pools, ditches and channels is maintained; the abundance of waterbird prey species including earthworms, leatherjackets and chironomids is maintained; existing unrestricted bird sightlines of at least 200m are maintained in every direction around both roosting sites and feeding areas; aggregations of waterbirds roosting, loafing or feeding on the coastal fields are not subject to significant disturbance.	
Holy Island SAC		
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Vision for feature 1 The vision is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: ☐ ☐ Cliff and crevice vegetation, maritime grassland and maritime heath occurs throughout the site in appropriate areas and their relative extent and zonation are determined by topography,	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	exposure, grazing and natural stochastic events (e.g. storms). □□The cliff vegetation is composed of native plants such as sea spurrey <i>Spergularia rupicola</i> Sea lavenders (<i>Limonium britannicum</i>, <i>L. procerum</i>, <i>L. binervosum</i>) and sea samphire <i>Crithmum maritimum</i>. □□Non-native plants, such as Hottentot fig <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> or purple dew-plant <i>Disphyma crassifolium</i> are preferably absent or at least not spreading from their 2000 extent. □□Maritime Grassland occupies higher ledges on the coastal cliffs and the cliff-top. □□The following plants are common in the maritime grassland: red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>, thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i>; spring squill <i>Scilla verna</i> and sea plantain <i>Plantago maritima</i> □□Maritime Heathland occupies areas inland of the maritime grassland. □□The following plants are common in the maritime heathland: heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>; bell heather <i>Erica cinerea</i> Western gorse <i>Ulex gallii</i>, thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i>, sea plantain <i>Plantago maritima</i>, buck's horn plantain <i>Plantago coronopus</i> or spring squill <i>Scilla verna</i>. □□Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> and gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> and grass species indicative of improvement including creeping bent <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>, cock's foot <i>Dactylus glomerata</i>, perennial rye-grass <i>Lolium perenne</i> and Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> are largely absent from the heath. □□Sustainable populations of the plants which make up the Atlantic sea cliff rare plant assemblage will be present, notably, South Stack fleawort <i>Tephrosia integrifolia</i>, Sea lavenders (<i>Limonium britannicum</i>, <i>L. procerum</i>, <i>L. binervosum</i>) Golden hair lichen <i>Teloschistes flavicans</i> and Ciliate strap lichen <i>Heterodermia leucomelos</i>.	
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	☐☐All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions, including grazing intensity and burning, will be under control.	
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Vision for feature 2. The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: ☐☐Wet heath covers no less than the present mapped extent (<i>to be determined</i>) ☐☐The following plants are common in the wet heath: heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>; cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i>, bog moss <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. devil's bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i> and <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>. ☐☐Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>, purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> and western gorse <i>Ulex gallii</i> are kept in check. ☐☐70% of wet heath will be "good condition" wet heath. ☐☐The wet heath supports sustainable (flowering) populations of marsh gentian, three-lobed water crowfoot, and pillwort. ☐☐The wet heath supports a viable population of bog bush cricket. ☐☐The wet heath contributes potential support of a meta-population of marsh fritillary. ☐☐All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
European dry heaths	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: •☐☐Dry heath covers no less than the present mapped extent (<i>to be determined</i>) •☐☐The following plants are common in the dry heath: heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>; bell heather <i>Erica cinerea</i>, western gorse <i>Ulex gallii</i>. •☐☐Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>, purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> and western gorse <i>Ulex gallii</i> are kept in check. •☐☐70% of dry heath will be "good condition" dry heath.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

	• ☐ The dry heath provides abundant and accessible food for breeding chough. • ☐ The dry heath supports sustainable (flowering) populations of dodder. • ☐ Spotted rock rose occurs in at least 5 distinct loci (presently South Stack, Porth Dafarch north, Porth y Garan, Pany yr Hyman path, Pant yr Hyman heath) of at least 200 plants each. • ☐ Juniper occurs in at least 3 locations totalling 50 plants. • ☐ The dry heath supports a viable population of silver studded blue. • ☐ All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	
Reefs	TBA	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	TBA	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area
Atlantic grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	TBA	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. Underwater noise produced by grab sampling activities is negligible and will not result in disturbance or long term displacement of species. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> (SPA)	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: ☐ ☐ The breeding population of Chough within the SPA is at least 18 pairs, of which at least 12 should be within the Glannau Ynys Gybi / Tre Wilmot SSSI and at least 6 should be within the Glannau Rhoscolyn SSSI. ☐ ☐ The non-breeding population of Chough is at least 18 individuals or 2.5 % of the GB wintering population. ☐ ☐ Sufficient suitable habitat (including Atlantic sea cliffs, maritime grassland, maritime heath,	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

	wet heath and dry heath) is present and in appropriate condition to support the breeding populations. ☐ ☐ All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	
North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Môn Forol SAC		
Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocaena)	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the harbour porpoise or significant disturbance to the harbour porpoise, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for the UK harbour porpoise. To ensure for harbour porpoise that, subject to natural change, the following attributes are maintained or restored in the long term: 1. The species is a viable component of the site. 2. There is no significant disturbance of the species. 3. The supporting habitats and processes relevant to harbour porpoises and their prey are maintained.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. Underwater noise produced by grab sampling activities is negligible and will not result in disturbance or long term displacement of species. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.
West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol SAC		
Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocaena)	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the harbour porpoise or significant disturbance to the harbour porpoise, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for the UK harbour porpoise. To ensure for harbour porpoise that, subject to natural change, the following attributes are maintained or restored in the long term: 1. The species is a viable component of the site.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. Underwater noise produced by grab sampling activities is negligible and will not result in disturbance or long term displacement of species. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area.

	2. There is no significant disturbance of the species. 3. The supporting habitats and processes relevant to harbour porpoises and their prey are maintained.	
Y Twyni o Abermenai i Aberffraw/ Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC		
Embryonic shifting dunes	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: • The distribution and extent of embryonic shifting dunes in late summer is determined by the availability of naturally accreting sand and strand line organic material. However, we would not expect all this potential embryonic dune habitat area to be vegetated in any one year and embryonic dunes may be absent in some years. Continuous absence over the six-year reporting cycle would cause the condition to be considered unfavourable. • The potential for the embryonic shifting dunes element of the typical zonation, from beach to fixed dune, is intact along the soft coastal frontage. This includes an unrestricted supply of sediment, opportunity for aeolian transport and naturally occurring organic strandline material. • The typical species of the strandline vegetation include <i>Atriplex spp.</i>, <i>Beta vulgaris</i>, <i>Cakile maritime</i>, <i>Honkenya peploides</i>, <i>Salsola kali</i>. • The typical species of the embryonic dune vegetation include <i>Elytrigia juncea</i> and <i>Lor Leymus arenarius</i>. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: • Shifting dunes with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> are present along the dune front facing prevailing (southwest) winds where sediment supply is adequate. • There should be no decrease in the total (aggregate) area of qualifying dune habitats for which this	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area

	site was designated (i.e., the sum total of qualifying dune habitat should not diminish). The extent and location of individual dune habitat features may be subject to periodic and seasonal variation. • The shifting dunes element of the typical zonation from beach to fixed dune is intact along the soft coastal frontage. • Bare ground is present. • The typical species of the shifting dune vegetation include <i>Ammophila arenaria</i>, <i>Leymus arenarius</i>, <i>Elymus farctus</i>, <i>Eryngium maritimum</i>, <i>Euphorbia portlandica</i>, <i>Euphorbia paralias</i>, and <i>Calystegia soldanella</i>. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	
Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (`grey dunes`)* (Habitats Directive priority feature)	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: • The distribution of fixed dunes within the site may vary in response to natural dynamic processes and changes to other qualifying dune habitats for the site. • There should be no decrease in the total area of fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation. • The fixed dunes element of the typical zonation from beach to fixed dune is intact along the soft coastal frontage. • Bare ground is present • The typical species of the fixed dune vegetation include <i>Cerastium fontanum</i>, <i>Crepis capillaris</i>, <i>Cladonia spp.</i>, <i>Peltigera spp.</i>, <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>, <i>Geranium molle</i>, <i>Luzula campestris</i>, <i>Odontites verna</i>, <i>Pilosella officinarum</i>, <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>, <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>, <i>Festuca rubra</i>, <i>Galium verum</i>, <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>, <i>Thymus polytrichus</i>, <i>Sedum acre</i>, <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>, <i>Carex arenaria</i>, <i>C. flacca</i>, <i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>, <i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>, <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>, <i>Linum catharticum</i>, <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>, <i>Ononis repens</i>,	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area

	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>, <i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>, <i>R triquetrus</i>, <i>Tortula muralis</i> <i>Viola canina</i>, <i>V. riviniana</i> and <i>V. tricolor</i>. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	
Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: • The distribution of dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp <i>argentea</i> is consistent with the typical dune zonation and where topographic conditions are suitable. The location of dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp <i>argentea</i> within the site may vary in response to natural dynamic processes and changes to other qualifying dune habitats for the site • There should be no decrease in the total (aggregate) area of qualifying dune habitats for which this site was designated (i.e., the sum total of qualifying dune habitat should not diminish). The extent of individual dune habitat features may be subject to periodic and seasonal variation. • <i>Salix repens</i> is at least frequent and generally 5 - 30cm tall. • Opportunities for the initiation of embryonic dune slacks by wind erosion exist. • Bare ground is present. • The groundwater level is appropriate in winter and summer. • Groundwater quality is unaffected by pollution. • The typical species include <i>Salix repens</i>, <i>Carex arenaria</i>, <i>C flacca</i>, <i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>, <i>Festuca rubra</i>, <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>, <i>Ononis repens</i>, <i>Equisetum variegatum</i>, <i>Epipactis palustris</i>, <i>Epipactis leptochila</i> spp <i>dunensis</i> and <i>Pilosella officinarum</i>. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area
Humid dune slacks (2190)	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area

	• The distribution of humid dune slacks is consistent with the typical dune zonation and where topographical conditions are suitable. The location of humid dune slacks within the site may vary in response to natural dynamic processes and changes to other qualifying dune habitats for the site. • There should be no decrease in the total (aggregate) area of qualifying dune habitats for which this site was designated (i.e., the sum total of qualifying dune habitat should not diminish). The extent and location of individual dune habitat features may be subject to periodic and seasonal variation. • All humid dune slack communities should be present, from embryonic dune slacks with a high % of bare ground to more closed vegetation with <i>Salix repens</i>. • Opportunities for the initiation of embryonic dune slacks (by wind erosion) exist. • Bare ground is present. • The ground water level is appropriate in winter and summer. • Ground water quality is unaffected by pollution. • The typical species include <i>Salix repens</i>, <i>Carex arenaria</i>, <i>C. flacca</i>, <i>Equisetum variegatum</i>, <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>, <i>Ononis repens</i>, <i>Potentilla anserina</i>, <i>Galium palustre</i>, <i>Mentha aquatica</i>, <i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>, <i>Campyllum stellatum</i>, <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>, <i>Ranunculus flammula</i>, <i>Calliergon cuspidatum</i>, <i>Anagallis tenella</i>, <i>Parnassia palustris</i>, <i>Selaginella selaginoides</i>, <i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> and <i>Epipactis palustris</i>. • Petalwort occurs in humid dune slacks in which <i>Equisetum variegatum</i> is frequent at Aberffraw and Newborough compartments. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	
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Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: • The distribution of the lakes reflects their physiographic status as dune-dammed lakes of shallow valleys. • The extent (area) of the habitat is 30ha, except if reduced by natural succession to swamp or bog. • The catchment of the lakes continues to provide adequate quality and quantity of water. • Appropriate water level is maintained throughout the year, (seasonal fluctuation +/- 30cm). • Water quality is characteristic of maritime, high alkalinity shallow lakes, such as to maintain pH 7-9, alkalinity 1500-2500µeq/l, dissolved oxygen and peak annual Total Phosphorus <50µg/l. • Chlorophyll α values are low, and sufficient to allow both lakes to be passed as 'Good' or better for a 'high alkalinity shallow lake' using Water Framework Directive classification methods. • The typical species are submerged aquatic plants including <i>Elatine hydropiper</i>, <i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>, <i>P. pectinatus</i>, <i>P. perfoliatus</i>, <i>P. lucens</i>, <i>Ranunculus circinatus</i>, <i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>, <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>, <i>Callitriche hermaphrodita</i>, and <i>Chara</i> spp.. • Emergent aquatic plants, typically <i>Phragmites australis</i>, <i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>, <i>Sparganium erectum</i>, <i>Typha latifolia</i>, <i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>, and <i>Littorella uniflora</i> should be present on the shoreline. • Invasive or disruptive species such as <i>Crassula helmsii</i> or coarse fish should be absent. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area
Petalwort <i>Petallophyllum ralfsii</i>	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area

	• The population of petalwort is stable or increasing. • Petalwort occurs in humid dune slacks in which <i>Equisetum variegatum</i> is frequent, across all sectors of the site where habitat conditions are suitable, i.e. Aberffraw and Newborough compartments. • Humid dune slack with bare sand or humus crust and short vegetation characterised by <i>Equisetum variegatum</i> is present at Aberffraw and Newborough compartments where sediment and hydrological conditions permit. (see Objective for humid dune slacks). • Competition (including shading) from other species is controlled. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	
Shore dock <i>Rumex rupestris</i>	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: • The population of shore dock is stable or increasing. • Shore dock occurs in at least 3 locations across the site. • Opportunities occur for marine dispersal of seed. • Open streamside, coastal soft cliff seepages or dune slack pool habitat is adequate for its survival. • Adequate freshwater supply is maintained. • Bare ground or disturbed areas are maintained (e.g. by grazing animals) to permit germination. • Competition (including shading) from other species is controlled. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area
Great Crested newt	This is a minor SAC feature and no specific conservation objectives are required at this stage.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. Underwater noise produced by grab sampling activities is negligible and will not result in disturbance or long term displacement of species. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.
Estuaries	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area

	conditions are satisfied: • the distribution and extent of the <i>estuaries</i>, and their encompassed habitats, are determined predominantly by natural structure and environmental processes • the natural habitat structures necessary for the long-term maintenance of the <i>estuaries</i> and their encompassed habitats and typical species are maintained; • the granulometry and structure of the <i>estuaries'</i> sediments, and their natural variation, distribution and extent, are determined predominantly by natural sediment supply and transport processes • the quality of habitat structure is no more degraded as a consequence of human action or by materials of anthropogenic origin • the natural environmental processes necessary for the long-term maintenance of the <i>estuaries</i>, their encompassed habitats and their typical species are maintained • Water & sediment chemistry are determined predominantly by natural hydrodynamic, hydrological and meteorological processes • the salinity regime and gradients within the <i>estuaries</i> are determined predominantly by natural hydrodynamic, hydrological and meteorological processes • typical species are determined predominantly by inherent population dynamics and ecological processes • the species richness, population dynamics, abundance, biomass, population structures, physiological health, reproductive capacity, recruitment, range and mobility are maintained • the management of activities or operations likely to degrade the distribution, extent, structure, function or typical species populations of the feature, is appropriate for maintaining favourable conservation status and is secure in the long-term; and	
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	• the management of existing commercial fisheries for typical species ensures that species exploitation is at or below maximum sustainable yield and is secure in the long-term. NB. Detailed requirements for the maintenance of favourable condition for the other estuarine habitat features⁴ and their typical species are provided under their respective conservation objectives.	
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where, subject to natural processes¹ all of the following conditions are satisfied: • the distribution and extent of Salicornia and other annuals is determined predominantly by natural structure and environmental processes; • the natural habitat structures necessary for the long-term maintenance of Salicornia and other annuals and their typical species are maintained; • the granulometry and structure of Salicornia and other annuals' sediments, and their natural variation, distribution and extent, are determined predominantly by natural sediment supply and transport processes; • the geomorphology of the Salicornia and other annuals feature, and its natural variation, distribution and extent, are determined predominantly by the underlying geology and natural environmental processes; • the natural environmental processes necessary for the long-term maintenance of the Salicornia and other annuals feature and its typical species, are maintained; • the hydrographic and meteorological processes necessary for the long-term maintenance of the Salicornia and other annuals feature and its typical species are determined predominantly by natural environmental processes; • the salinity regime and gradients of the Salicornia and other annuals feature are determined predominantly by natural hydrodynamic, hydrological and meteorological processes;	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m ³ for total survey area

	• nutrients in the water column and sediments remain within ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the Salicornia and other annuals' communities, their distribution and range; • contaminants in the water column and sediments derived from human activity remain below levels potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the Salicornia and other annuals' communities, their distribution and range; • dissolved oxygen levels in the water column and sediments are determined predominantly by natural environmental processes • communities of typical species are maintaining their conservation status on a long-term basis as viable components of the Salicornia and other annuals' habitats 43 • the management of activities or operations likely to degrade the distribution, extent, structure, function or typical species communities of the feature, is appropriate for maintaining favourable conservation status and is secure in the long-term.	
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: • the distribution and extent of the <i>mudflats and sandflats</i>, and their encompassed habitat, are determined predominantly by natural structure and environmental processes • the natural habitat structures necessary for the long-term maintenance of the <i>mudflats and sandflats</i>, and their encompassed habitat and typical species are maintained • the granulometry and structure of the <i>mudflats and sandflats</i>' sediments, and their natural variation, distribution and extent, are determined predominantly by natural sediment supply and transport processes • the quality of habitat structure is no more degraded as a consequence of human action or by	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area

	materials of anthropogenic origin • the natural environmental processes necessary for the long-term maintenance of the <i>mudflats and sandflats</i>, their encompassed habitats and their typical species are maintained • Water & sediment chemistry are determined predominantly by natural hydrodynamic, hydrological and meteorological processes • the salinity regime and gradients within the <i>mudflats and sandflats</i> are determined predominantly by natural hydrodynamic, hydrological and meteorological processes • typical species are determined predominantly by inherent population dynamics and ecological processes • the species richness, population dynamics, abundance, biomass, population structures, physiological health, reproductive capacity, recruitment, range and mobility are maintained • the management of activities or operations likely to degrade the distribution, extent, structure, function or typical species populations of the feature, is appropriate for maintaining favourable conservation status and is secure in the long-term; <i>and</i> • the management of existing commercial fisheries for typical species ensures that species exploitation is at or below maximum sustainable yield and is secure in the long-term	
Atlantic salt meadow (ASM)	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where, subject to natural processes¹ all of the following conditions are satisfied: • the distribution and extent of the saltmeadows is determined predominantly by natural structure and environmental processes; • the natural habitat structures necessary for the long-term maintenance of the saltmeadows and typical species are maintained; • the granulometry and structure of the saltmeadows' sediments, and their natural variation,	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m³ for total survey area

	distribution and extent, are determined predominantly by natural sediment supply and transport processes; • the geomorphology of the saltmeadows, and their natural variation, distribution and extent, are determined predominantly by the underlying geology and natural environmental processes; • the hydrographic and meteorological processes necessary for the long-term maintenance of the saltmeadows and their typical species are determined predominantly by natural environmental processes; • the salinity regime and gradients within the saltmeadows are determined predominantly by natural hydrodynamic, hydrological and meteorological processes; • nutrients in the water column and sediments are within ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the saltmeadows' communities, their distribution and range; • contaminants in the water column and sediments derived from human activity remain below levels potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the saltmeadows' communities, their distribution and range; • dissolved oxygen levels in the water column and sediments are determined predominantly by natural environmental processes; • the zonation of saltmarsh from pioneer, lower mid marsh and upper mid marsh and their transitions to fresh water and terrestrial vegetation are maintained; • communities of typical species are maintaining their conservation status on a long-term basis as 46 viable components of the saltmeadows' habitats, • the species richness, community dynamics, abundance, biomass, community structures, physiological health, reproductive capacity, recruitment and range are maintained:	
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	the management of activities or operations likely to degrade the distribution, extent, structure, function or typical species communities of the feature, is appropriate for maintaining favourable conservation status and is secure in the long-term.	
Spartina swards <i>(Spartinion maritimae)</i>	This is a minor SAC feature and no specific conservation objectives are required at this stage.	No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts		No impact pathway due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area
Lavan Sands SPA		
Oystercatcher <i>(Haematopus ostralegus)</i>	The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: - The 5 year mean peak of the number of wintering oystercatchers is at least 4,000. - The abundance and distribution of cockles of 15mm or larger and other suitable food are maintained at levels sufficient to support the population with a 5 year mean peak of 4,000 individuals. - Oystercatchers are not disturbed in ways that prevent them spending enough time feeding for survival. - Roost sites, including high tide roost sites, remain suitable for oystercatchers to roost undisturbed. - The management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the oystercatchers, is appropriate for maintaining the feature in favourable condition and is secure in the long term.	No impact pathway as a single vessel to be used for the proposed works. No significant increase in disturbance. No loss of habitat due to the small scale nature of the works. Total sample volume estimated to be 2.42m3 for total survey area.

3.2.3 Screening decision of the project 'alone'	
(a) If ALL rows in column II of Table 3.2.2 are GREEN	The project is not likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site, because there is no impact pathway from the project to any Natura 2000 features, and no further consideration under the Habitats Directive/Regulations is required in order to determine the application.
(b) If there are NO rows coloured RED in column II of Table 3.2.2, and there are ANY rows which are BLUE	The project is not likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 sites when considered alone, but the possibility of significant effects in combination with other plans and projects needs to be considered.
(c) If ANY rows in Column II of Table 3.2.2 are RED	The project is likely have a significant effect on one or more Natura 2000 sites and therefore an appropriate assessment is required.

6. Conclusion

HRA is not required because the whole of the project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of one or more Natura 2000/Ramsar sites, for the purposes of conserving the habitats or species for which the site(s) is/are designated, <u>and</u> the project is not likely to have a significant effect on any other Natura 2000/Ramsar sites. (As documented in section 2.1 and 2.2 of this form)	
HRA is not required because there is no conceivable impact pathway to any Natura 2000/Ramsar site (As documented in section 2.3 of this form)	

This project is a renewal of a current permission which complies with NRW agreed criteria for ruling out significant effects of a renewal without conducting a project-specific LSE test. Therefore it is considered not likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000/Ramsar sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. (As documented in section 3.1 of this form)	
The project has been screened for likelihood of significant effects and, taking account of the advice received from protected sites advisors, is considered not likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000/Ramsar site (As documented in section 3.2 of this form, or section 5 if applicable)	X
In light of the conclusions of an appropriate assessment, and taking account of the advice received from protected sites advisors, it has been established that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000/Ramsar site, taking into account any conditions or restrictions as applicable, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. (As documented in section 4 of this form, and section 5 if applicable)	
In light of the conclusions of the appropriate assessment, it has <u>not</u> been ascertained that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000/Ramsar site, as documented in section 4 of this form, and section 5 is applicable. Approval for the project <u>cannot</u> be given unless either: - the project specification, and/or the terms under which it might be approved, are modified so as to remove the risk of adverse effects, and a revised HRA report is prepared, or - the project satisfies the requirements of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, an Article 6(4) Statement of Case is prepared (OGN 200 Form 3) and submitted for consideration by the appropriate authority, normally Welsh Ministers	
Signed:  Name: Jack Thompson Position: Marine Licensing Officer	

Date: 11 July 2024

7. Consultation with protected sites advisor(s) and how sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this HRA report (as applicable) take into account that advice.

Relevant section of the HRA report	Date(s) of correspondence* and any meeting(s) with protected sites advisor(s)	Description of how the comments from protected sites advisors have been taken into account
6	24/07/2024	NRW A agree with conclusions of the HRA.

Form

Protected sites advisor response to an internal consultation on the Habitats Regulations Assessment of a project

OGN 200 Form 2

Document owner: Protected Sites Team, EPP

Version History:

Document Version	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.0	March 2016	Document created
1.1	30 November 2017	Minor changes only

Next review date: April 2018

Protected sites advisor response to an internal consultation on the Habitats Regulations Assessment of a project

TO: Jack Thompson, Marine Licensing Team

FROM: Delyth Rowlands, Marine Area Advice and Management Team

SUBJECT: Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of RML2446 Benthic sampling for educational purposes across North Wales

Thank you for consulting the Marine Area Advice and Management Team on the above project and sending us an updated copy of the draft Form 1 HRA report dated 11th July 2024. Our comments are as follows:

The proposal is relevant to several European designated sites. We note that you have produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) dated 11th July 2024. We advise that we can agree with the conclusion that the proposed works will not have a likely significant effect on the sites assessed.

Signed: *Delyth Rowlands*

Date: 24th July 2024
