Method Statement Template

This template is intended to be used in conjunction with a Band 1 Marine Licence application. Please complete each section below following the guidance provided (max 500 words per section). For any queries relating to this template please contact: marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

1. Summary

Please provide a brief summary of the application including location of the works (coordinates - lat/long, decimal degrees). For activities that cover a large area please provide coordinates of the approximate extent of works.

The aim of this project is to plant rows of small hessian bags containing seagrass seeds within an area (rectangle coordintaes stated above) in order to create 2 hectares of restored seagrass meadow.
Materials used will be hessian all of which biodegrade after 6-12 months.

- Lat 51.705603° Lon -5.160091°
- Lat 51.704565° Lon -5.160049°
- Lat 51.704347° Lon -5.155246°
- Lat 51.705423° Lon -5.155120°
-
- Decimal degrees showing the area (rectangle) within which the seagrass restoration work will take place (see map at end of document).

2. Scope of works

Please provide a full description of <u>all</u> proposed works including:

- *Sequence of works (mobilisation, marine works, site remediation (if required))*
- *Estimated timing of works (duration, working hours, day/night, plus contingency)*
- *Plant, machinery or vessel required*
- *Estimated quantities (removals, deposits, construction materials)*

Collected seed will be placed into hessian bags which will contain up to 100 seagrass seeds mixed with inert childrens play sand (approx. 200ml), approx. 20,000 bags in total.

Seeds will be collected from a mixture of donor sources including local meadows and other sites in north Wales and England. Where seeds have been taken from non-local sites, seeds will be sterilised using sodium hypochlorite and rinsed with sterile seawater.

Seeds will be collected throughout the summer months of 2019 and held in a biosecure aquarium facility at Swansea University.

Depolyments of the seed lines will take place between October 2019 and October 2020.

Deployments will be deployed using a small 6m rigid inflatable coded research vessel (RV Calypso), that will be launched each day using the public slipway at Dale. All deployments will be at depths of between 0.5m and 2m below mean low water spring.

At the end of each line and at a half way, hessian sandbags will be used to hold the lines in place on the seafloor. No material placed on the seabed will protrude more than 5cm above the sediment and will not cause any interaction with navigation.

After deployment from the boat, SCUBA divers will be deployed to inspect and tidy up the deployments to ensure they are fixed to the seabed (using biodegradable pegs).

SCUBA divers will inspect the deployments periodically and conduct any necessary repairs. After any storm events that hit Dale additional inspections will be conducted.

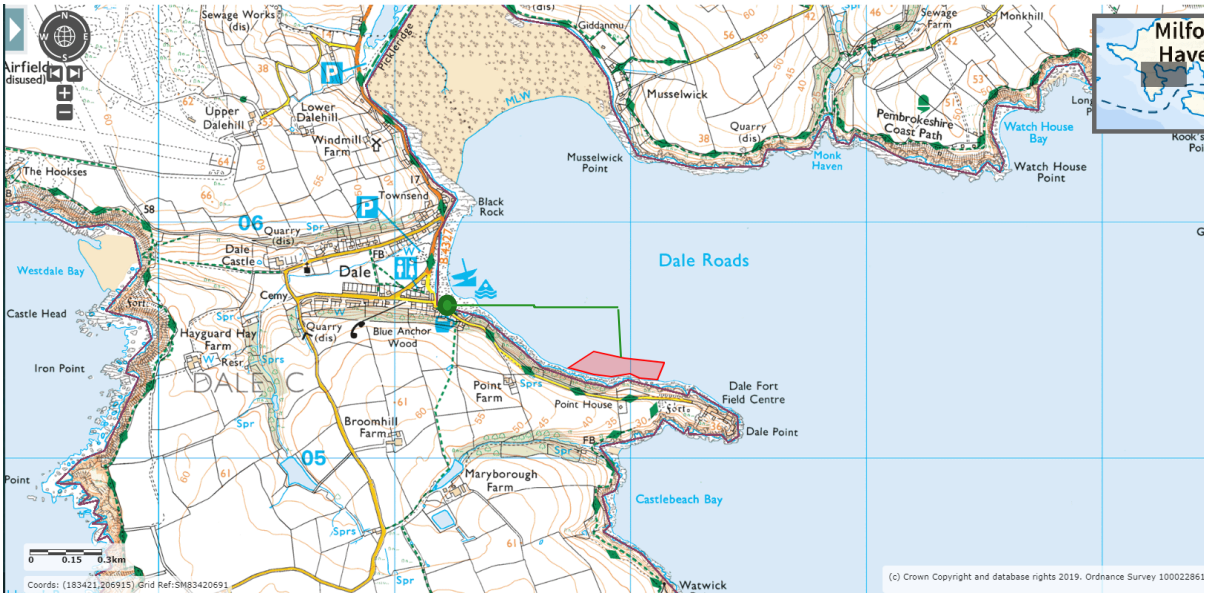
No fresh planting will happen in the second year but any failing seed bags will be replaced with new ones.

3. Access and working areas

Please provide details of access to the site and working areas. This should include:

- *Attached map of the access/egress route and working areas (annotated aerial image and/or OS map)*
- *Predicted plant/vehicle movements*
- *Storage areas for plant, equipment and materials (if required)*
- *Risks to navigation*

Below is a map of the area that is intended for the restoration and laying of the seagrass lines which will be laid parallel to shore. The RIB Calypso will leave Dale slipway and travel the short distance to the site. The bay is busy with recreational boat users and stakeholders including the yacht club and local fishermen will be informed prior to any activity carried out. The small RIB we will be using will not pose any risk to navigation and will always have a qualified skipper on board to maintain safety of all involved.



Map showing restoration area (red) and short distance from of travel for RIB Calypso carrying seedlines and diver from slipway to the site (green).

4. Environmental mitigation

Please list appropriate mitigation measures to minimise impacts on the marine environment these may include:

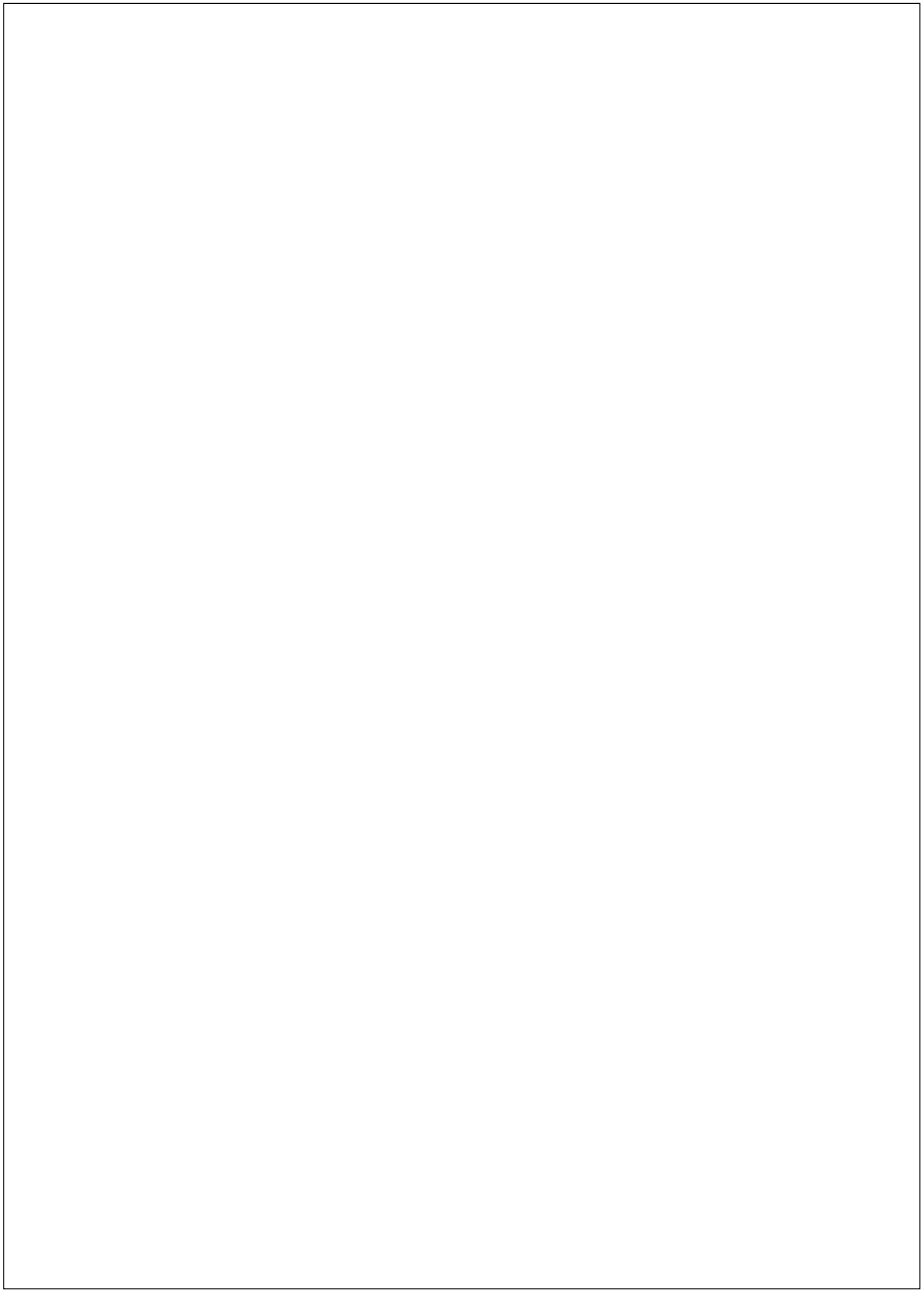
- *Pollution prevention and control procedure (guidance available at: http://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1304/gpp-5-works-and-maintenance-in-or-near-water.pdf)*
- *Spill response kits*
- *Minimise plant traffic*
- *Designated access and egress routes*
- *Storage of materials (fuel, chemicals, construction waste)*
- *Biosecurity (guidance available at http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1294630.pdf)*

Note: To assist you, the following mitigation statements will be used as conditions within the licence. By signing this method statement you will be agreeing to adhere to these restrictions. If you are unable to do this, the application will not qualify as Band 1.

- ✓ All equipment, temporary structures, access tracks, waste and/or debris associated with the works will be removed on completion of the works.
- ✓ Bunding, storage facilities and spill kits will be employed to contain and prevent the release of fuel, oils and chemicals associated with the plant, refuelling and construction equipment into the marine environment.
- ✓ Plant, vehicles and machinery will not be refuelled on the foreshore.
- ✓ Coatings and treatments will be suitable for use in the marine environment and are used in accordance with best environmental practice.
- ✓ All equipment, materials, machinery and PPE used will be in a clean condition prior to their arrival on site, and upon removal from site, to minimise risk of introducing non-native species into the marine environment.
- ✓ In the event of removal of any sensitive species or habitat designated by NRW under Schedule 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, no further removals will occur at that location or within 20m of that location.

Please list your bespoke mitigations here:

No envisaged pollution events. Boat engine will be properly serviced and maintained to prevent any spills. Spill kit for engine oil/fule will e carried on board.
Traffice will be minimised by having RIB moored on a free mooring whilst divers are in the water.
No storage of hazardous materials needed. All materials to be used are biodegradable and will be deploed for the experiment. Any fuel needed will be filled into the RIB fuel tank at a petrol station.
Biosecurity measures as aforementioned include sterilization of seagrass seeds from meadows outside of Milford Haven area, and biosecure storage of seeds in bespoke storage facility and aquarium system to be built on Singleton Campus of Swansea University ensuring no spread of invasive species can take place.

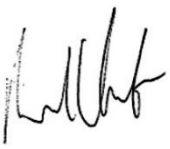


5. Additional Information

Please list any additional information that may help with the application:

- *Consents/permissions required*
- *List of plans or drawings attached to method statement*
- *Emergency procedures*
- *Contact details*

6. Customer details

Signature: 

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