

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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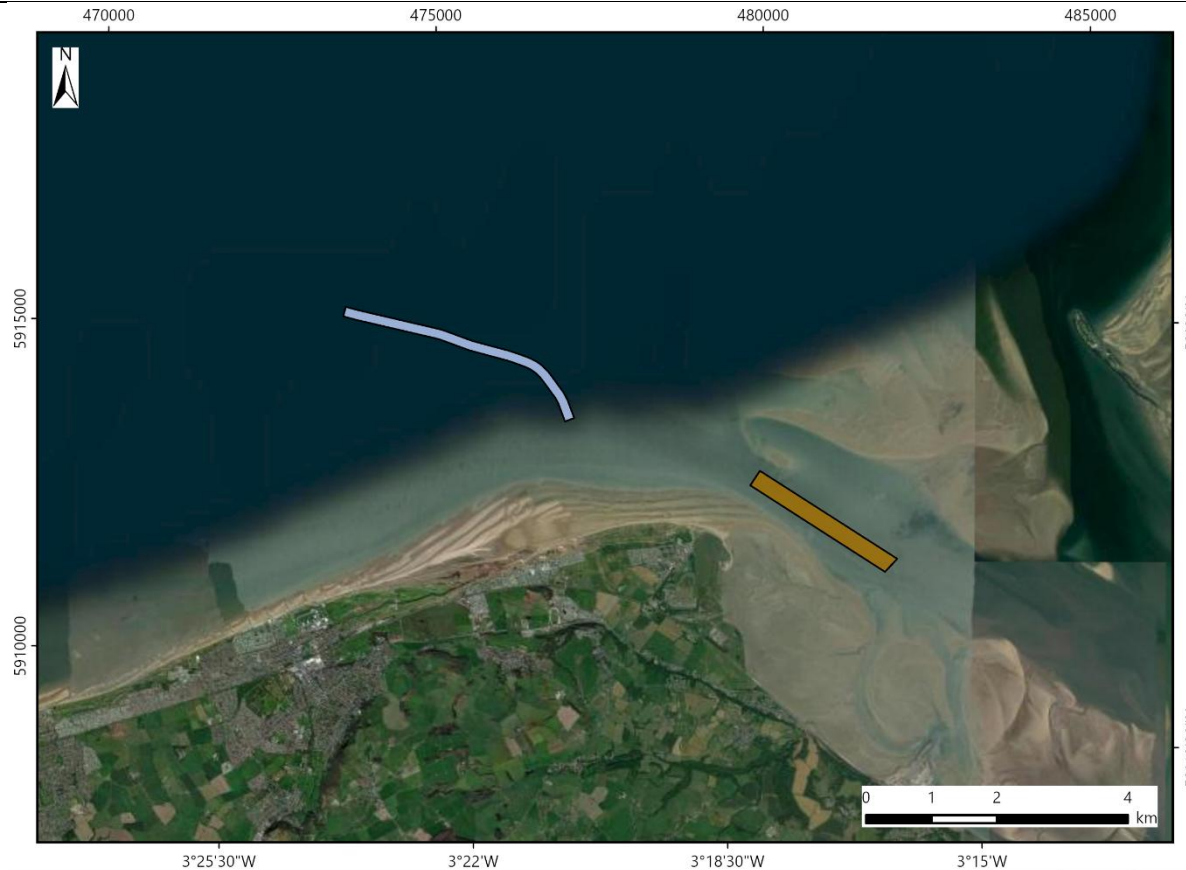
Record of a Habitats Regulations Assessment

Plan or project name, brief description or application reference number	Sediment Sampling for Hynet Carbon Dioxide Transportation and Storage Capital Dredge
HRA iteration/version	N/A

1. Plan or Project Details

Information about the plan or project		
1	Date application received	30/03/2026
2	Applicant details	Liverpool Bay CCS Limited
3	NRW team responsible for carrying out, or requiring to be carried out, the plan or project, and name of lead officer	N/A

<p>4</p>	<p>Activity/ies proposed</p>	<p>In order to install the new combined electrical and fibre-optic cable as part of the original marine licence (CML2365), the West Hoyle Spit will need to be dredged to accommodate the Cable Lay Vessel (CLV) required. 300,000m³ of material will need to be dredged over an area of 603,000m². Dredged material will be disposed of at the Mostyn Deep disposal site (IS102).</p> <p>Based on the OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material at Sea, 35 sediment samples will need to be collected from the dredge area and tested to investigate whether the sediment is suitable for disposal at sea.</p> <p>These samples will be collected at the surface and at depth, at 1m intervals down to the maximum dredge depth (3m), with the use of a vibrocore. Samples will be tested for the following determinands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Organic Carbon (TOC) • Particle Size Analysis (PSA) • Metals (Arsenic, Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Nickel, Lead and Zinc) • Organotins (Tributyltin, Dibutyltin, Monobutyltin) • Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) • Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) • Organochlorine pesticides (OC) • Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) <p>Sediment sampling is planned to go ahead as soon as the Marine Licence is granted and will be completed by September 2026.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Relevant legislation or statutory basis</p>	<p>Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Location</p>	<p>Mid-Hoyle Channel, Irish Sea</p>



- Dredge Area
- Mostyn Deep Disposal Site

Date	By	QA
Mar 26	ERP	NKD
WGS 1984 UTM Zone 30N		
Project No. 5751		
Fig_Location_A5		

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7 Plan or project documents, including any

- RML2609 - Application Form
- RML2609 - Study Area Coordinates
- RML2609 - West Hoyle Cabling Sediment Sampling Method Statement
- RML2609 - Fig_Location_A5
- RML2609 - RE Liverpool Bay CCS Electrical Cable - Additional Samples MCA
- RML2609 - Re Liverpool Bay CCS Electrical Cable - Additional Samples RCAHMW

	application documents	RML2609 - RE Liverpool Bay CCS Electrical Cable - Additional Samples TH RML2609 - RE Liverpool Bay CCS Electrical Cable - Additional Samples H RML2609 Licence Area Shapefile RML2609 Application Coordinates
8	Environmental Statement	N/A
9	Pre-application correspondence	The applicant was previously provided with a sample plan (SP2605).
10	NRW team responsible for preparing this HRA report, and lead officer	Marine Licensing Team - Vicky Fisk, Marine Licensing Officer
11	Team or person responsible for approving the plan or project (competent authority role)	As above

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	No

species for which the European site(s) is/are designated?	
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?	Yes

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	Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA [UK9020294] Dee Estuary/ Aber Dyfrdwy SPA [UK9013011] Dee Estuary/ Aber Dyfrdwy SAC [UK0030131]
(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
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 due to short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) over an area of 0.6km ² . Works will be completed before September so will be outside of the non-breeding season for the species.
Little gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i> (in non-breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	As above.
Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> (in non-breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	As above.
Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i> (in breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	The works will not impact the conservation objectives for this species due to the short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) over an area of 0.6km ² . Works will be completed within breeding season but the levels of disturbance will be low due to the short timescale and limited area of the works. Little gull, common tern

			and little tern have low vulnerability to disturbance (Furness et al., 2013; Fleissbach et al., 2019) and so the survey activity will not lead to LSE.
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (in breeding season)	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	As above.
Waterbird assemblage	NRW, Natural England and JNCC conservation objectives: liverpool-bay-bae-lerpwl-spa-conservation-advice.pdf (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	No impact pathway due to short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) over an area of 0.6km ² . Works will be completed before September so will be outside of the non-breeding season for the species in the assemblage.
Dee Estuary SPA [UK9013011]			
Sandwich tern <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> (passage)	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	The works will not impact the conservation objectives for this species due to the short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) over an area of 0.6km ² . Works may overlap with the beginning of the passage season (August) but the levels of disturbance will be low due to the short timescale and limited area of the works. Sandwich tern have low vulnerability to disturbance (Furness et al., 2013; Fleissbach et al., 2019) and so the survey activity will not lead to LSE.
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (breeding)	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	The works will not impact the conservation objectives for this species due to the short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) over an area of 0.6km ² . Works will be completed within breeding season but the levels of disturbance will be low due to the short timescale and limited area of the works. Common tern and little tern have low vulnerability to disturbance (Furness et al., 2013; Fleissbach et al., 2019) and so the survey activity will not lead to LSE.

<p>Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i> (breeding)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>No impact pathway is present due to the short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) spread across an area of 0.6km². Works will be completed before September so will be outside of the non-breeding season for the species.</p>
<p>Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>

<p>Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i></p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>

<p>Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (wintering)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (passage)</p>	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)</p>	<p>Screen out</p>	<p>The works will not impact the conservation objectives for this species due to the short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) over an area of 0.6km². Works may overlap with the beginning of the passage season (August) but the levels of disturbance will be low due to the short timescale and limited area of the works. As redshank are intertidal waders and the works are located 1km away from the boundary of the SPA (located in the nearshore close to the coast), the survey activity will not lead to LSE.</p>

Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (wintering)	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	No impact pathway due to short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) spread across an area of 0.6km ² . Works will be completed before September so will be outside of the non-breeding season for those species sensitive during this season.
Waterbird assemblage (wintering) species in addition to those above: Sanderling <i>Callidris alba</i> , Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> , Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> , Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> , Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (naturalresources.wales)	Screen out	As above.
Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy SAC [UK0030131]			
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	Screen out	There is no impact pathway as the site is 1km away from the works area and therefore the habitat will not be impacted.

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	Screen out	There is no impact pathway as the site is 1km away from the works area and therefore the habitat will not be impacted.
Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae)	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	Screen out	There is no impact pathway as the site is 1km away from the works area and therefore the habitat will not be impacted.
Estuaries	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	Screen out	There is no impact pathway as the site is 1km away from the works area and therefore the habitat will not be impacted.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	Screen out	There is no impact pathway as the site is 1km away from the works area and therefore the habitat will not be impacted.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given	Screen out	Habitat found above Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT), so no impact pathway is present.

	under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994		
Embryonic shifting dunes	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994</p>	Screen out	Habitat is above HAT so no impact pathway is present.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994</p>	Screen out	Habitat is above HAT so no impact pathway is present.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994</p>	Screen out	Habitat is above HAT so no impact pathway is present.
Humid dune slacks	<p>NRW and Natural England conservation objectives:</p> <p>Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994</p>	Screen out	Habitat is above HAT so no impact pathway is present.

Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	Screen out	Sea lamprey migrate from the marine environment to rivers in May and June and return to the sea in late summer, both of which may overlap with the works both temporally and spatially. However, due to the short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) spread across an area of 0.6km ² , the works will not lead to an LSE for the species when it is likely to be in the vicinity of the works.
River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	Screen out	Sea lamprey migrate between the marine environment and rivers in spring which may overlap with the works both temporally and spatially. However, due to the short timescale for the works (anticipated to be three to five days) and the limited number of samples to be collected (up to 35) spread across an area of 0.6km ² , the works will not lead to an LSE for the species when it is likely to be in the vicinity of the works.
Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>	NRW and Natural England conservation objectives: Natural England & the Countryside Council for Wales' advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	Screen out	Species occurs above HAT so no impact pathway is present.

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	The plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on one or more European sites and therefore an appropriate assessment is required.

Table 3.2.2 is 'SCREEN IN'	
(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

<p>HRA is not required because there is no conceivable impact on any European sites. (As documented in section 2.1)</p>	
<p>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)</p>	
<p>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)</p>	
<p>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)</p>	X
<p>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)</p>	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>(*SSSI consents cannot be given as derogations)</p>	
<p>Signed:</p> <p>Name: Vicky Fisk Position: Marine Licensing Officer</p> <p>Date: 23 April 2026</p>	

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
3	23 April 2026	NRW Advisory were consulted and agree with the conclusion of the HRA.

8. Appendix - Supporting information

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: Victoria Fisk, Lead Specialist Officer, Marine Licencing Team,

FROM: Rowland Sharp, Senior Marine Advisor, Marine Area Advice and Management Team

SUBJECT: Habitats Regulations Assessment of RML2609 Sediment Sampling for Hynet Carbon Dioxide Transportation and Storage Capital Dredge

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

The Marine Area Advice and Management Team agrees in principle with the the HRA that the proposal will not have a Likely Significant Effect on the Liverpool Bay SPA, Dee estuary SPA, Dee Estuary SAC or the Dee Estuary RAMSAR site

There are a couple of advisory suggestions –

1. For completeness the Dee Estuary RAMSAR site should be included in the HRA but as the features are the same as the SAC and SPA, the features have already been considered.
2. Although most of the sediment sampling points are outside of the Dee SAC, any possible impact to sediment disturbance by the vibrocoring should have been included in the HRA, although highly unlikely that there would be any impact to the SAC features from the vibrocoring

Signed: *Rowland Sharp*

Date: 23/04/2026