

Record of a Habitats Regulations Assessment of a project

March 2016

OGN 200 Form 1

Document owner: Protected Sites Team, KSP

Version History:

Document Version	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.0	March 2016	Document created

Review Date: February 2017

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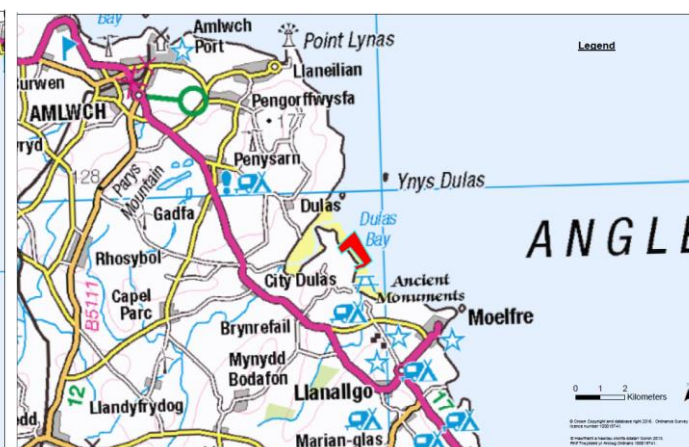
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1. Project Details

1(a): Project details where an external party has applied to NRW for any form of authorisation			
Application reference number (if applicable)		DEML2248v2	
Date application received		02 July 2024	
Applicant details		Project Seagrass	
Activity proposed		The project proposes to plant seagrass over an area of 10 hectare within a search area that covers 7 sites in the shallow coastal water areas of the Llyn Peninsula and Anglesey. <u>Variation 1</u> Previously, seed bags were deposited from a slow-moving vessel however, the methodology has now been updated to include the use of two sleds for seagrass planting, which either inject seagrass seeds into the sediment or bury seed packages (biodegradable bags of seeds or seed balls). When it is towed, the sled opens shallow furrows (the depth can be adjusted based on local sediment conditions), into which the seeds are injected through a peristaltic pump operated from the boat, and the furrow is closed again afterwards. The sled is 1 metre in width. The planting depth is a few centimetres and can be adjusted based on local sediment conditions. <u>Variation 2</u> Add the use of a self-propelled underwater robot (a Remotely Operated Vehicle, i.e. ROV) which can plant seagrass seeds and transplants into the seabed. The robot does not need to be towed as it has its own propulsion and electronically injects seagrass seeds and transplants into the seabed as instructed from surface control.	
Relevant legislation		Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	
Location		As appropriate: 6 sites are located on Llyn Peninsula and 1 site on Anglesey. The sites are Abersoch, Warren (between Abersoch and Llanbedrog), Y Gamlas, Pwllheli, two sites at Pen-Y-Chain, and Traeth yr Ora	
		Centroids of seagrass search areas	
		Site name	Latitude
		Abersoch	52.81159155
			Longitude
			-4.489611885

Warren	52.84158408	-4.485197335
Y Gamlas	52.86756318	-4.459700659
Pwllheli	52.89345695	-4.389954436
Pen Y Chain	52.90262179	-4.319900608
Pen Y Chain2	52.90783240	-4.300337871
Traeth yr Ora	53.37265169	-4.266003876



Application documents

DEML2248 0_MarineLicense-Band2-Application-combined, which includes:

- Marine License Band 2 application: continuation of sections 6(a), 6(b), 7(a).
- Digimaps (Ordnance Survey) of the 7 proposed seagrass search areas.
- Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Water Framework Directive Assessment
- Biosecurity Assessment & Management 1
- Biosecurity Assessment & Management 2
- Policy context of seagrass restoration in Wales
- Correspondence with NRW
- Letters of support:
 - AONB officer – Bleddyn Jones
 - PLAS SAC officer – Alison Hargrove
 - NRW Planning Team Leader – Dr. Jasmine Sharp
 - Isle of Anglesey County Council AONB Team - Christian Branch
- Pwllheli Town Council Member – Iwan Edgar

Environmental Statement	N/A
Pre-application correspondence	Correspondance with NRW is provided as appendices to the application form
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?	Yes The aims of the project contribute directly to the improved status of conservation of the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau (Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau) SAC, the Liverpool Bay SPA, and the Anglesey Terns SPA. Seagrasses are species/habitat components named of features of the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC and supports the provision of food for features of the Liverpool Bay SPA and Anglesey Terns SPA. Specifically, the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC, the Liverpool Bay SPA, and the Anglesey Terns SPA contain the features "Large Shallow Inlets and Bays", and "Mudflats and Sandflats" (as described in the Habitats Directive Article 17 reports on marine habitats), where intertidal and subtidal seagrass beds are components of these features. Therefore, by increasing the extent of seagrass, this restoration project works towards the conservation objectives for the intertidal "Mudflats and Sandflats" features and the "Large Shallow Inlets and Bays" features present within the sites. Moreover, seagrasses are well know nursery grounds for fish and invertebrates supporting bird species as well as forage habitat for multiple species and working in favour of the conservation objective of maintaining the extent of supportive habitat (food provision). Finally, seagrasses are habitats of conservation importance (Environment (Wales) Act Section 7 and OSPAR threatened and declining habitats and species).
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?	No
2.3 Is it necessary to carry out an HRA?	'Insert 'YES' or 'NO' If YES, go to section 3 of the form If NO, provide brief explanation (e.g. no conceivable impact on any Natura 2000 site, by virtue of the scale or location or nature of the project), delete sections 3, 4, and 5 of the form and complete section 6. If any protected advice has been sought, complete section 7, and section 8 if applicable.

	NB Screening of permit renewals on the same or more restrictive terms should be dealt with by answering 'YES' here, and completing section 3.1 of this form
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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)	X
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)	
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: <i>J. Thompson</i> Name: Jack Thompson Position: Marine Licensing Officer Date: 26/07/2024	

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
2, 6	07 August 2024	Adivosry agree with conclusions of HRA.

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

March 2016

OGN 200 Form 2

Document owner: Protected Sites Team, KSP

Version History:

Document Version	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.0	March 2016	Document created

Review Date: February 2017

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

TO: Jack Thompson

FROM: Katie Reynolds

SUBJECT: Habitats Regulation Assessment of [DEML2248v2 Seagrass Ocean Rescue](#)

Thank you for consulting [Marine Area Advice and Management Team](#) on the above project and sending us a copy of the draft Form 1 HRA report dated 26/07/2024. Our comments are as follows:

We agree with the conclusions of the Form 1, that a 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, and the project is not likely to have a significant effect on any other Natura 2000/Ramsar sites.

Signed: *KReynolds*

Date: 07/08/2024
