

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**

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OGN 200 Form 1B

Record of a Habitats Regulations Assessment

Plan or project name, brief description or application reference number	RML2547 – Gwynt y Mor Benthic Survey.
HRA iteration/version	N/A

1. Plan or Project Details

Information about the plan or project		
1	Date application received	18/08/2025
2	Applicant details	Krysia Mazik School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RX
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	Applicant looking to undertake grab sampling between:

		The applicant will be undertaking up to 81 grab samples of 0.1 m ² at 20cm depth. Sampling scheduled for between 21st-30th September.
5	Relevant legislation or statutory basis	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
6	Location	Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru Natural Resources Wales CML2547 Gwynt y Mor Benthic Survey Longitude Latitude G1 -3.80111 53.496544

		G2 -3.45037 53.573681 G3 -3.35915 53.424921 G4 -3.4159 53.412533 G5 -3.42206 53.431212 G6 -3.48133 53.424909 G7 -3.47419 53.403333 G8 -3.43895 53.407493 G9 -3.61676 53.36842 G10 -3.60802 53.382252 G11 -3.65398 53.392619 G12 -3.65939 53.384039 G13 -3.68714 53.390294 G14 -3.69254 53.379699 G15 -3.62978 53.365544 G16 -3.70883 53.348054
7	Plan or project documents, including any application documents	RML2547 - Application Form RML2547 Application Amendments Form RML2547 Uni Hull-Southampton coordinates GyM.xlsx RML2547 - Uni Hull_Southampton GyM survey points.jpg RML2547 - Uni Hull_Southampton Methods statement GyM surveys.pdf RML2547 - Uni Hull-Southampton Routes to GyM.docx RML2547 - Consultation replies.docx RML2547 Updated MCA Correspondence re Gwynt y Mor Benthic Survey RML2547 - Updated Trinity House Correspondence RML2547 - CONSULTATION EMAIL GyM surveys RML2547 Proposed Grab Sample Locations
8	Environmental Statement	N/A
9	Pre-application correspondence	Q25070

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?	YES
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?	

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

3.1 Renewal of a project authorisation on the same or more restrictive terms as an extant authorisation

Is this a renewal of an extant authorisation which complies with NRW approved criteria for ruling out	NO.
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significant effects of renewals (see Part 2 of OGN200) without conducting a project-specific LSE test?	
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3.2 Likelihood of significant effects (LSE) test

3.2.1 Which European sites might be affected by the plan or project?

(a)	Based on the plan or project specification, or information provided in the application, it is considered that these European sites have features which could be negatively affected by the plan or project	Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA [UK9020294]
(b)	The potential for the plan or project to negatively affect these European sites was also initially considered, but can be ruled out without further consideration	Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC UK0030202 – Location of grab sampling works situated outside the boundary of designated site, distance rules it out. Approximately 5km from location of the works to the designated site.

3.2.2 Screening for likelihood of significant effect

Table 3.2.2 Screening assessment			
Designated site feature	Relevant conservation objectives	Screening conclusion – ‘SCREEN OUT’, ‘SCREEN IN’ or ‘IN COMB’	Explanation
Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA			
Red-throated diver	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives:	SCREEN OUT	An impact pathway exists for disturbance as a result of benthic grab sampling, however, as a single vessel is being used this will be

<i>Gavia stellata</i> (in non-breeding season)	liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)		minimal. A maximum of 81 grab samples will be taken by a Hamon grab sampler of 0.1m2 at a depth of 20cm. Although there will be increased sedimentation, given the small scale nature of the activity and large survey area, this will not be significant.
Little gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> (in non-breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	SCREEN OUT	An impact pathway exists for disturbance as a result of benthic grab sampling, however, as a single vessel is being used this will be minimal. A maximum of 81 grab samples will be taken by a Hamon grab sampler of 0.1m2 at a depth of 20cm. Although there will be increased sedimentation, given the small scale nature of the activity and large survey area, this will not be significant.
Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> (in non-breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	SCREEN OUT	An impact pathway exists for disturbance as a result of benthic grab sampling, however, as a single vessel is being used this will be minimal. A maximum of 81 grab samples will be taken by a Hamon grab sampler of 0.1m2 at a depth of 20cm. Although there will be increased sedimentation, given the small scale nature of the activity and large survey area, this will not be significant.
Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i> (in breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	SCREEN OUT	An impact pathway exists for disturbance as a result of benthic grab sampling, however, as a single vessel is being used this will be minimal. A maximum of 81 grab samples will be taken by a Hamon grab sampler of 0.1m2 at a depth of 20cm. Although there will be increased sedimentation, given the small scale nature of the activity and large survey area, this will not be significant. The applicant has proposed to work outside of the October to February which will prevent significant overlap with the breeding season.
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (in breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	SCREEN OUT	An impact pathway exists for disturbance as a result of benthic grab sampling, however, as a single vessel is being used this will be minimal. A maximum of 81 grab samples will be taken by a Hamon grab sampler of 0.1m2 at a depth of 20cm. Although there will be increased sedimentation, given the small scale nature of the activity and large survey area, this will not be significant. The applicant has proposed to work outside of October to February which will prevent significant overlap with the breeding season.

Waterbird assemblage	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	SCREEN OUT	An impact pathway exists for disturbance as a result of benthic grab sampling, however, as a single vessel is being used this will be minimal. A maximum of 81 grab samples will be taken by a Hamon grab sampler of 0.1m² at a depth of 20cm. Although there will be increased sedimentation, given the small scale nature of the activity and large survey area, this will not be significant. The applicant has proposed to work outside of October to February which will prevent significant overlap with the breeding season.
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TABLE 3.2.3 Screening decision of the plan or project 'alone'	
(a) If the screening conclusion for <u>all</u> features for all sites in Table 3.2.2 is 'SCREEN OUT'	The plan or project is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site, and no further consideration under the Habitats Regulations is required in order to determine the approval/application.
(b) If the conclusion for <u>any</u> features in Table 3.2.2 is 'SCREEN IN'	The plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on one or more European sites and therefore an appropriate assessment is required.
(c) If there are no features in Table 3.2.2 that are 'SCREEN IN' and <u>any</u> features that are 'IN COMB'	The plan or project is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites when considered alone, but the possibility of significant effects in combination with other plans and projects needs to be considered.

6. Conclusion

HRA is not required because there is no conceivable impact on any European sites. (As documented in section 2.1)	
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)	X
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: D.Morgan Name: Dylan Morgan Date: 04/09/2025 Position: Marine Licensing Officer	
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		NRW A agree with conclusions of 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 Team
FROM: Bridget Randall-Smith Marine Area Advice and Management Team
SUBJECT: Habitats Regulations Assessment of RML2547 – Gwynt y Mor Benthic Survey

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

NRW Advisory (A) agree with the conclusion of the above mentioned HRA, with respect to the marine features of the Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA [UK9020294].

NRW (A) agree that the proposed works are not likely to have a significant effect the above European site and associated features given the scale and timing of the proposal.

Signed:



Bridget Randall-Smith

Senior Marine Advisory Officer

Marine Area Advice and Management Team

Date:12/09/2025