

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive

Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project likely to have significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, made under Regulation 48.

Screening for Likely Significant Effect (LSE).

5th Jan 2022

Name of site: Carew Mill Pond, Carew

PCNPA Reference No:

National grid reference:

Brief description of plan or project:

The purpose of the project is to undertake small scale repairs to the historic causeway structure at Carew Mill. Some of the works will be undertaken from the surface of the causeway around the perimeter of the Mill House and the remainder of the works will be to the vertical walls of the causeway.

Access for repairs will take place during each low tide only, with the millpond allowed to recharge through the pinned sluice gates and spillway on each high tide. This is a temporary change to the normal operating regime, where currently sluice gates on the Mill Pond impound water upstream of the causeway. This will protect marine ecology within the pond, specifically the tentacled lagoon worm (*Alkmaria Romijni*).

Name of European (Natura 2000) sites:

Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton lakes SAC (60m).

Pembrokeshire Marine SAC (0km). The plan may affect the designated features of this site.

List of features of Community Interest:

Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC

Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp./

Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools

Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum**

Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros**

Otter *Lutra lutra*

Pembrokeshire Marine SAC

Large shallow inlets and bays

Estuaries*

Reefs

Halichoerus grypus – grey seal

Atlantic salt-meadow*

Mud-flats and sand-flats not covered by sea water at low tide *

Coastal lagoons*

Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

Sand banks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.

Alosa alosa – Allis shad

Alosa fallax – twaite shad

Lampetra fluviatilis – river lamprey

Petromyzon marinus – sea lamprey

Lutra lutra – otter*

Rumex rupestris – shore dock

* Denotes the feature against which this screening for LSE has been carried out.

Part A.

Conservation (Natural habitats & c) Regulations 1994

Screening of a plan or project for Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on a Natura 2000 site.

Carew Causeway and Sluice Repair

Feature of Community Interest	Potential for likely significant effect on the feature	Mitigation of effects	Assessment of risk of likely significant effect
Estuaries Atlantic Salt meadow Mudflats and Sandflats Coastal Lagoons	Transport of disturbed sediment leading to increased water turbidity, smothering effects and reduced water quality. Pollution from loose construction materials introducing foreign materials to features. Pollution from vehicles impacting on water quality.	Work will take place on the low tide only significantly reducing the potential for sediment mobilization and transport. All material will be removed to a skip for off site disposal. No materials will be stored in the intertidal area. Refuelling will not take place on the intertidal area or alongside the Carew River or Millpond. All vehicles will have biodegradable fuel. Spill kits will be available in the event of an oil or fuel leak.	Some sediment transport may take place when the millpond is refilled and the sluices are operating normally following the completion of works. However experience shows that the mud the causeway area is dense and heavy and not particularly susceptible to mobilisation. Low Risk Low risk Low Risk Low risk Low Risk Low risk

Coastal Lagoons Atlantic saltmeadow Mudflats and sandflats	Physical damage to habitats and sediments through vehicle use.	No vehicles will access the foreshore. Repairs will be conducted by foot access from inside the building and from the seaward side only.	No risk
Coastal Lagoons	Drying as a result of draining down to the millpond affecting oxygen availability with impacts on diversity and abundance of macro benthic fauna. Under current operating conditions the millpond is regularly dry (i.e. several times a month) for periods of 2-4 days. On neap tide cycles the water discharges through voids in the causeway and damaged sluices and the tide does not re-charge the millpond through the overflow slip. On spring tides (over 7.5m) the millpond is drained at the request of Pembrokeshire County Council as flood prevention for the causeway road bridge. The leaking causeway and sluice is identified by NRW as one of the major reasons the millpond is currently failing to	Sluice gates will be pinned back and work will conducted on low tide cycles with the millpond allowed to recharge on each high tide. Work will take place during winter months when the temperatures are lower and the risk of drying of the upper sediments in the millpond will be reduced. As above. Daily tidal influx will create a temporary salinity change.	Subsequent to the repair of the causeway and sluices the normal operating conditions will improve and water will be retained in the millpond during neap cycles. This will significantly reduce the instances and duration of time when the millpond is dry and which will ultimately improve the conservation status and resilience of the feature. Overall positive effect Under current operating conditions the millpond already has wide ranging salinity due to freshwater inputs from the river and also from a quarry discharge. Risk of small scale temporary effects Low Risk

Coastal Lagoons	meet its conservation objectives. (Ref Monitoring Report) Change to the tidal regime of the millpond for the duration of the works may affect the salinity regime of the millpond.		
Otter	Disturbance during works	A toolbox talk will be given to alert operatives to the possible presence of otters. If otters are found to be present works will stop and an ecologist will be consulted.	Otters have been recorded many years ago using the basement as a lying up area (J Hodges pers comm). There are no recent records. Low Risk
Greater Horseshoe Bat. Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Direct disturbance of bats in the mill basement.	A toolbox talk will be given to alert operatives to the possible presence of bats. If bats are found to be present works will stop and an ecologist will be consulted.	The basement is not considered suitable as a summer or breeding roost. It has low suitability as a hibernacula due to modest light levels and the fact it is partly open to the elements. Low Risk
	Disturbance of the nearby roost at Carew Castle.	Work is taking place outside the time when horseshoes use the castle. There will no noise generation from the works and all works will take place in daylight therefore there will be no need for lighting.	NO RISK

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Part B.

In combination effects arising from other consents, permits or licences for plans or projects that influence likely significant effect.

1. Are there any other plans or projects consented or permitted by the National Park Authority or other Competent Authority which could influence potential likely significant effects of this plan or project?
No
2. If yes, describe and assess the likely in-combination effects.
NA
3. Identify and list consents, permits or licences issued for plans and projects having the potential for in-combination effects, and list the responsible Competent Authorities

Part C.

Conclusion(s) drawn by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority from the screening for LSE of planning application no.

1. Can it be ascertained whether the plan or project is likely to have LSE, either alone or in combination on the Natura 2000 site: Pembrokeshire Marine SAC/Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC?
Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC. No likely significant effect Pembrokeshire Marine SAC. No likely significant effect..
2. <u>Concluding Statement:</u> the plan or project subject to this screening will not have any likely significant effects on the integrity of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC. There is therefore no requirement to submit the plan or project to an Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994.

