

Seagrass restoration in North Wales: first results

Stijn den Haan | Project Seagrass

Reece Halstead | North Wales Wildlife Trust

28 February 2024



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust



Prifysgol
Abertawe
Swansea
University



PROJECT SEAGRASS



Why?

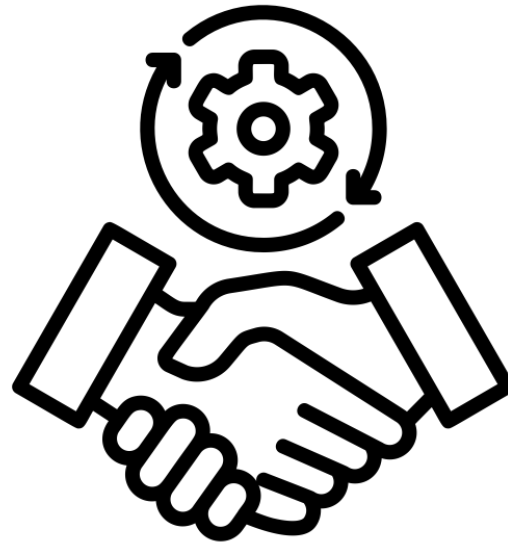
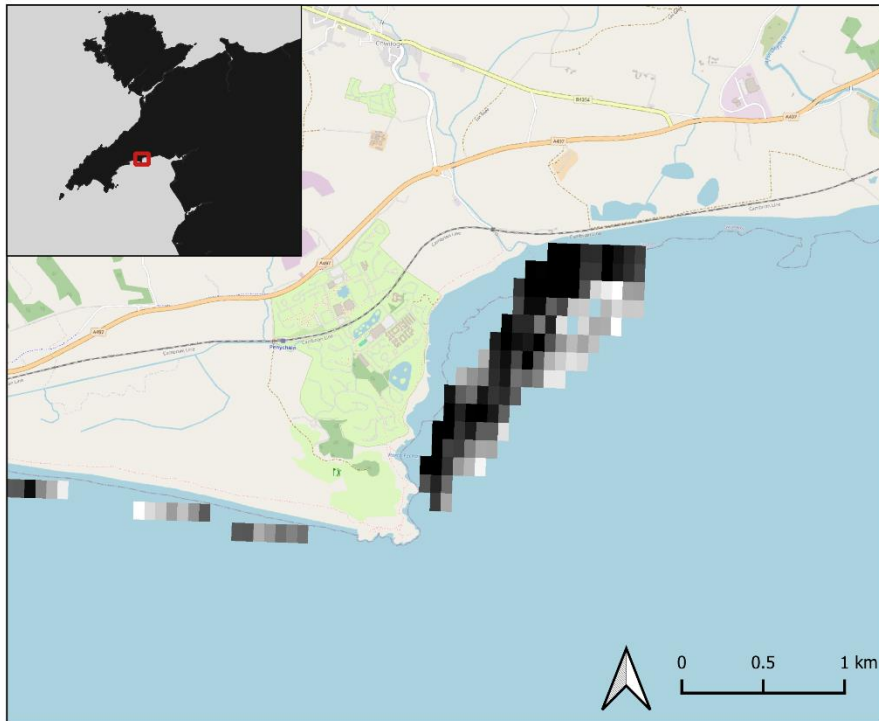
Seagrass Ocean Rescue North Wales

Ecology: plant seagrass (*Zostera marina*) over an area of 10 hectares across North Wales by 2026.

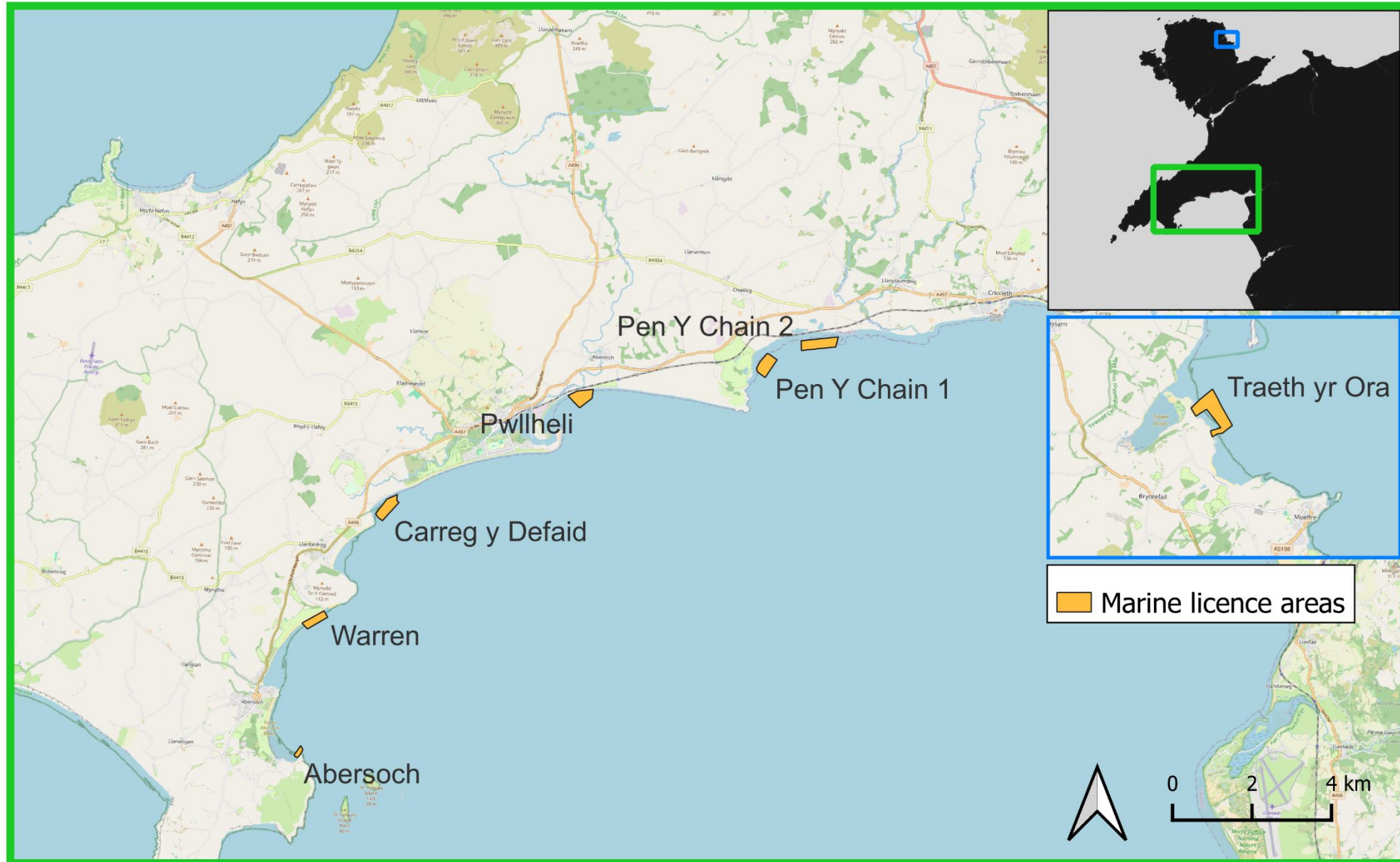
Community: secure the future of healthy seagrass meadows across North Wales.

First step: identify potential restoration sites

Habitat suitability model for Pen Llŷn



Identified sites on Pen Llŷn and Ynys Môn



Seed collection, processing, and cleaning



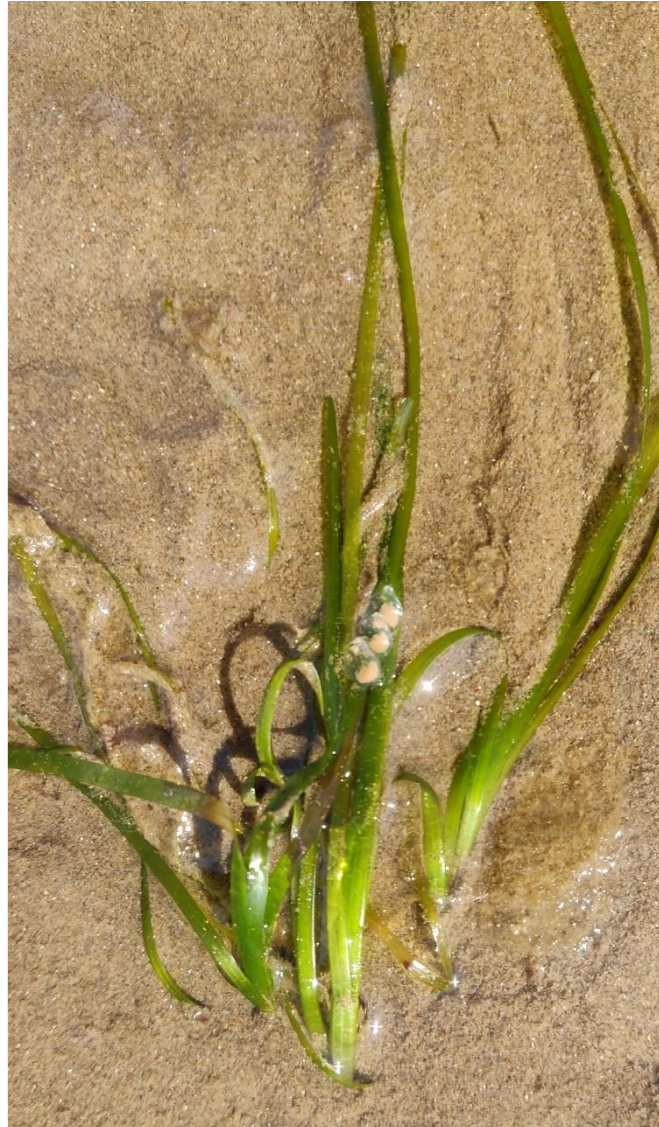
Identified sites on Pen Llŷn and Ynys Môn



February 2023: intertidal planting trial



2023: planted 200,000 seeds spread over c. 3000 m²



Number of seagrass shoots per planting method



2024 planting activities

340,000 seeds planted in February



© Charles Bagshaw

700,000 seeds about to be planted



© The Fieldwork Company



© University of Rhode Island

Linking Seagrass Ocean Rescue to the Local Community



Local community at the heart of the project
Feeding directly into the science to restore
seagrass in North Wales

Engaging locals to become seagrass guardians
and build a project legacy



Working with diverse community groups

Individual and community group volunteering
Engaging in a range of ways
Meeting people where they are



Offering a range of activities...

Summer seagrass seed collecting

By diving, snorkeling or wading

Community group camping



Hands-on Practical work

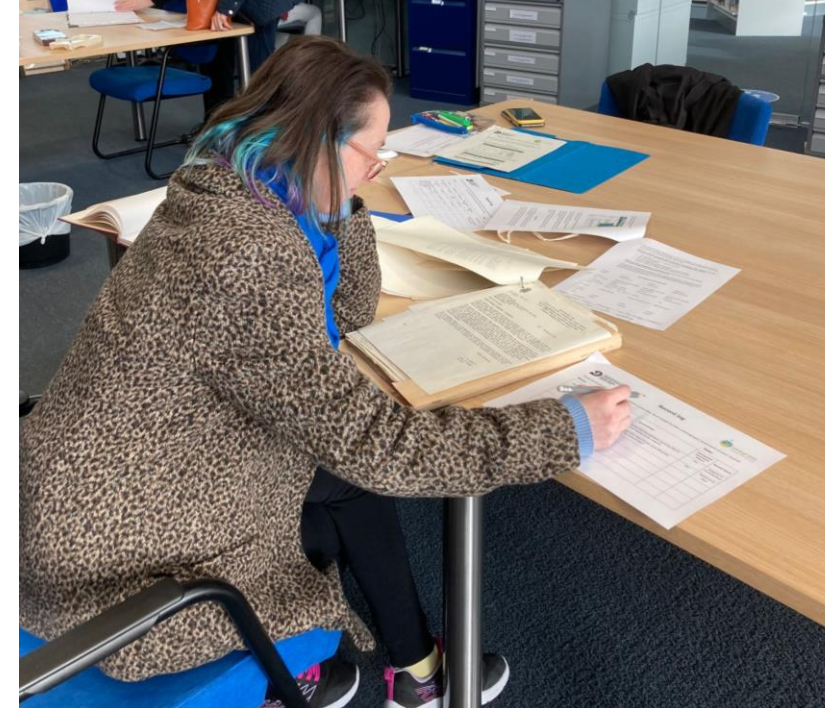
Hemp bag filling and planting
DIS (Direct Injection Seeding) seagrass planting
Seagrass fragment transplanting

...forming a photographic portrait of Mr. Roberts, Mr. Roberts fortunately having a likeness of him in his possession, and which, we are told, is the only one ever taken of the bard.

The proposed substitute for cotton, *Zostera Marina*, is no stranger to the Menai. We are informed by a correspondent at Beaumaris, whose pen has supplied us with more than one able article on Seashore Natural History, that this singular plant grows in considerable quantities on Sir R. Bulkeley's property at Puffin Island. It is remarkable, that that portion of the straits, in which, at lowest tides, it is found, bears the name of *Gwaun yr Ynys*—"The Meadow of the Island"—as though from the grass-like appearance of this plant; yet this name may be a relic of the time long past, when all the land from Priestholme to Penmaenmawr was inhabited and pastured.

DRAWING.—The following students have received prizes from the Science and Art Department of the

wendin
o'clock
rocks, t
and fiel
vered,]
it is su
was nev
Acco
the ere
ing pos
proceed
the pla
hausen.
Lieut.
hausen
Mrs. W
Comm
The
every v



Archiving & Anecdotal Memory Collecting

Monthly archive, museum and gallery visits
Training and self-led record searching
Upcoming focus on anecdotal records



Ocean Rescue Champion Scheme

11–16-year-olds, progressing to mentors
12-month programme of marine activities
Practical, advocacy and outreach work

