

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	CML2556 - Saint Julians River Bridge bolt replacement and investigation
HRA iteration/version	Version 1.0

1. Plan or Project Details

Information about the plan or project		
1	Date application received	23 September 2025
2	Applicant details	M Group Transport (Rail & Aviation) Limited, Abel Smith House, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, England, SG1 2ST Company number: 01450372
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	Drone survey of bridge structure. Replace missing bolt(s) to rail bearer connection(s), replace sheared bolts at failed connection(s). Investigate and replace surrounding rail bearer connections bolts for further failed connections. Provision of small boat/vessel for rescue purposes only.

7	Plan or project documents, including any application documents	CML2556 – Application Form CML2556 - St Julians – Location CML2556 - St Julians - Proposed Vessel Route CML2556 - 0707A St Julians Risk assessment CML2556 - Task Brief 0384A_WAL_MGR St Julians CML2556 - Task Brief St Julians bolt replacement CML2556 - Email to Trinity House and MCA re works at St Julians Rail Bridge CML2556 - Updated MCA Correspondence CML2556 - Trinity House Correspondence
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?	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?	NO
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

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 significant effects of renewals (see Part 2 of OGN200) without conducting a project-specific LSE test?	NO
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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	River Usk SAC - UK0013007
(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	Due to the distance of works (approximately 9.7km upstream) and minimally impactful nature and scale of works, the following European sites have been ruled out: - Severn Estuary (Wales) RAMSAR - Severn Estuary (Wales) SAC - Severn Estuary (Wales) SPA

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’,	Explanation

		'SCREEN IN' or 'IN COMB'	
European site name: River Usk SAC - UK0013007			
3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR Afon Wysg / River Usk SAC	SCREEN OUT	Considering the limited scope of the project rope access and a small safety boat/vessel present, there is no credible pathway from the project to cause an LSE upon the SAC features.
1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>			The bolt replacement works will be located upon or suspended via ropes from the bridge. Additionally, there will be a small rescue boat/vessel launched from a suitable nearby location; however, no works are to occur from the small vessel/boat. Therefore, there will be no LSE will occur to features located within the marine licensable area.
1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>			Additionally, any potential disruption considered as part of this work would be overshadowed by the noise and vibration produced by the regularly running commuter trains which the bridge serves.
1099 River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>			
1103 Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>			
1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>			
1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>			
1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>			
1102 Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>			

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 <u>no</u> 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 Position: Marine Licensing Officer Date: 10/10/2025	
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
2		
3	<u>CML2556- HRA Form 3 ANCB internal advice St Julians Bridge Repairs.docx</u>	Newport, Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent Environment Team agree with the conclusion of this HRA.
4		
5		

8. Countersignature

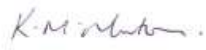
Appropriate nature conservation body (ANCB) response to an internal HRA consultation

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
FROM: Kerry Murton, Senior Officer Newport, Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent Environment Team
SUBJECT: Habitats Regulations Assessment of CML2556 St Julians Bridge Repairs

Thank you for consulting the Newport, Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent Environment Team on the above HRA. Our comments are as follows:

We agree with the conclusion of the HRA, that the proposal is considered not likely to have a significant effect on the River Usk SAC.


Signed:

Date: 21/10/25

9. Appendix - Supporting information

