

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	RML2561 - SOS Teaching and Research Programmes Grab Sampling - Grab samples for education and scientific research: the Skerries, Caernarfon Bay North or Menai Strait area
HRA iteration/version	Version 1.0

1. Plan or Project Details

Information about the plan or project		
1	Date application received	09 October 2025
2	Applicant details	Dr Michael Roberts – Bangor University, School of Ocean Sciences
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	Grab samples for education and scientific research: the Skerries, Caernarfon Bay North or Menai Strait area

7	Plan or project documents, including any application documents	RML2561 – Application Form – 01 October 2025 RML2561 - METHOD STATEMENT.docx – 09 October 2025 RML2561 - 2023 Maps of sampling area Part I and Part II updated Katrien.docx - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - Trinity House.pdf - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - RCAHMW.pdf - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - MCA.pdf - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - Heneb.pdf - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - IP_map_1.jpg - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - IP_map_2.jpg - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - Licence Area Shapefiles.zip - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - Anglesey_polygon_April2023_points_excel.xlsx - 09 October 2025 RML2561 - Teaching_polygon_April2023_points_excel.xlsx - 09 October 2025
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?	

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	• North Anglesey Marine/Gogledd Môn Forol SAC • Glannau Môn Cors Heli / Anglesey Coast saltmarsh SAC • Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC • Y Twyni o Abermenai i Aberffraw/ Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC • Bae Cemlyn SAC • Glan-traeth SAC • Holy Island Coast SAC • West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol SAC • Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau / Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC • Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA • Anglesey Terns SPA • Holy Island Coast SPA • Traeth Lafan SPA • Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries SPA
(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	The below European sites have been ruled out due to distance, nature of works and very minor overlap with the European sites within the grab sampling polygon:

		• Clogwyni Pen Llyn / Seacliffs of Llyn SAC • Great Orme's Head / Pen y Gogarth SAC The total volume of sediment to be extracted from the project across the entire grab sampling project is 2.42m³ Due to the distance, location of above European sites and nature of works (total amount of sediment to be grab sampled is 2.42m³), and as such unlikely to negatively affect these European sites.
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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
North Anglesey Marine/Gogledd Môn Forol SAC			
Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	NRW conservation objectives: North Anglesey Marine pSAC: Draft Conservation Objectives And Advice On Activities (naturalresources.wales)	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m ³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Y Twyni o Abermenai i Aberffraw/ Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC			
Embryonic shifting dunes (EU habitat code H2110)			

Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") (EU habitat code H2120)	abermenai-to-aberffraw-dunes-wes32-plan.pdf	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m ³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")*(Habitats Directive priority feature) (EU habitat code H2130)			
Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>). (EU habitat code H2170)			
Humid dune slacks (EU habitat code H2190)			
Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation (EU habitat code H3150)			
Transition mires and quaking			

Bogs (EU habitat code H7140)			
Petalwort <i>Petallophyllum ralfsii</i> (EU species code S1395)			
Shore dock <i>Rumex rupestris</i> (EU species code S1441)			
Glan-traeth SAC			
Great Crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> (EU species code S1166)	abermenai-to-aberffraw-dunes-wes32-plan.pdf	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m ³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Glannau Môn Cors Heli / Anglesey Coast saltmarsh SAC			
Estuaries (EU habitat code H1130)	abermenai-to-aberffraw-dunes-wes32-plan.pdf	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m ³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand (EU habitat code H1310)			
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (EU habitat code H1140)			

Atlantic salt meadow (ASM) (<i>Glauco Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) (EU habitat code H1330)			
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (EU habitat code H1230)	abermenai-to-aberffraw-dunes-wes32-plan.pdf This is a minor SAC feature on this site and no specific conservation objectives are required at this stage	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m ³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Bae Cemlyn SAC			
Coastal lagoons Priority 1 feature (EU Habitat code 1150)	conservation-advice-for-cemlyn-bay-sac.pdf	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m ³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks (EU Habitat code 1220)			
Shingle/boulders above high water			
Standing water – brackish			
Percolating saline lagoon			
Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries SPA			
Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			

Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Microsoft Word - Cemlyn WES32 plan English.doc	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>			
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
Anglesey Terns SPA			
Breeding population of Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisae</i>	conservation-advice-for-anglesey-terns-spa.pdf	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Breeding population of common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>			
Breeding population of roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>			
Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			
Holy Island Coast SAC			
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	2013 02 07 Glannau Ynys Gybi WES Plan English	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>			

European dry heaths			
Holy Island Coast SPA			
Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	2013 02 07 Glannau Ynys Gybi WES Plan English	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA			
Red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> (in non-breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Little gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> (in non-breeding season)			
Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> (in non-breeding season)			
Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i> (in breeding season)			
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (in breeding season)			
Waterbird assemblage			
Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC			
Mudflats and sandflats not			

covered by seawater at low tide	conservation-advice-for-menai-conwy-sac.pdf	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Reefs			
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time			
Large shallow inlets and bays			
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves			
Traeth Lafan SPA			
Oystercatcher	conservation-advice-for-traeth-lafan-spa.pdf	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			
Wintering populations of Red-breasted Merganser, Curlew, Redshank and concentration of Great Crested Grebe			
West Wales Marine SAC			
Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	NRW conservation objectives: West Wales Marine pSAC: Draft Conservation Objectives And Advice	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be

	On Activities (naturalresources.wales)		grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m ³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau/Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC			
Reefs	NRW conservation objectives : conservation-advice-for-pen-llyn-ar-sarnau-sac.pdf	SCREEN OUT	No impact pathway and as such no LSE due to the small scale nature of the works. Total volume of sediment to be grab sampled is estimated to be 2.42m³ across the entire project area seen in Appendix 1.
Large Shallow inlets and bays			
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater at all times			
Estuaries			
Coastal lagoons			
Mudflats and Sandflats			
Atlantic salt meadow			
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand feature			
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves			
Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>			

Grey Seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</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:  Name: Dylan Morgan Position: Marine Licensing Officer Date: 27/10/2025	
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	RML2561 - HRA Form 3 - School of Ocean Sciences Teaching and Research Programmes Grab Sampling.docx	NRW A agree with the conclusion of this HRA.
3		
4		
5		

8. Countersignature

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

TO: Dylan Morgan, Marine Licencing Officer
FROM: Rhodri Irranca-Davies, Marine Advice Assistant
SUBJECT: Habitats Regulations Assessment of RML2561 - School of Ocean Sciences Teaching and Research Programmes
Grab Sampling

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

We agree with the determination of the HRA, that the plan or project is considered not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites.

Signed: Rhodri Irranca-Davies

Date: 29/10/2025

9. Appendix - Supporting information

