Information to help inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment

Regulation 63(2) of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (the Habitats Regulations) requires you, where applying for a felling permission or other statutory consent, to provide us with the information we may reasonably require for the purposes of assessment or to enable us to determine whether an assessment is required.

[Natural Resources Wales / Sites protected by Protected and international law](https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/sites-protected-by-european-and-international-law/?lang=en)

[Natural Resources Wales / Find protected areas of land and sea](https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-sea/?lang=en)

For each Protected site consider whether there is any potential for the harvesting operation, either directly or indirectly:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| for a habitat feature to - | for a species feature, to - |
| * reduce the extent of the habitat within the site boundary (by any amount or proportion) * negatively affect the quality of the habitat within the site boundary, such as by affecting its species composition (especially in relation to typical species), ecological structure and functions or physical processes * impede or prevent the recovery, improvement in condition or re-creation of the habitat in any part of the site * prevent or disrupt restoration work, or the potential for future restoration | * reduce the population or meta population associated with the site, or make future population declines more likely * impede or prevent the population from increasing * affect the population dynamics (e.g. age or sex structure, productivity) * reduce extent, or affect the quality of the species’ supporting habitat inside the site boundary (including by affecting predator-prey relationships) * reduce the extent or affect the quality of habitat outside the site boundary on which the population depends * cause disturbance, injury or killing of individuals of the species * impede or prevent the recovery, improvement in condition or re-creation of the habitat in any part of the site. Prevent or disrupt restoration work, or the potential for future restoration |

In considering the above questions consider whether the harvesting operation entails, or could indirectly cause:

* direct capture, damage or harm to a designated species feature
* damage to a designated habitat feature (including through direct physical impact, pollution, changes in thermal regime, hydrodynamics, light, etc.)
* damage to the habitat of designated species features (including through direct physical impact, pollution, changes in thermal regime, hydrodynamics, light, etc.)
* damage to a designated habitat feature via removal of, or other detrimental impact on, typical species
* removal of prey species of a designated species feature
* damage to habitat of prey species of a designated species feature
* introduction of a predator species on a designated species feature

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Your Application number : |  | Woodland name: |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes / No** |  |
| Is your felling and /or restocking proposal necessary to the management of one or more Protected sites, for the purposes of conserving the habitats or species for which the site(s) is/are designated | Select | *If* ***YES,*** *Provide the following information here: - Name(s) of Protected site(s); Which habitat or species feature(s) will be affected; explanation of how the* felling and /or restock proposals *furthers the conservation objectives of the Protected site(s) identified. If you have consulted one of NRW’s Environment Officers prior to submitting your application, please upload your consultation response*  *If* ***NO,*** *go to next question* |
| Is there any possibility that your harvesting proposals including restock could have an impact on a protected site (s) | Select | *If* ***YES,*** *complete Screening assessment below*  *If* ***NO,*** *provide explanation here, or attach a separate sheet as necessary:* |

**Screening assessment**

Use one table per protected site unless the features are the same.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Protected site name(s):** | | |
| **Protected site Feature** (*can be grouped where the impact is the same, or dealt with in separate rows if preferred)* | **Description of effect(s) and potential impact pathway**\* | **Description of mitigation measures**†**, and how they would be applied (e.g. contractual obligations, species licence)** |
|  |  |  |

\*Potential impact pathways can be direct, such as damaging a habitat, harming a species or significantly impacting on a feature from a pollution event or a change in light levels, hydrodynamics or thermal regimes. Impact pathways can also be indirect, such as impacting on the prey of a designated species.

†Mitigation measures might include one or more of the following: relocating what you do, reducing its scale or extent, doing it in a different way, phasing or timing the works (e.g. determining acceptable seasons to do the work), ensuring that the other elements of the operation (e.g. constructing roads or tracks) are in place in advance, leaving some areas of trees unfelled (e.g. where there are otter holts or resting areas), or defining ‘no-go’ or buffer areas (e.g. so as not to disturb any hibernating animals such as dormice or great creasted newts).

**Signature**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the person completing this form** | **Position in your organisation (if applicable)** | **Your signature** | **Date** |
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