



Old Colwyn Coastal Defence and Active Travel Scheme

Bio-Security Risk Assessment

July 2020

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Bio Security Risk Assessment (BSRA) document has been produced in support of the Old Colwyn Coastal Defence and Active Travel Scheme (hereafter referred to as “the Scheme”).

This BSRA outlines the potential hazards relating to the introduction and spread of invasive and non-native species (INNS) on site for the Scheme. The Scheme will involve working on land, within the intertidal zone and it also may require the delivery of revetment rock by ship and barge. As a result, INNS relating to the terrestrial and marine environments have been considered.

Prior to implementing this risk assessment on site, a site briefing and a toolbox talk should be provided to all site workers regarding the importance of bio security. The required inspection, preventative and management techniques for personnel should be outlined and pest/containment identification should also be explained to ensure rapid and appropriate responses to any INNS present, (if INNS are found on site, the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) should be notified and guidance should be sought with statutory agencies). An ecological walkover survey should be undertaken on site approximately 6-8 weeks prior to the construction phase commencing. This will provide an opportunity to confirm any new occurrences of INNS on site and for these to be managed suitably prior to works starting.

Formal standardised reporting to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) should be implemented on site throughout the duration of the works regarding the presence of INNS should any be discovered.

1.2 Terrestrial INNS

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report has been produced for the Scheme¹, along with other subsequent assessments (both terrestrial and intertidal) for which a number of field surveys were undertaken from December 2019 to June 2020. During these surveys no invasive plant species were discovered on site. However, it is noted that INNS can be introduced into the site through poor bio-security protocols and construction practice, so a precautionary approach for the management of terrestrial INNS on site is outlined in Section 2.

1.3 Marine INNS

It should be noted that to date no site visit has been undertaken by a marine ecologist (visits were planned but these had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic). Instead comprehensive high definition (HD) photographic evidence taken by an experienced local environmental consultant has been reviewed by a qualified marine ecologist to establish marine species present on site. It was not possible to confirm the presence/absence of marine INNS from these photographs. However, due to the potential delivery of revetment rock to the site via barge, precautionary measures to manage potential INNS within the marine environment need to be outlined.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008) outlines a monitoring list for INNS. These INNS listed by the MSFD are further outlined within the “Priority Monitoring and Surveillance List of Marine INNS for Wales”² and have been categorised into “High Risk” and “Medium Risk”

¹ Colwyn Bay Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Ref: 410895-MMD-N-R-00-XX-1701), Mott MacDonald Ltd, 2020.

² Gov.Wales (2017). *Marine Invasive Non-Native Species Priority Monitoring and Surveillance List for Wales*. [Online] Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-02/invasive-aquatic-species-priority-marine-species.pdf>

INNS. A “Low Risk” category also exists, but there are not INNS considered to require monitoring by the MSFD.

The “High” and “Medium” risk INNS listed by the MSFD have been reviewed and INNS from these categories that are believed to have the potential to interact with the site as a result of the delivery of revetment rock via barge have been considered for this BSRA. These species considered for this risk assessment are outlined below:

1.3.1 High Risk INNS

- Compass sea squirt (*Asterocarpa humilis*) – potential for introduction through fouling;
- Carpet sea squirt (*Didemnum vexillum*) – potential for introduction through fouling;
- Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) – potential for introduction through ballast water; and
- Red ribbon bryozoan (*Watersipora subatra*) – potential for introduction through fouling.

1.3.2 Medium Risk INNS

- Bonnemaison’s hook weed (*Bonnemaisonia hamifera*) – potential for introduction through fouling and ballast water;
- Japanese skeleton shrimp (*Caprella mutica*) – potential for introduction through fouling;
- Orange striped anemone (*Diadumene lineata*) – potential for introduction through fouling;
- Japanese wireweed (*Sargassum japonica*) – potential for introduction through fouling;
- Leathery sea squirt (*Styela clava*) – potential for introduction through fouling; and
- Wakame, Asian kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*) – potential for introduction through fouling.

Bio Security Risk Assessment

The BSRA scoring methodology is presented in Appendix A

The risk assessment in **Error! Reference source not found.** outlines the potential hazards of the Scheme associated with the introduction, transfer and spread of INNS. This risk assessment should be included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). As outlined above, this risk assessment is precautionary as it relies upon records of INNS within and near to the site.

Table 2.1: BSRA for the Scheme (risk is the transfer and introduction of INNS)

Hazard	Who or What Might be Affected?	Initial Assessment			Risk Control Measures	Residual Risk		
		Severity	Likelihood	Assessed Risk		Severity	Likelihood	Assessed Risk
Land Based Plant								
Machinery access	Where access points are varied and/or used on a number of occasions, the risk of pathogen transfer/introduction will increase.	4	H	UA	The number of vehicles used on site and the frequency at which they enter the intertidal area should be limited (vehicles should only enter the intertidal area on an ebb tide when there is a suitable dry area available for working). Tracking of vehicles across the intertidal zone will remain within a strict working buffer of 20m from the rock revetment (which is 30m wide, so in total a buffer of 50m from the seawall will be adhered to).	2	L	A
Use of land-based plant on the foreshore	Heavy lifting plant will be used in the intertidal zone to collect revetment rock delivered by the barges once the tide has receded. This provides the opportunity for the spread of INNS across the intertidal area.	4	M	AR	Sections of the plant that would come into direct contact with the intertidal area (track/wheels) should be thoroughly cleaned before and after use to avoid the spread of any INNS. This will also prevent potential spread from the Scheme's site area into other sites that may be used after the Scheme's construction is completed.	3	L	A

Hazard	Who or What Might be Affected?	Initial Assessment			Risk Control Measures	Residual Risk		
		Severity	Likelihood	Assessed Risk		Severity	Likelihood	Assessed Risk
Machinery origins/ previous works	Machinery travelling or having previously worked on different sites has the potential to introduce non-native or non-localised species to site.	4	H	JA	A stringent system of vehicle maintenance and cleanliness should be implemented during construction works, including frequent vehicle washing between road and beach access. A CEMP should be adhered to and available on site and NRW Pollution Prevention Guidelines should be followed.	3	M	AR
Promenade works	Material used to raise and widen the promenade may introduce alien species or spread existing species and/or pathogens on site.	3	H	AR	Existing material will be reclaimed as far as possible, therefore the risk of introduction of invasive species is considered low.	2	L	A
PPE – contractor staff, operatives and sub-contractors	PPE can collect contaminants including mud, seeds, pathogens etc. which can easily be transferred to and between sites.	4	VH	JA	All PPE especially footwear, Velcro closures, gloves, etc. should be thoroughly inspected and cleaned and inspected before arrival on site. Boot washing as well as equipment cleaning facilities (with a biocide such as Virkon) should be provided and carried out when entering and exiting site. Ideally equipment should then be allowed to dry for 48 hours before it is used elsewhere (a different site). Transfer between work areas on site should be avoided and minimised where possible.	3	M	AR
Marine Vessels / Marine Plant								
Ballast water	It is currently anticipated that the rocks required for the construction of the revetment on site may be transported by ship from Norway. There may be a requirement for these ships to take on board ballast waters from seas of different nations and to then dispose of these in	4	H	JA	All vessels and associated staff must ensure adherence to the Ballast Water Management Convention, 2017 for each vessel required for the works. This legislation outlines the requirements for each vessel to have a ballast water management plan, a ballast water record book and an international ballast water management certificate. Vessels should have a on-board ballast water treatment system, if this is not possible then ballast water should be	3	L	A

Hazard	Who or What Might be Affected?	Initial Assessment			Risk Control Measures	Residual Risk		
		Severity	Likelihood	Assessed Risk		Severity	Likelihood	Assessed Risk
	UK waters (and vice versa). This could result in the spread of INNS in the form of marine microbes, plants and animals (such as Carpet sea squirt (<i>Didemnum vexillum</i>) larvae).				exchanged mid-ocean and not near the shoreline of the site.			
Anchorage	Anchors used for the mooring of vessels pose the opportunity for bio-fouling and introduction of INNS to the site when lowered to the seabed.	3	L	A	Only the larger ships that contain the delivery of the revetment rock will be allowed to drop anchor. These ships will be moored off-site, outside of the site boundary. Barges will be held in place by tugs which are self-propelled and so these will not require anchorage within the intertidal zone. Anchors for vessels used on site should be cleaned when the opportunity arises (e.g. at port or when refuelling) to minimise cross contamination between sites. It should be noted that the anchor will provide a relatively small opportunity for cross site contamination in comparison to other hazards listed in this risk assessment.	2	L	A
Bio-fouling of revetment rock	If revetment rocks delivered on site have been reused from other projects or have spent prolonged periods of time in the marine environment, they may already be colonised to marine INNS which would then be introduced to the site.	4	M	AR	Revetment rock delivered to site should preferably be virgin material and not consist of rocks used for previous coastal defence schemes that may have spent prolonged periods of time in coastal waters. Rocks should also be clean prior to introduction into the intertidal zone on site.	2	L	A
Bio-fouling (ships, barges and tugs used)	It is possible for the hulls of ships, barges and tugs used on site to be fouled by INNS such as algae,	4	M	AR	All vessels used on site should ensure they have a copy of their Bio-fouling Management Plan on board with clear information outlining efforts to reduce bio-fouling of the vessel, e.g.	4	L	AR

Hazard	Who or What Might be Affected?	Initial Assessment			Risk Control Measures	Residual Risk		
		Severity	Likelihood	Assessed Risk		Severity	Likelihood	Assessed Risk
for revetment deliveries).	barnacles, sea squirts. This presents an opportunity to introduce INNS to site and to other waters (e.g. from UK waters at Colwyn Bay to Norwegian waters where revetment rock is obtained).				through anti-fouling treatments or use of biocides.			
Bio-fouling of groynes	It should be noted that in order to install the ecological armouring units (ecological enhancements for the Scheme), sections of the existing groyne structures will be required to be removed to fit these in place. It is possible that if these sections of removed groyne are re-used on other projects, there could be a cross contamination of INNS from the Scheme area to other locations as the groyne structures could be fouled.	3	M	AR	Once removed, the sections of groyne should be disposed of suitably on land and should not be disposed of or reused within the marine environment.	3	VL	A

A. Bio-Security Risk Assessment Scoring Matrix

Table A.1: Bio-Security Risk Assessment Scoring Matrix

Biosecurity Severity or Consequence					
1 = Slight – no measurable consequence					
2 = Minor – slight impact, small scale, easily contained					
3 = Moderate – damage recoverable, moderate impact					
4 = Permanent – considerable damage, long term impacts on native flora and/or fauna					
5 = catastrophic – major damage, threat to species					
Likelihood					
VL = Improbable – unlikely to occur					
L = Remote – unlikely but possible					
M = Occasional – possible at some time					
H = Probable – likely to occur several times					
VH = Frequent – likely to occur many times					
Acceptability of assessed risks					
UA = Unacceptable (action essential)					
AR = Action required (if reasonably practical)					
A = Acceptable (manage risk)					
N = Negligible					
Assessed risk					
	Severity				
Likelihood	1	2	3	4	5
VL	N	N	A	A	A
L	N	A	A	AR	AR
M	A	A	AR	AR	UA
H	A	AR	AR	UA	UA
VH	A	AR	UA	UA	UA

Source: Mott MacDonald, 2015

