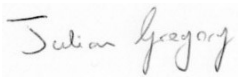


2024

**DJP Abertafol
(CERDS)
Biosecurity Management Plan &
Risk Assessment**



DOCUMENT INFORMATION			
Project	DJP Abertafol – Underbridge Repairs		
Location	Address: A493, Abertafol, Pennal, Gwynedd, Wales, LL35 0RF Grid Ref: SN 67034 97596		
Title	Biosecurity Management Plan & Risk Assessment		
Document Ref	EV002135/BSMP-1	Issue / Revision	1.0
File reference	EV002135/BSMP-1		
Start Date	18/11/2024		
	Name	Signature	Date
Assessment Undertaken by	Owain Waters		18/11/2024
Document prepared by	Owain Waters		20/11/2024
Checked by	Julian Gregory		12/2024
Authorised by	Julian Gregory		12/2024

DOCUMENT CONTROL		
Rev.	Date	Description
0	11/24	Draft
1	12/24	Issued

Disclaimer

No part of this document may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from EcoVigour. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control.

This document has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party/parties and unless otherwise agreed in writing by EcoVigour, no other party may use, make use of, or rely on the contents of the report.

No liability is accepted by EcoVigour for any use of this document, other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the document are on the basis of EcoVigour using due skill, care and diligence in the preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided as to their accuracy.



CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
1.1	Overview	3
1.2	Project Background	3
1.3	Site Context	3
1.4	Vessels to be used during the project	4
1.5	Invasive Species – Summary	4
1.6	Priority Monitoring and Surveillance List for Wales	4
1.7	Characteristics of Known INNS	5
1.8	Terrestrial INNS.....	5
1.9	Mobile INNS.....	5
2.	Biosecurity Risk Assessment & Management.....	6
1.10	Summary of the risks of INNS spread as a result from project activities and preventative management measures.....	6
3.	Monitoring and Corrective Action	8
2.1	INNS Monitoring.....	8
2.2	Corrective measures should non-compliance occur	8
4.	Conclusion	9

FIGURES

Figure 1: OS Map Location.....	3
--------------------------------	---

TABLES

Table 1: Summary of Marine INNS characteristics.....	5
Table 2: Identification of INNS of Bird.	5



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1 This Biosecurity Management Plan & Risk Assessment identifies the biosecurity risks associated with the DJP Abertafol remedial works. It identifies potential biosecurity sources, pathways and receptors.
- 1.1.2 Key risks are:
- ◆ Release of Invasive non-native plant species (Terrestrial and Marine);
 - ◆ And release or propagation waterborne diseases and fungus;
- 1.1.3 This document supports the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Rail Environmental Social Management Plan (ESMP). These documents have been submitted to Natural Resources Wales as part of the necessary Marine License Application to sanction works with the protected designated sites and estuary environment.

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 Scheduled masonry arch repairs required by Network Rail (NR). The proposed works will be undertaken between latter Spring 2025 (exact start date of works dependent on Marine License Assent).

1.3 SITE CONTEXT

- 1.3.1 The project is situated between along the North shore of the Afon Dyfi Estuary (Grid Ref: SN 66065 97223). No formal project compound is to be utilised; however a towed welfare unit or mobile welfare vans will be used. These will either be parked/placed within the existing A493 layby, or with the opening of the field to the northeast of the structure (dependent on third party landowner agreements). The figure below illustrate the sites location in relation to the wider area and PLAS SAC.

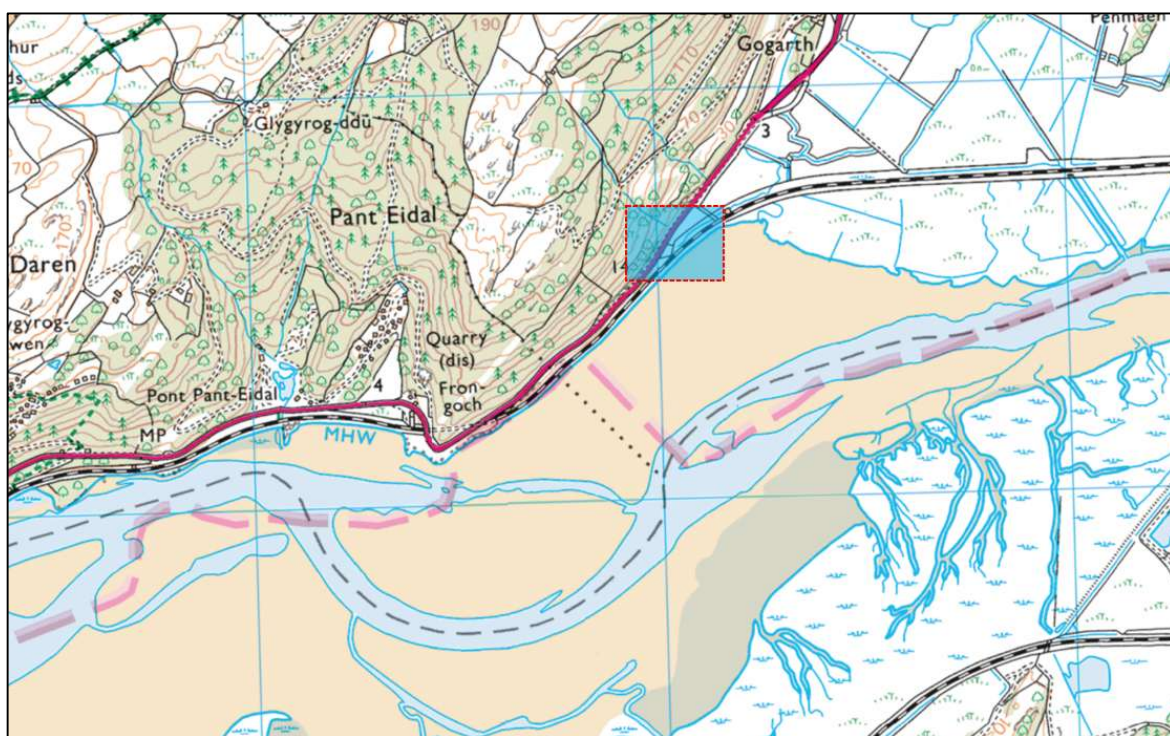


Figure 1: OS Map Location.



1.4 VESSELS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 1.4.1 No vessels are currently envisaged to be used during this project. If however, vessels do become a requirement then this section will detail the vessel type, intended role, vessel operator/owner and port of origin.

1.5 INVASIVE SPECIES – SUMMARY

- 1.5.1 Invasive, non-native, alien or exotic species (INNS), are species that have been released into an environment outside of their native bio-geographic range or habitat either by accident or intentionally.
- 1.5.2 Consequently, some species are more resilient or aggressive in the new environment to their native counterparts, out-competing and ultimately having a detrimental impact on native habitats as a whole.
- 1.5.3 Within the marine environment, INNS can be spread via a number of natural and anthropogenic pathways including ocean currents, aquatic debris, aquaculture, biofouling of marine vessels, exchange of ballast water and or even intentional introductions.
- 1.5.4 The general stages describing the encroachment of a new INNS is summarised below:
- ◆ **Introduction** – this is most frequently due to human activity e.g. shipping, aquaculture, poor biosecurity controls.
 - ◆ **Establishment** – having arrived in the new habitat, a species will begin to compete with a niche
 - ◆ **Expansion** – once established, the species will expand and occupy as much space as possible, reducing available resources or directly attacking native species.
 - ◆ **Persistence** – successful expansion can lead to long term establishment of that species in an area, with an increasing difficulty to control the spread. Additionally, the further the expansion the higher the likelihood of a species being introduced in other areas, continuing a vicious cycle.

1.6 PRIORITY MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE LIST FOR WALES

- 1.6.1 NRW have produced a list of invasive species identified as High, Medium and Low Risk for Wales in the Marine environment. This is referenced to in Appendix A - Marine Invasive Non-native Species Priority Monitoring and Surveillance List for Wales.
- 1.6.2 The table below highlights the marine INNS currently known in be proximity to Pant Eidal area downstream of the DJP structure and the wider estuary. To date, this species has not been identified on the structure, however sightings will be recorded and forwarded to NRW.

	Afon Dyfi Estuary	
Marine Non-native species known to be present	Austrominius modestus (Low Risk Status)	



1.7 CHARACTERISTICS OF KNOWN INNS

- 1.7.1 The table below are extracts from Appendix A - Marine Invasive Non-native Species Priority Monitoring and Surveillance List for Wales. This illustrates the level of risks posed by the species, likely pathway, impact and current management actions.

Table 1: Summary of Marine INNS characteristics.

Species and Group	Risk Assessment Score	Justification	Primary Introduction Pathway	Impact Summary	Management Action
Austrominius modestus Crustacean	Low / unknown risk Risk assessment not available	NA	Recorded in Wales	More data required	Record sightings

1.8 TERRESTRIAL INNS

- 1.8.1 There are currently no identified terrestrial INNS, such as Japanese Knotweed or Himalayan Balsam within the project footprint. Japanese Knotweed is known to exist in isolated stands along sections of the Dyfi rail corridor.

1.9 MOBILE INNS

- 1.9.1 The table below details two invasive bird species have been highlighted within the Wales INNS portal regarding the Dyfi Estuary. Sightings of these birds should be recorded and forwarded to NRW to improve records. INNS of birds apply additional competition pressures to species such as White Fronted Geese, which have been in decline for over a decade.

Table 2: Identification of INNS of Bird.

INNS Name	Identification
Alopochen aegyptiaca (Egyptian Goose)	
Aix galericulata (Mandarin Duck)	



2. BIOSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

2.1 SUMMARY OF THE RISKS OF INNS SPREAD AS A RESULT FROM PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND PREVENTATIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1.1 The following aspect register formulates the assessed risk by multiplying the likelihood of an event or encountering a species (L), by the severity implicated by that event/encounter (S). This quantified the assessed risk of the impact (R).

2.1.2 (L) & (S) are measured between Negligible (1), moderate (2) & high (3) to create the final value.

Activity	Pathway/Vector	Risk Assessment			Preventative Measures	Risk of spread following mitigation		
		L	S	R		L	S	R
Import/removal/disposal of materials	Transfer of INNS on materials	1	1	2	All artificial material to be used will be new and so free from Biofouling. Temporary scaffolding (PASMA) equipment will be stored dry for a minimum period of 48hrs prior to use or will be sprayed with an aquatic disinfectant such as Virkon S. Scaffold will be jet washed if required to remove site material from previous usage. Material from any breaking out or coring of existing concrete shrouds will be thoroughly collected and removed from the environment.	1	1	2
Introduction of manmade structures	Increased availability of artificial hard surfaces available for colonisation by INNS	1	1	2	No new manmade structure independent of the refurbishment works will be introduced to the estuary.	1	1	2
Disturbance of INNS present	Dispersal of INNS released into the water during construction activities	2	2	4	Austrominius modestus have been recorded near the structure but has not been visual confirmed to be present on the structure. As the structures is to be replaced, a portion of these species if present, would removed with other material. This material will be removed from the marine environment permanently. A pre-works check of any components influenced by the tidal limits which could allow for Austrominius modestus will be marked up.	1	1	2



Activity	Pathway/Vector	Risk Assessment			Preventative Measures	Risk of spread following mitigation		
		L	S	R		L	S	R
Use of plant machines and support vehicles during project.	Transfer of INNS from previous sites				All site personnel and site visitors will be informed if any INNS are known to be present on site and that they are jointly responsible for preventing their spread/impacts. They will be made aware of what these species look like so they can avoid it where possible and take appropriate actions. All site personnel and visitors will be inducted in good biosecurity practices. This will include adoption of the CHECK-CLEAN-DRY campaign (NNSS, 2015). The CHECK-CLEAN-DRY poster will be displayed in the site office as a reminder of good biosecurity practices: - http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/ The spread of waterborne diseases will be limited through the adoption of the CHECK-CLEAN-DRY campaign. This would entail the use of a suitable disinfectant e.g. Virkon® S Aquatic to decontaminate all machinery and PPE prior to it entering site for the first and upon leaving site, either at the end of the phase or if being sent to a different project/off hired. Following application of a suitable disinfectant, machinery and PPE will be allowed to fully dry for at least 72 hours before being used near another aquatic site.			
Personnel transferring between roles and different sites.	Transfer of terrestrial INNS	1	3	4	Personal and Company vehicles will likely visit other sites as part of the normal role of a given employee. A disinfection station will be set up at the entrance to the compounds to disinfect wheels and boots/wellies, using an aquatic disinfectant such as Virkon S. All equipment, tools, vehicles and personal protective equipment (PPE) used on site will be checked for seeds originating from any identified INNS before leaving the area. If seeds from identified invasive species are identified, the items will be cleaned and removed seeds will be destroyed.	1	1	2



3. MONITORING AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

3.1 INNS MONITORING

- 3.1.1 Monitoring for non-native species will continue during the remedial process.
- 3.1.2 Implementation of a monitoring programme for non-native species would include toolbox talks with site personnel on INNS identification. This information could then be shared with NRW to improve knowledge of INNS whereabouts in this specific portion of the Abertafol.
- 3.1.3 The ongoing requirement for vigilance and reporting of instances of INNS identification.
- 3.1.4 Should terrestrial INNS be encountered near working areas or along access and egress points that cannot be segregated from these areas. Then a be-spoke INNS Management Plan will be required.
- 3.1.5 Inspections and cleaning should be undertaken periodically as a means of routine surveillance but may be specifically appropriate before and after any planned period of machine inactivity.

3.2 CORRECTIVE MEASURES SHOULD NON-COMPLIANCE OCCUR

- 3.2.1 Corrective measures will be implemented in the event of a machine or individual found breaching biosecurity protocol, for example a plant machine being allowed to arrive at the structure but on arrival found to have significant biofouling or a vehicle coming into contact with terrestrial INNS and entering the vicinity of the estuary without prior biosecurity measures being implemented.
- 3.2.2 Corrective actions could include:
 - ◆ Inform relevant authorities where appropriate i.e. for non-compliant vessels or machines.
 - ◆ Remove offending machine back to local yard or nearest compound.
 - ◆ Undertake appropriate measures to clean the machine while minimising any further risks e.g. cleaning in situ within secure compound.
 - ◆ Investigate the cause of the incident and implement measures to avoid such events from occurring again.



4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The assessment has considered the individual project activities and specific known marine and terrestrial non-native species present within the works footprint and access routes.
- 4.1.2 Consequently, implementation of the management measures will ensure the risk of INNS spreading in this section of the Abertafol as a result of the scour protection project will remain low.
- 4.1.3 This document will be reviewed in 6 months to ensure any new data is added to assessment to ensure it is always robust and reflects all available data.