West Hoyle Cabling Sediment Sampling Method Statement

Document Information

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	Method Statement	
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Prepared	Approved	Authorised
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1 Introduction

This method statement has been prepared to provide information to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in support of the Band 1 Marine Licence application required for sediment sampling within the Mid-Hoyle Channel, at the West Hoyle spit. ABPmer have been commissioned by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited to support the submission of this Marine Licence Application.

A marine licence (CML2365) is currently in place to install a new combined electrical and fibre-optic cable; however it is possible that part of the cable route through the Mid-Hoyle Channel will require a capital dredge to accommodate the Cable Laying Vessel (CLV) required for the proposed works.

Sediment sampling (and associated lab analysis) is required to inform the application for disposal of the capital dredge arisings at sea. The sediment samples will be collected from the dredge area, shown in Figure 1. 300,000 m^3 of sand material will need to be dredged over an area of 603,000 m^2, to a depth of 3 m. Dredged material will be disposed of at the Mostyn Deep disposal site (IS102), shown in Figure 1.

NRW has provided a Sediment Sample Plan, advising 35 samples will need to be tested from the dredge area to determine the materials suitability for disposal at sea. A Band 1 Marine Licence is now required to carry out the necessary sediment sampling.

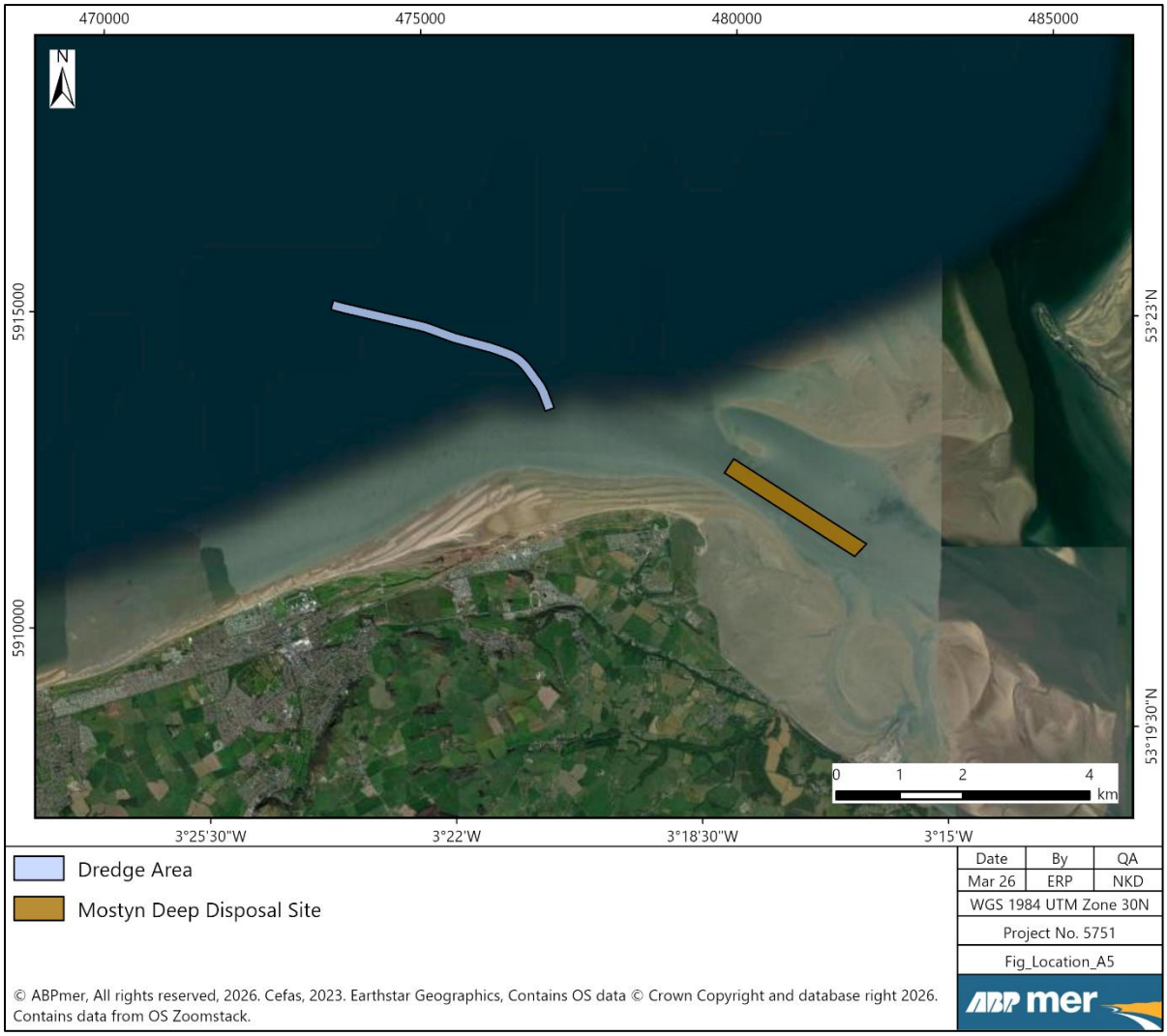

Figure 1 The dredge area and Mostyn Deep disposal site

2 Sampling works description

A Sediment Sample Plan was received from NRW (Ref: 81459) in March 2026, which used the OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material at Sea (OSPAR, 2024) to advise 35 sample stations should be collected from within the dredge footprint.

At each location, samples should be analysed from the surface (0 m) and at 1 m intervals down the maximum dredge depth (3 m). The sampling will be undertaken using a vibrocore.

Once collected, sediment samples will be sent to an approved laboratory to be analysed for contaminants. Samples will be tested for the following determinands:

- Total Organic Carbon (TOC);
- Particle Size Analysis (PSA);
- Metals (Arsenic, Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Nickle, Lead and Zinc);
- Organotins (Tributyltin, Dibutyltin and Monobutyltin);

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB);
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH);
- Organochlorine pesticides (OC); and
- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE).

3 Sampling works timescales

Sediment sampling is planned to go ahead as soon as the Marine Licence is granted and will be completed by September 2026.

The collection of 35 sediment samples is expected to take approximately 3-5 days, at a rate of around 8-10 samples per day. Working hours, including 24/7 (and/or weekend) working, if required, will be at the contractor's discretion.

4 Consultee Responses

4.1 Trinity House

Trinity House was contacted in relation to the proposed sediment sampling to go ahead at Mid-Hoyle Channel.

Captain Trevor B Harris at Trinity House confirmed there are no concerns over navigational risk.

4.2 Maritime & Coastguard Agency

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency were contacted in relation to the proposed sediment sampling to go ahead at Mid-Hoyle Channel.

Sam Chudley at the Maritime & Coastguard Agency confirmed there are no significant concerns to raise with regards to the safety of navigation, and the Maritime & Coastguard Agency are satisfied that the risk is relatively low. To ensure risks to other users are kept at a minimum, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency provided risk mitigation measures to adhere to. These measures include the following:

- All maritime safety legislation is complied with;
- Local notification is issued to marine users, including fishermen's organisations, relevant authorities and other local stakeholders, to ensure that they are made fully aware of the activity at least five days before commencement of the works;
- Zone32@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities;
- A notification must be sent to The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office (email: sdr@ukho.gov.uk) of commencement of the licensed activities, at least 10 days before commencement of the works. The information supplied must include the start date and end date, a description of the works, positions of the work area (WGS84), and details of any marking arrangements;
- Any jack up barges / vessels utilised during the works/laying of the cable, when jacked up, should exhibit signals in accordance with the UK Standard Marking Schedule for Offshore Installations;
- All dropped objects which are a danger or hazard to navigation must be reported to MMO, UKHO and HMCG, as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 24 hours of the

undertaker becoming aware of an incident. NRW may require relevant surveys to be carried out by the undertaker (such as side scan sonar) if reasonable to do so and NRW may require obstructions to be removed from the seabed at the undertaker's expense if reasonable to do so; and

- A risk assessment for operating in the Port Approaches should be undertaken before the works commence, with a process in place for identifying high levels of traffic to avoid.

Liverpool Bay CCS Limited will adhere to the risk mitigation measures stated above.

4.3 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) was contacted in relation to the sediment sampling to go ahead at West Hoyle Spit.

Julian Whitewright at RCAHMW confirmed there are no concerns over archaeological risk. It was highlighted that a couple of small, charted obstructions exist within 100 m of the southern side of the dredge area, but the dredge area itself is clear of known material.

Notice

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