

Environmental Screening: Low Risk File Note

Project name	National Peatlands Action Programme – Tywi Forest Sites
Project manager	Rob Bacon
Prepared by	Candida Diamond - EAT
Date Screened	15/05/2024

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

Description of Project / Scheme	<p>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.</p> <p>The type of works that site-specific peatland restoration may include are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where present, scrub/tree removal (on WGWE, only be in areas designated as open in Forest resource plans /Forest Design Plans).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • In some cases, the installation of non-peat dams made of either plastic (plastic piling), clean stone, or FSC timber, may be necessary. <p>These sites in the Tywi Forest sites may include all the above types of work.</p> <p>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> <p>2024 screening relates to the Llyn Gorast and Ochr Fawr sites.</p>
Location (Grid Ref)	SN 81040 62131 and SN 77384 61593

Environmental constraint / opportunity	Identified Receptor	Consent / assessments, which are <u>likely</u> to be required:	Project Manager to consult further with:
European Designated Sites (SAC, SPA, Ramsar)	Llyn Gorast lies 1km from Elenydd (Mynydd Maellaen) SPA and SAC (standing water, floating water plantain). Ochr Fawr lies c. 1.5km west of Elenydd – Mallaen SPA.	HRA should be built into the project to determine whether this work may have a likely significant effect on a European Site.	Consult with local Environment Team (CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturaolcymru.gov.uk).
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Llyn Gorast lies 1km from Elenydd (Mynydd Maellaen) SSSI (standing water). Ochr Fawr lies c. 1.5km west of Cwm Doethie - Mynydd Mallaen SSSI and c.1.54km east of Figyn Blaen-Brefi SSSI.	SSSI assent required where works are likely to affect a SSSI.	Consult with local Environment Team (CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturaolcymru.gov.uk) to establish potential for effects. Contact NRW (SSSI.notices@cyfoethnaturaolcymru.gov.uk) SSSI assent team if required.
Waterbody	Llyn Gorast is drained by a headwater stream of the River Tywfi ('Poor' WFD status), running into Llyn Brianne. Doethie - headwaters to conf with Pysgotwr Fawr ('Moderate' WFD status) runs through the Ochr Fawr Site.	If any works are to be undertaken on the bank of, or in-stream, a WFD Preliminary Assessment may be required in addition an Ordinary Watercourse Consent. OGN 72 documents the WFD compliance assessment, Section 3 of this guidance outlines	Consult the local Environment Team (CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturaolcymru.gov.uk) for advice on these issues.

		<p>the screening process and this should be documented in the WFDCA template.</p> <p>Works in-stream or adjacent to a watercourse should follow the Pollution Prevention Guidance.</p>	
Fisheries	The River Tywi and Llyn Brienne both have stocks of salmonid, and the headwaters are likely an important breeding area.	Any issues pertaining to potential pollution of River Tywi and Llyn Brienne and its fish breeding habitat should be discussed with the local fisheries advisor to the Environment Team.	Consult the local Environment Team (CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) for details of local fisheries lead.
Contaminated Land	There are no historic or current landfill sites within 5km of the Site boundaries.	Any groundworks or the construction of a site compound or access trail must be done so with guidance from the Geosciences Team - geoscience@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk should be consulted regarding contaminated land removal and/or remobilisation of sediments. In addition to the construction of any site	Should local knowledge, or any GI data, identify a risk of ground contamination, NRW' Geoscience Team should be consulted. (Trystan James - geoscience@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk).

		compounds or access trails.	
Public Right of Way	<p>There are no National / Regional Trails or Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within 500m of the Sites.</p> <p>Cambrian Way long distance trail lies 50m east of Ochr Fawr Site boundary.</p> <p>Llyn Gorast - Bridleway 32/33 running along the eastern boundary and a footpath 32/34 running across the southern Site area. CRoW Access Land abuts the eastern Site boundary and the NW boundary.</p> <p>Ochr Fawr – closest PRoW lies 750m south of the Site boundary. CRoW Access Land abuts the eastern Site boundary.</p>	<p>Potential for a Public Path Order (Diversion / Closure) being required at Llyn Gorast.</p>	<p>Contact Local Planning Authority's (LPA) Rights of Way Officer for Ceredigion County Council (CCC).</p>
Protected Species / Invasive Species	<p>Within 1km of Llyn Gorast - records of priority and protected mammals (e.g. water vole, red squirrel,), birds (e.g. red kite, marsh tit, curlew, bullfinch, goshawk), reptiles (e.g. common lizard), amphibians (e.g. common toad).</p> <p>Within 1km of Ochr Fawr -</p>	<p>Ecological walkover/survey will be required to determine and agree the appropriate mitigation controls required. The surveys should be completed by ecologists with the appropriate licences. Check with the plant</p>	<p>Contact the local Environment Team (CeredigionEnvironmentTeam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) who can advise and potentially undertake the surveys and refer to the Plant Health team regarding biosecurity.</p>

	<p>(e.g. red squirrel), birds (e.g. wood warbler, song thrush, skylark, turtle dove, merlin, osprey).</p> <p>Numerous other species beyond 1km.</p>	health team regarding biosecurity before any works go ahead.	
Historic Environment (Heneb to provide text)	<p>Llyn Gorast Site is within the Upland Ceredigion Historic Landscape (HLW). This non-statutory designation is of national importance and is given similar material weight to AONBs and National Parks.</p> <p>The Ochr Fawr Site is not within a HLCA.</p> <p>Closest Scheduled Monuments are Ystrad Fflur, c.1.2km east of Llyn Gorast Site and Llandewi Brefi, c.850m west of Ochr Fawr Site.</p> <p>5 round barrow archaeological points within Llyn Gorast Site, sheep fold adjacent.</p> <p>Sheep fold and long hut archaeological points with Ochr Fawr Site. Peat workings within 100m.</p>	<p>Consult Cadw regarding the need for Scheduled Monument Assent and potential for impacts on the HLCA and setting of the Scheduled Monuments.</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>	<p>Consult Cadw.</p> <p>Consult Heneb (Dyfed Archaeological Trust).</p>
Landscape	No statutory landscape	Information on any TPOs is	Consult with NRW's forestry

Commented [GJ1]: Awaiting response.

	<p>designations within 10km of the Site boundary.</p> <p>Cambrian Mountains Society campaigns for the Cambrian Mountains to have AONB status.</p> <p>Both Sites within NLCA 21 Cambrian Mountains and both Sites' eastern boundaries abut the non-statutory Special Landscape Area (SLA) 12 Northern Uplands.</p> <p>No available information for Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).</p>	<p>necessary if there is a need for tree removal – discuss with LPA conservation Officer and local NRW forestry team.</p> <p>The SLA SPG is a material planning consideration re protection and enhancement of landscape character. special-landscape-areas-supplementary-guidance-spg-april-2014-english.pdf (ceredigion.gov.uk)</p>	<p>planners/local team for the area.</p> <p>Consult with Ceredigion County Council regarding any TPOs and potential impact on / benefits to the SLA the project can deliver.</p>
NNR, LNR, Local Wildlife Site, Ancient Woodland, other designations.	None.	N/A	N/A
Is planning consent likely under the Town and Country Planning Regulations?	No		
Does the project fall under NRW Permitted Development Rights as per the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted development) Order?	<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&CP regulations.</p> <p>As the works are proposed for WGWE forestry, contact the forestry planners regarding the exceedance of a 'non-sensitive' area threshold for any felling/afforestation activities pertaining to this project. 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. Natural Resources Wales / Low risk impoundments. By law you must have an impoundment licence before you start to construct, alter, repair or remove an impoundment structure.</p>
Enhancements / Multiple Benefits	<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any opportunities to deliver against HLCA / SLA / NLCA Key Policy and Management issues? • Can your project build in measures to slow the flow of water, consequently having flood risk and water quality benefits? • 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.? • Where associated with Natura 2000 sites, can your project deliver any actions required under the Prioritised Improvement Plans? • Are there any opportunities for using green engineering / green infrastructure? • Can recreational or access opportunities be delivered through your project e.g. footpath accessibility? • Are there any opportunities for planting trees or shrubs? • Are there any opportunities to promote simple changes to land management to provide food, shelter and nest sites for pollinators? • 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? • Are there any opportunities for community engagement or education? • Are there any opportunities to improve fish habitat or passage?

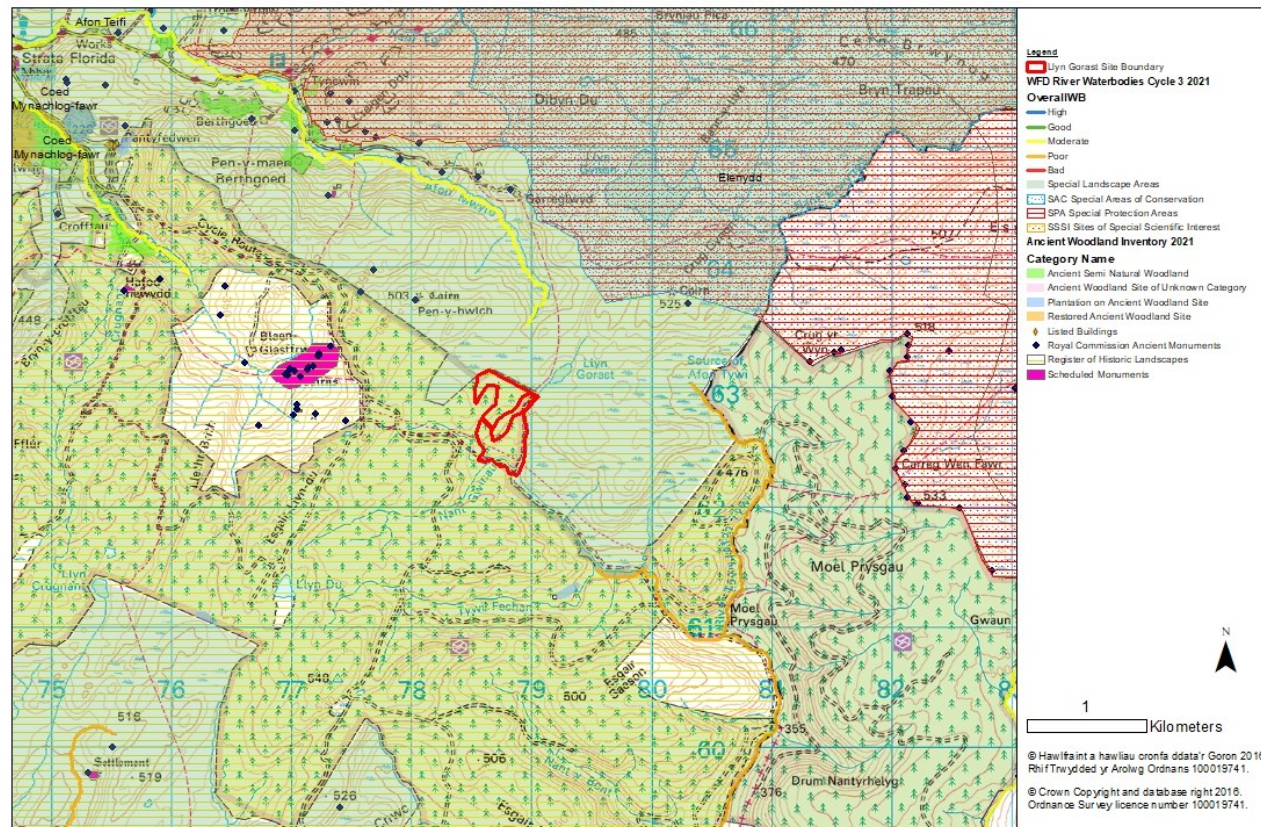
Environmental Good Practice Guidance

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, 3rd 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/?lang=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 Maps



Constraints Map: Tywi Forest NPAP - Ochr Fawr

