CSCC•CWIC

Engineering Design Services

ED3390 Aberystwyth Harbour Dredging

Biosecurity Plan

18/09/2024

Report Prepared for:-

Owen Morgan, Harbour Manager, Highways & Environmental Services,
Ceredigion County Council

Report No. ED3390_Biosecurity_1

Prepared By George HT Ryley BSc, MSc

ED3390 Aberystwyth Harbour Dredging Biosecurity Plan

	Name	Signature	Position	Date of Issue	Version
Prepared	George HT Ryley		CCC Highways Ecologist	18/09/2024	1
Approved					

Record of Previous Issue and Amendments

Version	Revision date	Summary of Changes

North Area Office
Kirkhamsfield Depot
Pool Road
Newtown
Powys
SY16 3AF

East Area Office
County Hall
Spa Road East
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

South Area Office
Neaudd Brycheiniog
Cambrian Way
Brecon
Powys
LD3 7HR

West Area Office
Penmorfa
Aberaeron
Ceredigion
SA46 0PA

1. Introduction

As part of the Marine Licence application to renew the licence for Aberystwyth Harbour Maintenance Dredging, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) require a biosecurity plan. This document sets out the procedure that will be followed to prevent the introduction or spread of any invasive non-native species (INNS) when carrying out the dredging.
Movement of vessels, equipment and/or stock can cause both the introduction of new INNS and the spread of INNS already established at a site to new locations. All contractors working on site will be issued a copy of this document.

2. Legal & ecological position on biosecurity

There are a number of pieces of legislation relevant to biosecurity and INNS in the UK, including:

Environmental Protection Act 1990
Covers, amongst others, pollution control, waste and contaminated land. Soil and other material containing viable INNS material is classed as controlled waste under the Act.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
Section 14 of the Act regulates the release of non-native species into the wild and makes it illegal to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant listed on Schedule 9 of the Act or, alternatively, release or allow to escape into the wild any animal listed on Schedule 9.

EU Regulation (1143/2014) on invasive alien (non-native) species
This regulation imposes restrictions on a list of species of ‘Union concern’.

3. Existing records of INNS

A record search with Aderyn, LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information and Reporting Database, was carried out on 18/09/2024, which returned no records of any INNS associated with the harbour or within 500m of it. However, Himalayan Balsam and Japanese knotweed are known by the author to be growing along the banks of the river Rheidol which flows through the harbour basin into the sea, and along the river Ystwyth at the south of the Harbour. Whilst there are no known stands of Himalayan Balsam within the harbour limits, stands of Japanese knotweed are known to occur on the outskirts of the inner harbour limits, above the level of the harbour floor.

3. Biosecurity risk assessment & resulting method statement

L = Likelihood, S = Severity, R = Rating (= L x S)

Likelihood	**Severity**	**Risk Rating =** **Likelihood x Severity**
1. Very unlikely	1. Insignificant	1 to 4 (Low Risk – acceptable level, may need attention if not as low as reasonably practicable.)
2. Unlikely	2. Minor	
3. Likely	3. Moderate	6 to 9 (Medium Risk – requires attention as soon as possible.)
4. Highly Likely	4. Major	12 to 16 (High Risk – immediately implement controls).

Hazard	'Raw' risk			Control measures	Residual risk		
	L	S	R		L	S	R
1. Introducing species of INNS on dredging machinery or other equipment	2	3	6	• NB: Likelihood is low since dredging will be carried out by land-based machinery, not by specialist dredging vessels and as such, no ballast waters are carried (ballast waters are often the cause of spread of INNS by vessels). • Footwear of all workers, visitors, contractors to be clean on entering site and to be cleaned prior to visiting other sites. This is especially important mitigation due to the presence of Knotweed on the outskirts of the inner harbour.	1	3	3
2. Spreading INNS between locations while working on site	3	2	6	• Care will be taken to only move sediment across the site during the dredging operation; any obvious plant / algal material will be left where found or removed to a suitably licensed site by a suitably licensed carrier if suspected to be a species of INNS. • Dredging to be carried out at low tide in suitably calm conditions; machinery will not enter the water. • A buffer (and no-go) zone of between 5 and 10 metres is to be established around any known stand of Japanese Knotweed within the harbour limits, and any other area identified later than the date of this plan that contains INNS of any species.	2	2	4
3. Exporting INNS to other sites	2	3	6	• None of the dredged material is to be taken off site, a part from to the deposit zones.	1	3	3

				• All footwear, machinery and equipment to be cleaned and/ or treated as appropriate prior to leaving site - especially important mitigation due to the presence of Knotweed on the outskirts of the inner harbour. • A buffer (and no-go) zone of between 5 and 10 metres is to be established around any known stand of Japanese Knotweed within the harbour limits, and any other area identified later than the date of this plan that contains INNS of any species.			

5. References

Cook, E.J., Macleod, A. Payne, R.D., and Brown, S. (2014) edited by Natural England and Natural Resources Wales (2015). Marine Biosecurity Planning – Guidance for producing site and operation-based plans for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native species in England and Wales.