

## Environmental Screening: Low Risk File Note

Project name	National Peatlands Action Programme – Cefn Croes Site
Project manager	Jack Simpson
Prepared by	Candida Diamond - EAT
Date Screened	14/05/2024

### Introduction

This project has been screened for environmental risk following Operational Guidance Note 86 and is considered to be “**Low Environmental Risk**” and does not require a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment.

Whilst the project has been screened “Low Environmental Risk”, there may still be environmental risks and consents that need to be considered by the Project Manager as detailed in this note. How these recommendations have been followed up should be made clear in any business case submissions.

Please consult the Environmental Assessment Team again should you have any queries regarding the information provided, or if the nature of the project changes as we may need to review our advice. Our email address is:

[environmental.assessment.team@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.assessment.team@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

### Description of Project / Scheme

The National Peatlands Action Programme, produced and delivered by NRW under Welsh Government guidance, sets out the project-level plans to restore peatland areas across Wales. Restoring this habitat is key for the sustainable management of natural resources across Wales, in addition to carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions, and a range of other ecosystem services.

The type of works that site-specific peatland restoration may include are:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where present, scrub/tree removal (on WGWE, only be in areas designated as open in Forest resource plans /Forest Design Plans).</li> <li>• Manipulation of peat substrate up to a meter depth to create water retaining features such as peat dams using excavators with low ground pressure or bog mats. Effective ground pressure will be no greater than 3PSI.</li> <li>• In some cases, the installation of non-peat dams made of either plastic (plastic piling), clean stone, or FSC timber, may be necessary.</li> </ul> <p>The 73.8ha site in Cefn Croes may include some or all the above types of work. The environmental constraints map is featured in Annex 1.</p> <p>It is understood that the peatland restoration is following forestry felling and that the felling is not part of the project.</p> <p>Screening has been undertaken on the understanding that no additional access or compound areas are required. Please re-consult the Environmental Advisor if this understanding is incorrect, or if there is any other change to the scope of the works outlined above.</p>
<b>Location (Grid Ref)</b>	SN 81692 78470

Environmental constraint / opportunity	Identified Receptor	Consent / assessments, which are <u>likely</u> to be required:	Project Manager to consult further with:
<b>European Designated Sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar)</b>	Elenydd - Maellaen SPA and Elenydd SAC are ~910 m south of the Site boundary. Elenydd - Mallaen SPA ~1.2km NW of the Site boundary.	It is understood that HRA screening has been completed for the Site.	N/A
<b>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</b>	Elenydd SSSI lies ~910 m south of the Site boundary. Llynoedd Ieuan SSSI lies ~1.2km NW of the Site boundary.	N/A	N/A
<b>Waterbody</b>	Some small upland headwaters lie within the Site boundary, running into Llyn Rhuddnant and consequently Nant Rhuddnant (Mynach - headwaters to confluence with Rheidol – 'Moderate' overall WFD status).	If any works are to be undertaken on the bank or in-stream of an Ordinary Watercourse, Consent may be required. Works in-stream or adjacent to a watercourse should follow the <a href="#">Pollution Prevention Guidance and invasive species best practice guidance</a> .  <a href="#">OGN 72</a> documents the WFD compliance assessment, Section 3 of this guidance outlines the screening process and this should be documented in	Consult the local Environment Team ( <a href="mailto:CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk">CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</a> ) for advice on these issues.

		the <a href="#">WFDCA template</a> .	
<b>Fisheries</b>	Nant Rhuddnant headwaters has potential salmonid breeding habitat.	Any issues pertaining to potential pollution of Nant Rhuddnant and its fish breeding habitat should be discussed with the local fisheries advisor to the Environment Team.	Consult the local Environment Team ( <a href="mailto:CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk">CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</a> ) for details of area fisheries lead.
<b>Contaminated Land</b>	There are no historic or current landfill sites within 5km of the Site boundary.	Any groundworks, or the construction of a site compound or access trail must be done so with guidance from the Geosciences Team - <a href="mailto:geoscience@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk">geoscience@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</a> should be consulted regarding contaminated land removal and/or remobilisation of sediments, in addition to the construction of any site compounds or access routes. Should local knowledge, or any GI data, identify a risk of ground contamination, NRW Geoscience Team should be consulted.	Consult Trystan James - <a href="mailto:geoscience@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk">geoscience@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</a> ).

<b>Public Right of Way</b>	There are no National / Regional Trails or Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within 500m of the Site. Southern site boundary abuts CRoW open access land.	N/A	N/A
<b>Protected Species / Invasive Species</b>	<p>Within the Site boundary there are records of priority and protected species (e.g. European Water Vole associated with Diffeithnant Fawr, Brown Hare, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly and Common Lizard).</p> <p>Adjacent to the site there are records of priority and protected species e.g. several bat species, Eurasian Otter (Nant Rhuddnant), Brown Hare, Common Lizard, common frog, toad, Skylark, Ring Ouzel, Small Pear-bordered Fritillary butterfly.</p>	Ecological walkover/surveys will be required to determine and agree the appropriate mitigation controls required. The surveys should be completed by ecologists with the appropriate licences.	<p>Contact the local Environment Team (<a href="mailto:CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk">CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</a>) who can advise and potentially undertake the surveys.</p> <p>Consult with the Plant Health team regarding biosecurity.</p>
<b>Historic Environment</b> <b>(Heneb to provide text)</b>	The site is within the Upland Ceredigion Historic Landscape (HLW). This non-statutory designation is of national importance and is given similar material weight to	It is understood that Cadw have already been consulted re the Scheduled Monument, but this should be repeated if the consultation was on the previous	<p>Consult Cadw re HLCA and Scheduled Monument.</p> <p>Consult Heneb (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) re DBA.</p>

	<p>AONBs and National Parks.</p> <p>Scheduled Monument 'Nant Ysryd Glan Deserted Rural Settlement' lies on the SW edge of the site boundary.</p> <p>There are no other statutory heritage designations within 2km of the site boundary.</p> <p>Archaeological points within 100m of the Site boundary. Points associated with the Scheduled Monument within 35m.</p>	<p>smaller Site area. Confirm whether Scheduled Monument Consent is needed.</p> <p>Consultation should include potential impact on the HLCA and the setting of the Scheduled Monument.</p> <p>Consultation with Heneb regarding the need for a Desk Based Assessment. Any recommendations made within a desk-based assessment must be adhered with.</p>	
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>No statutory landscape designations within 10km of the Site boundary. (Cambrian Mountains Society campaigns for the Cambrian Mountains to have AONB status <a href="#">CMS-Proposal-for-Designation-of-the-Cambrian-Mountains.pdf</a>).</p> <p>The Site is within NLCA 21 Cambrian Mountains and the non-statutory Special Landscape Area (SLA) 12 Northern Uplands.</p>	<p>The SLA SPG is a material planning consideration re protection and enhancement of landscape character. <a href="#">special-landscape-areas-supplementary-guidance-spg-april-2014-english.pdf</a> (<a href="#">ceredigion.gov.uk</a>)</p>	<p>Consult with NRW's forestry planners/local team for the area.</p> <p>Consult with Ceredigion County Council regarding any TPOs and potential impact on the SLA or benefits the project can deliver.</p>

	No available information for Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).		
<b>NNR, LNR, Local Wildlife Site, Ancient Woodland, other designations.</b>	Dyfi Biosphere Reserve lies just over 10km to the north. NNR Coes Rheidol lies ~6.3km west of the Site boundary. No LNRs, Ancient Woodland, ancient/veteran/notable trees within 10km of the Site.	N/A	N/A
<b>Is planning consent likely under the Town and Country Planning Regulations?</b>	Considered unlikely, however it is advised that an opinion is obtained from the LPA to confirm the need for planning.		
<b>Does the project fall under NRW Permitted Development Rights as per the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted development) Order?</b>	<p>The project does not fall under Permitted Development Rights.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the works there should be no need for planning under the T&amp;CP regulations.</p> <p>Due to the increase in the Site area since the 2020 screening, it is advised that the forestry planners are re-consulted regarding the exceedance of a 'non-sensitive' area threshold for the felling/afforestation activities pertaining to this project.</p> <p>The forest planning team can also advise on the need to advertise this screening determination for not undertaking an EIA.</p> <p>The works may fall under the definition of 'improvement works' under the EIA (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations 1999 (Exceptional circumstances may apply). We recommend that further legal advice is sought regarding a screening determination for not undertaking an EIA under these Regs and placing an advertisement.</p> <p>The Project Manager is to confirm if there is a need for an impoundment licence, informed by the low-risk checklist requirements. <a href="#">Natural Resources Wales / Low risk impoundments</a>. By law you must have an impoundment licence before you start to construct, alter, repair or remove an impoundment structure.</p>		

<p><b>Enhancements / Multiple Benefits</b></p>	<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any opportunities to deliver against HLCA / SLA / NLCA Key Policy and Management issues?</li> <li>• Where associated with National Site Network (NSN) sites, can the project help deliver any actions required under the Prioritised Improvement Plans?</li> <li>• Are there any opportunities for using green engineering or green infrastructure?</li> <li>• Can your project build in measures to slow the flow of water, consequently having flood risk and water quality benefits?</li> <li>• Where associated with water courses can your project deliver Water Framework Directive benefits e.g. bank naturalisation, treatment of Invasive Non-native Species, hydromorphological improvements etc.?</li> <li>• Where associated with Natura 2000 sites, can your project deliver any actions required under the Prioritised Improvement Plans?</li> <li>• Can recreational or access opportunities be delivered through your project?</li> <li>• Are there any opportunities for planting?</li> <li>• Are there any opportunities to promote simple changes to land management to provide food, shelter and nest sites for pollinators?</li> <li>• Are there any opportunities for habitat improvement or creation, paying particular attention to resilience (connectivity, diversity, condition) of habitats within or linked to the study area?</li> <li>• Are there any opportunities for community engagement or education?</li> <li>• Are there any opportunities to improve fish habitat or passage?</li> </ul>
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## Environmental Good Practice Guidance

The project manager should ensure that the contractor is aware of and complies with the following good practice (i.e. it is beneficial to include these specification within Works Information):

- Environment Good Practice on Site, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2010 (CIRIA).
- Construction Industry Publication (CIP) Construction Environmental Manual.
- Bio-security Guidance (Forestry Commission)  
<https://naturalresources.wales/media/2637/biosecurity-guidance.pdf> &  
<https://naturalresources.wales/forestry/tree-health-and-biosecurity/biosecurity/?lang=en>.



- Natural Resources Wales's Environmental Policy Statement  
[www.cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk/about-us/managing-our-environmental-impact/?land=en](http://www.cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk/about-us/managing-our-environmental-impact/?land=en)
- Guidance for Pollution Prevention (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).  
<http://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-prevention-guidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpps-full-list/>

For an extensive and broader list of UK environmental guidance that is currently available see <https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management>

## Annex 1: Constraints Map

### Constraints Map: Cefn Croes NPAP



