

Record of a Habitats Regulations Assessment of a project or spatially-specific plan

OGN 200 Form 1B (with structured tables for likely significant effect screening and appropriate assessment)

Document owner: Head of Business for Natural Resource Management

Version History:

Document Version	Date Published	Summary of Changes
2.0	21/10/2024	Following 2023/24 review of HRA OGNs

Next review date: October 2025

Record of a Habitats Regulations Assessment.....	3
1. Plan or Project Details	3
2. Determining the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment.....	5
3. Considering the likelihood of a significant effect (LSE)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4. Appropriate assessment of the plan or project when considered alone	Error! Bookmark not defined.
5. In combination assessment	Error! Bookmark not defined.
6. Conclusion	5
7. Consultation with the ANCB and how sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this HRA report (as applicable) take into account that advice.	7
8. Countersignature	Error! Bookmark not defined.
9. Appendix - Supporting information.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

OGN 200 Form 1B

Record of a Habitats Regulations Assessment

Plan or project name, brief description or application reference number	RML2545 – A48 Ground Investigation Works
HRA iteration/version	Version 1.0

1. Plan or Project Details

Information about the plan or project		
1	Date application received	01/08/2025
2	Applicant details	Alun Jones – Centregreat Ltd. Parcau Isaf Farm Bridgend CF32 0NB
3	NRW team responsible for carrying out, or requiring to be carried out, the plan or project, and name of lead officer	N/A
4	Activity/ies proposed	• Installation of a cantilever scaffold system fixed to the base of Pier 7, extending out over the river channel. • Positioning of a rotary drilling rig (Comacchio MC600 or similar) on the scaffold platform.

		• Drilling of rotary cored boreholes to approximately 30m depth. • Recovery and logging of core samples.
5	Relevant legislation or statutory basis	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
6	Location	51.632456, -3.8308563 51.632238, -3.8308637 51.632252, -3.8313277 51.632481, -3.8313797
7	Plan or project documents, including any application documents	RML2545 – Application Form.pdf RML2545 - A48 70 NRB Pier 7 Preliminary Exploratory Hole Plan.pdf RML2545 - Pier 7 Marine Licence MS (1).pdf RML2545 - P701 Pier 7 Location Drawing.pdf RML2545 - MCA Email correspondence.pdf RML2545 - Trinity House Email Correspondence.pdf RML2545 - RCAHMW Email correspondence.pdf RML2545 - ML0110 Bridge, Neath.docx
8	Environmental Statement	N/A
9	Pre-application correspondence	N/A
10	NRW team responsible for preparing this HRA report, and lead officer	Dylan Morgan – Marine Licensing Officer – Marine Licensing Team
11	Team or person responsible for approving the plan or project (competent authority role)	As row 10

2. Determining the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.1 Is there any possibility that the plan or project could negatively affect any European sites?	NO – The closest European site is the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC which is approximately 30km from the location of the works. As such, there is no conceivable impact pathway from the project to any European site given the projects nature, scale and location.
2.2 Is the whole of the plan or project directly and only connected with or necessary to the management of one or more European sites, for the purposes of conserving the habitats or species for which the European site(s) is/are designated?	N/A
2.3 Is there a possibility that the plan or project could affect any other feature of the European site(s) concerned, or of another European site, in a way that would undermine that feature's conservation objectives?	N/A

6. Conclusion

HRA is not required because there is no conceivable impact on any European sites. (As documented in section 2.1)	X
HRA is not required because the whole of the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of one or more European sites, for the purposes of conserving the habitats or species for which the site(s) is/are designated, <u>and</u> the plan or project is not likely to have a significant effect on any other European sites. (As documented in section 2.2 and 2.3)	
This project is a renewal of a current permission which complies with NRW agreed criteria for ruling out likely 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 European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. (As documented in section 3.1 of this form)	
The plan or project has been screened for likelihood of significant effects and is considered not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. (As documented in section 3.2 of this form, and section 5 if applicable)	

In light of the conclusions of an appropriate assessment it has been established that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites, taking into account any conditions or restrictions as applicable, either alone or in-combination with other plans or 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 plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites, as documented in section 4 of this form, and section 5 if applicable. Approval for the plan or project <u>cannot</u> be given unless either: - the plan or 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 is prepared, or - the plan or project (not being an SSSI consent*) satisfies the requirements for a derogation and a Derogation Notice is prepared and submitted for consideration by the appropriate authority, normally Welsh Ministers (*SSSI consents cannot be given as derogations)	
Signed: Dylan Morgan Name: Dylan Morgan Position: Marine Licensing Officer Date: 13/08/2025	
Was this HRA conclusion an escalated decision? YES or NO	NO

7. Consultation with the ANCB 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	Correspondence and/or meetings with the ANCB	Description of how the comments from the ANCB have been taken into account
6	26 August 2025	NRW Advisory agree with the conclusion of the HRA.

Appropriate nature conservation body (ANCB) response to an internal HRA consultation

This form should be completed by the team or individual providing the ANCB advice to the competent authority team

TO: Dylan Morgan, Marine Licensing Officer, Evidence, Policy and Permitting Directorate

FROM: Rowland Sharp, Senior Marine Advisor, Marine Area Advice and Management Team

SUBJECT: Habitats Regulations Assessment of RML2545 A48 Ground Investigation Works

Thank you for consulting Marine Area Advice and Management Team on the above. Our comments are as follows:

The Marine Area Advice and Management Team agrees with the conclusion of the HRA that the project, as stated, will not have a Significant Effect on any European Site alone or in combination.

Signed: *Rowland Sharp*

Date: 26/08/2025