Water Framework Directive assessment: scoping template for activities in estuarine and coastal waters

Use this template to record the findings of the scoping stage of your Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment for an activity in an estuary or coastal water.

If your activity will:

- take place in or affect more than one water body, complete a template for each water body
- include several different activities or stages as part of a larger project, complete a template for each activity as part of your overall WFD assessment

The WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters will help you complete the table.

Your activity	Description, notes or more information
Applicant name	Industrie Cartarie Tronchetti (ICT) UK Limited and Crag Hill Estates Ltd (CHEL)
Application reference number (where applicable)	Planning Application Ref: 063721
Name of activity	Operational discharge to the River Dee
Brief description of activity	Operational discharge of process effluent from a tissue paper manufacturing facility
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	Outfall location: NGR 331835, 368995
Footprint of activity (ha)	N/A – activity is a discharge of treated process effluent
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	Start date - Quarter 1 of 2024 End date – Operational lifespan of approximately 60 years
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	Maximum discharge rate: 60 litres/second Continuous (24hr) discharge proposed

Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	Please refer to the Marine Discharges Assessment report (Appendix 3.2 of the Environmental Statement).

Water body[1]	**Description, notes or more information**
WFD water body name	Dee (N. Wales)
Water body ID	GB531106708200
River basin district name	Dee River Basin District
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	Estuarine
Water body total area (ha)	10927.60
Overall water body status (2015)	Moderate
Ecological status	Moderate
Chemical status	Fail
Target water body status and deadline	Good (2021)
Hydromorphology status of water body	Supports Good
Heavily modified water body and for what use	Yes – navigation, ports and harbours
Higher sensitivity habitats present	Yes
Lower sensitivity habitats present	Yes
Phytoplankton status	Moderate
History of harmful algae	Yes
WFD protected areas within 2km	Yes

[1] Water body information can be found in the Environment Agency's catchment data explorer and the water body summary table. Magic maps provide additional information on habitats and protected areas. Links to these information sources can be found in the WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters.

Specific risk information

Consider the potential risks of your activity to each of these receptors: hydromorphology, biology (habitats and fish), water quality and protected areas. Also consider invasive non-native species (INNS).

Section 1: Hydromorphology

Consider if hydromorphology is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find out the hydromorphology status of the water body, if it is classed as heavily modified and for what use.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Hydromorphology risk issue(s)
Could impact on the hydromorphology (for example morphology or tidal patterns) of a water body at high status		Impact assessment not required	The waterbody is not at High status
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body		Impact assessment not required	The maximum discharge rate (60l/s) is insufficient to cause scour or other changes to the hydromorphology of the waterbody.
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity		Impact assessment not required	The activity is not the same as the use for which the waterbody is designated as heavily modified.

Record the findings for hydromorphology and go to section 2: biology.

Section 2: Biology

Habitats

Consider if habitats are at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table and Magic maps, or other sources of information if available, to find the location and size of these habitats.

Higher sensitivity habitats [2]	**Lower sensitivity habitats [3]**
Chalk reef – *not present*	Cobbles, gravel and shingle – **4.29 ha**
Clam, cockle and oyster beds - *not present*	Intertidal soft sediments like sand and mud – **8239.72 ha**
Intertidal seagrass - *not present*	Rocky shore – **44.17 ha**
Maerl - *not present*	Subtidal boulder fields – *not present*
Mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel – **36.77ha**	Subtidal rocky reef – **0.86 ha**
Polychaete reef – **1.29ha**	Subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud – **679.37 ha**
Saltmarsh – **2647.83 ha**	
Subtidal kelp beds - *not present*	
Subtidal seagrass - *not present*	

[2] Higher sensitivity habitats have a low resistance to, and recovery rate, from human pressures.

[3] Lower sensitivity habitats have a medium to high resistance to, and recovery rate from, human pressures.

Consider if the footprint[4] of your activity is:	**Yes**	**No**	**Biology habitats risk issue(s)**
0.5km^2 or larger	Yes to one or more – requires impact assessment		The proposed activity involves a discharge of treated effluent that would be a higher temperature than the ambient background temperature of the waterbody, with a plume potentially exceeding 500m.
1% or more of the water body's area			
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat			Saltmarsh within 500m

1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			

[4] *Note that a footprint may also be a temperature or sediment plume. For dredging activity, a footprint is 1.5 times the dredge area.*

Fish

Consider if fish are at risk from your activity, but only if your activity is in an estuary or could affect fish in or entering an estuary.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Biology fish risk issue(s)
Is in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary, outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it or could affect fish migrating through the estuary	Continue with questions		Activity is in an estuary, potential for effects on fish (notably Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamphrey, River Lamphrey) has therefore been assessed.
Could impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier, noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)	Requires impact assessment		The proposed activity has potential to cause chemical and temperature change.
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish		Impact assessment not required	There is no risk of entrainment or impingement of fish associated with the proposed activity.

Record the findings for biology habitats and fish and go to section 3: water quality.

Section 3: Water quality

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find information on phytoplankton status and harmful algae.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
Could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)	Requires impact assessment		The proposed discharge is at a higher temperature than the ambient temperature of the receiving waterbody.
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	Requires impact assessment		
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	Requires impact assessment		

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity through the use, release or disturbance of chemicals.

If your activity uses or releases chemicals (for example through sediment disturbance or building works) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Requires impact assessment		The proposed discharge contains chemicals that are on the EQSD list.
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1		Impact assessment not required	

If your activity has a mixing zone (like a discharge pipeline or outfall) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals released are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Requires impact assessment[5]		The proposed discharge contains chemicals that are on the EQSD list.

[5] *Carry out your impact assessment using the Environment Agency's surface water pollution risk assessment guidance, part of Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.*

Record the findings for water quality go on to section 4: WFD protected areas.

Section 4: WFD protected areas

Consider if WFD protected areas are at risk from your activity. These include:

- special areas of conservation (SAC)
- special protection areas (SPA)
- shellfish waters
- bathing waters
- nutrient sensitive areas

Use Magic maps to find information on the location of protected areas in your water body (and adjacent water bodies) within 2km of your activity.

Consider if your activity is:	Yes	No	Protected areas risk issue(s)
Within 2km of any WFD protected area[6]	Requires impact assessment		At the location of the proposed headwall and discharge, the waterbody is designated as a SAC (River Dee and Bala Lake SAC). The Dee Estuary SAC and SPA are located approximately 500m west of the proposed headwall location and discharge.

[6] *Note that a regulator can extend the 2km boundary if your activity has an especially high environmental risk.*

Record the findings for WFD protected areas and go to section 5: invasive non-native species.

Section 5: Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Consider if there is a risk your activity could introduce or spread INNS.

Risks of introducing or spreading INNS include:

- materials or equipment that have come from, had use in or travelled through other water bodies
- activities that help spread existing INNS, either within the immediate water body or other water bodies

Consider if your activity could:	Yes	No	INNS risk issue(s)
Introduce or spread INNS		Impact assessment not required	

Record the findings for INNS and go to the summary section.

Summary

Summarise the results of scoping here.

Receptor	Potential risk to receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	No	
Biology: habitats	Yes	Higher sensitivity habitat (saltmarsh) within 500m and footprint (temperature plume) potentially exceeds 0.5km.
Biology: fish	Yes	The proposed activity has potential to cause chemical and temperature change.
Water quality	Yes	The proposed discharge is at a higher temperature than the ambient temperature of the receiving waterbody and contains chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list.

Protected areas	Yes	Potential for impacts on the Dee Estuary SAC and SPA and the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC.
Invasive non-native species	No	

If you haven't identified any receptors at risk during scoping, you don't need to continue to the impact assessment stage and your WFD assessment is complete.

If you've identified one or more receptors at risk during scoping, you should continue to the impact assessment stage.

Include your scoping results in the WFD assessment document you send to your activity's regulator as part of your application for permission to carry out the activity.