

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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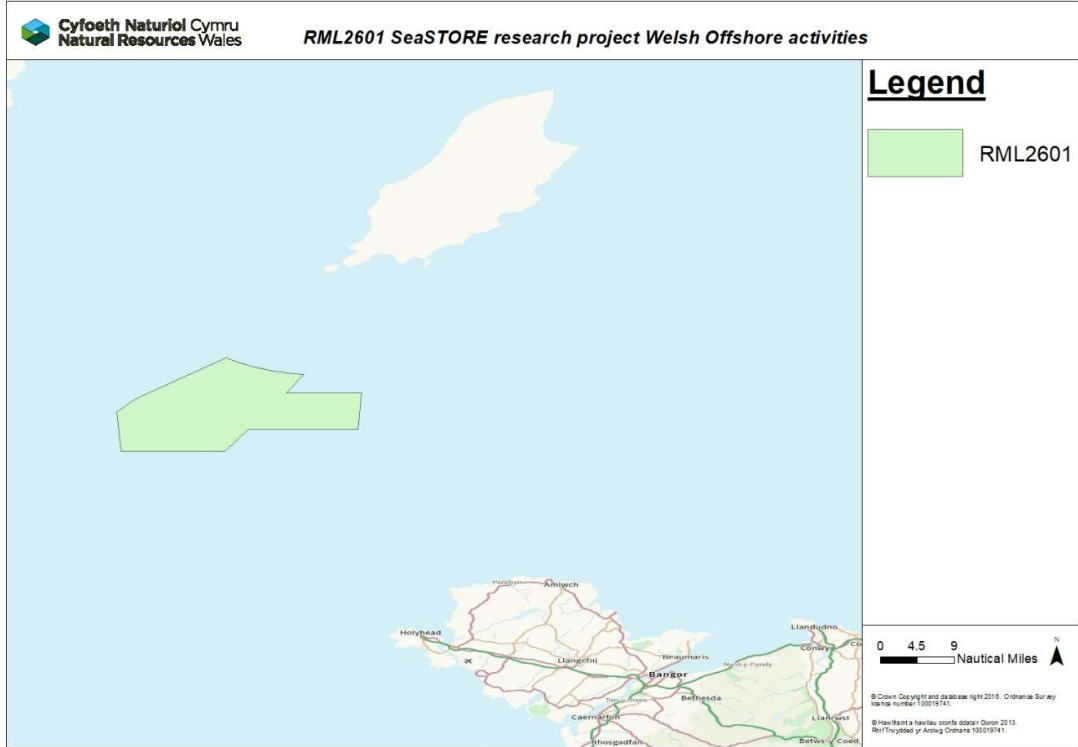
OGN 200 Form 1B

Record of a Habitats Regulations Assessment

Plan or project name, brief description or application reference number	RML2601 - SeaSTORE research project Welsh Offshore activities
HRA iteration/version	N/A

1. Plan or Project Details

Information about the plan or project		
1	Date application received	08 January 2026
2	Applicant details	School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University Askew Street, Menai Bridge, Ynys Mon, LL59 5AB
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	7 sampling stations. Sediment sampling using multi-corer/megacorer for 12 undisturbed samples in clear plastic tubes measuring 100mm in diameter by 600mm in length. SMBA/NIOZ box corer for sediment and fauna and Sediment Profile (SPI) camera. Multiple replicate samples to be taken at each station (maximum of 10 successful box cores and 2 multi-corer/megacorer deployments. Day grab to be taken as a back up sampler.

5	Relevant legislation or statutory basis	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
6	Location	Welsh Offshore Region (Irish Sea, North of Ynys Mon / Anglesey)  The map displays the Welsh Offshore Region, specifically the Irish Sea north of Ynys Mon / Anglesey. A green shaded area indicates the location of the RML2601 research project. The map includes a legend, a scale bar (0 to 9 Nautical Miles), and a north arrow. The map is titled 'RML2601 SeaSTORE research project Welsh Offshore activities' and includes the logo for Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales.
7	Plan or project documents, including any application documents	RML2601 - Application Form.pdf RML2601 Application Amendments Form Method Statement.docx RML2601 - Heneb_20251218_Inbox Tim Whitton (Staff) - Outlook.pdf RML2601 - SeaSTORE_MCGA_20250412.pdf RML2601 - SeaSTORE_RCAHMW.pdf

		RML2601 - TrinityHouse_SeaSTOREDY206_DY213.pdf RML2601 Map Large_SiteD_WOWonly.jpg RML2601 Map Small_SiteD_WOWonly.jpg RML2601 Shapefile SiteD_area_WOWonly.csv
8	Environmental Statement	N/A
9	Pre-application correspondence	Q25113
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 [UK0030398] Irish Sea Front 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	N/A

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)	IN COMB	The sediment sampling activities when considered alone do not present an LSE to the designated site feature given the scale and nature of the works. However there is the potential for an LSE when considered in combination with RML2571 activities via: • Injury by noise disturbance from vessel presence and survey activity • Visual disturbance from vessel presence and survey activity • Potential for both proposed works to happen simultaneous
Irish Sea Front SPA			
Manx shearwater	Irish Sea Front SPA – Conservation Advice JNCC Resource Hub	IN COMB	The sediment sampling activities when considered alone do not present an LSE to the designated site feature given the scale and nature of the works. However there is the potential for an LSE when considered in combination with RML2571 activities via: • Disturbance and displacement from airborne sound and presence of vessel

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.

5. In combination assessment

Table 5.1 Identification and assessment of in combination effects				
European site name: North Anglesey Marine/Gogledd Môn Forol SAC				
'INCOMB' impacts from screening Table 3.2.2 and/or residual effect from appropriate assessment in section 4	European site feature(s) concerned	Other plans or projects with effects that might interact with the effects of the plan or project to render its effects significant/adverse (if any)	Nature of the in combination effect (if any) and assessment in view of conservation objectives	Can significant or adverse in combination effects be ruled out for all features?
Visual disturbance Noise disturbance Noise injury Contaminants	Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	RML2571 - Western Link 2 Geotechnical Surveys	Given the small scale of the sediment sampling works and sizable sampling area polygon, it is very unlikely for there to be an in-combination effect. Furthermore, given the minor volume of sediment being collected, even when considered in combination with RML2571 activities, it will not result in an in-combination effect. The disturbance, noise and possible contaminants arising from the sampling works will be localised and minor; and as such will not result in cumulative impacts. Disturbance from vessel activity is doubtful given that the Irish Sea experiences considerable shipping/maritime activity.	YES
European site name: Irish Sea Front SPA				
Visual disturbance	Manx shearwater	RML2571 - Western Link 2 Geotechnical Surveys	Given the small scale of the sediment sampling works and sizable sampling area	YES

Noise disturbance Noise injury Contaminants			polygon, it is very unlikely for there to be an in-combination effect. Furthermore, given the minor volume of sediment being collected, even when considered in combination with RML2571 activities, it will not result in an in-combination effect. Minor overlap with RML2571. The disturbance, noise and possible contaminants arising from the sampling works will be localised and minor; and as such will not result in cumulative impacts. Disturbance from vessel activity is doubtful given that the Irish Sea experiences considerable shipping/maritime activity. However, the JNCC requested the applicant produce a Method Statement (Appendix 3) to mitigate potential disturbance impacts in adverse weather conditions to the site feature.	
(a) If the right hand column is 'YES' for all rows		The plan or project, when considered in combination with other plans and projects, is either not likely to have a significant effect on, or will not adversely affect the integrity of, any European site.		
(b) If any rows in the right hand column are 'NO'		The plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on, or an adverse effect on, European site/s in combination with other plans or projects.		

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: 05 February 2026	
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		
4		
5	NRW (A) – 17/02/2026 JNCC – 19/02/2026	• NRW (A) agree with the conclusion of this HRA • JNCC requested a Method Statement be obtained & the inclusion of the Irish Sea Front SPA to HRA, the Method Statement is linked in Appendix 3.

8. Appendix 1 – ANCB Response

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

OGN 200 Form 3

TO: Dylan Morgan, Marine Licensing Officer

FROM: Delyth Rowlands, Marine Area Advice and Management Team

SUBJECT: Habitats Regulations Assessment of RML2601SeaSTORE Research Project – Welsh Offshore Activities

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

We agree that due to the nature and scale of the proposal it will not have a likely significant effect on the North Anglesey Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Signed: *Delyth Wyn Rowlands*

Date: 17th February 2026

9. Appendix 2 – SNCB advice

[RML2601 JNCC Consultation Letter - OIA-11346 JNCC_Advice_FINAL.pdf](#)

10. Appendix 3 – Method Statement

[RML2601 Application Amendments Form Method Statement.docx](#)

11. Appendix 4 – Supporting Information

