

Newport Norse

Newport Transporter Bridge

WFD Compliance Assessment - Screening and Scoping

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This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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1. Introduction

Ove Arup and Partners (Arup) has been commissioned by Newport Norse to undertake a Water Framework Directive screening and scoping compliance assessment for works associated with the replacement of a retaining wall along the River Usk associated with the proposed refurbishment works of the Newport Transporter Bridge, Newport, Wales.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD)¹ is implemented in England and Wales by the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017. It establishes a legislative framework for the protection of surface waters and groundwater, and its aims are:

- to prevent deterioration of the status of all water bodies; and
- to protect, enhance and restore water bodies to good status/potential.

All proposed schemes with the potential to interact with the water environment must be assessed to ensure that the aims of the WFD are being met. Where a scheme is shown to contravene the WFD, a Regulation 19 derogation would need to be sought from the relevant authority.

This report follows guidance produced by Natural Resources Wales² (NRW) and the Planning Inspectorate³ to produce a WFD Compliance Assessment report which identifies the activities related to the scheme that may cause deterioration or prevent a water body from meeting its objectives. Activities noted as having the potential to cause deterioration or prevent a water body from meeting its objectives will be subject to further assessment following consultation and agreement with Natural Resources Wales.

2. Screening

2.1 Project Details

Table 1 Details of the proposed project.

Project Details	
Applicant name	Newport Norse
Project Stage	Marine License Application
Description of activities	The proposed refurbishment works of the Newport Transporter Bridge comprise a proposed new visitor centre, which will require a new retaining wall along the River Usk as the existing wall has been deteriorating and would be unable to retain the land and any new developments that are planned in the area behind it. The new retaining wall will be located around

¹ European Commission. Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy

² Natural Resources Wales: OGN 72 Complying with the WFD: how to assess and appraise projects and activities. Version 3.

³ The Planning Inspectorate. Advice Note 18: The Water Framework Directive (June 2017). Available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/advice_note_18.pdf

	National Grid Reference: ST 31704 86287 and comprise the following a total of 51.1 m of lineal EZ19-700 sheet piles to form a bounding wall. The new wall will be constructed in two phases, the first phase (visit 1) comprises the southern extent of the proposed site for which works have been completed. The northern extent (visit 2) will commence upon receipt of a Marine License and comprises ~24m of new retaining wall. A marine license is required for the northern phase works because the proposed scheme will partially encroach on the Mean High-Water Spring (MHWS), resulting in a footprint loss of 11.52m² of intertidal habitat. This WFD screening and scoping report relates to the second, northern phase of works only. The new retaining wall will comprise sheet piling topped with a concrete capping beam of 750mm by 450mm in size. The retaining wall will be approximately 3m in height with the top of the wall proposed at ~8.2 m above ordnance datum (AOD) compared to an existing wall height of 7.5 m AOD to 7.9m AOD. The sheet piles will be located riverward of the existing retaining wall and the gap will be backfilled with free draining granular gravel fill. Construction will be undertaken from the landward side of the proposed site. The northern phase of works will comprise 26no. EZ19-700 sheet piles at 14m and 10no. EZ19-700 sheet piles at 12m installed using a Movax excavator and SG-60 pile driver to finished pile head level where possible, or flame cut to finished pile head level. The piles will include 50mm weepholes at 1m above ground level, at 2.8m spacing. Any access to the riverward side of the proposed works will be via mobile elevating work platforms. A location plan of the proposed works is provided in Appendix A.1. Scheme design details are provided in Appendix A.2-A.4.
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	ST 31703 86285
Footprint of activity (ha)	Linear Infrastructure – 51.1 m in length with a total area of <0.01ha. The proposed scheme comprises a 11.52m² footprint within intertidal area (ingressing beyond the MHWS)
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	Construction Start – Autumn/Winter 2023
Relevant Documents	This document should be read in conjunction with the relevant assessments submitted alongside the Marine License application, including but not limited to: - construction method statement - Appropriate Assessment⁴ - Habitat Regulations Assessment⁵ - Ecological Impact Assessment⁶ - Preliminary Ecological Assessment⁷

⁴ Appropriate Assessment – Application 19/1164 and 19/1165

⁵ Habitats Regulations Assessment – Application 21/1217. Replacement of Retaining Wall. Newport City Council.

⁶ EcoLogical Services Ltd. (2020) Ecological Impact Assessment. Visitor Centre Newport Transporter Bridge, Newport. V.3

⁷ EcoLogical Services Ltd. (2019) Preliminary Ecological Assessment. Visitor Centre Newport Transporter Bridge, Newport. V.2

2.1.1 Construction Phase Mitigation

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be prepared in advance of construction. This will outline environmental issues identified within the site; provide a register of relevant legislation and consents requirements; define agreed mitigation measures in work method statements to ensure compliance with current legislation, works licences and permits, planning approvals, and best practice guidance. This document will be adopted and adapted during the construction phase by the appointed contractor(s).

The CEMP will include measures to avoid and minimise impacts to the water environment during construction of the proposed scheme, in alignment with NRW/EA best practice guidance. For the basis of this assessment, it is assumed at this stage that reference will be made in the CEMP, where necessary, to the environmental good practice advice in the Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG)⁸, together with the replacement guidance series, Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) as and when this becomes available. Whilst PPGs and GPPs do not provide regulatory guidance in Wales, they form environmental good practice guidance for the whole UK. Of particular relevance to the proposed scheme are those PPG/GPPs listed below:

- PPG1: Understanding your environmental responsibilities – good environmental practices;
- GPP 5: Works and maintenance in or near water;
- PPG 6: Working at construction and demolition sites;
- GPP 8: Safe storage and disposal of used oils;
- GPP 21: Pollution incident response planning; and
- GPP 22: Dealing with spills.

Table 2 below outlines some of the key construction phase mitigation which should be adhered to on site.

Table 2 Construction phase mitigation to be detailed in a CEMP

Mitigation Aim	Description
Pollution control	Control of sediment runoff It is assumed that best practice will be adopted in line with GPP 5⁹ to minimise the risk of silt pollution to nearby watercourses during construction activities. This will involve the identification of potential sources and pathways to the River Usk, and the application of appropriate measures, where necessary, to avoid or control silt runoff. For example, this may include: • all plant and wheel washing to be carried out in a designated area at least 10m from any water body or surface drain;

⁸ See: <http://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-prevention-guidelines-ppgs-andreplacement-series/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpps-full-list/>

⁹ NRW, NIEA, & SEPA (2018), Guidance for Pollution Prevention: Works and maintenance in or near water: GPP 5.

	• runoff to be collected in lagoons or settlement tanks (or similar) to allow suspended solids to settle and be removed to appropriate levels before discharge to the nearby watercourse; • any runoff water containing silt or other pollutants to be treated appropriately before discharge back to the water environment. Spillages A pollution risk assessment should be carried out for the proposed site ahead of construction, considering both the storage and transportation of materials used. This would identify potentially hazardous materials or activities and assess the probability and magnitude of potentially harmful effects. From this, a pollution incident response plan (see GPP 21¹⁰) would be compiled to identify the specific measures needed to reduce the likelihood of a spillage happening, and to minimise the impact of any spills that may occur. Minimising Disturbance Appropriate measures should be included within the work method statements to reduce potential environmental impacts of any in-channel and marginal construction activities. This include measures to: minimise the footprint of any in channel works as far as reasonable possible to reduce the degree of physical disturbance of the river bed and banks; reinstate any impacted benthic or marginal habitats where necessary; reduce associated noise, vibration, and any artificial lighting impacts where possible; and control the timing of works so that any in-channel works are programmed to take place outside of sensitive times of year for juvenile fish and migratory fish.
Biosecurity	Good biosecurity practices are vital for preventing the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) and pathogens such as waterborne fish diseases. Measures should be adopted so that the construction activities do not lead to the spread of invasive non-native species or pathogens. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal⁷ was undertaken in 2019 and no INNS were identified within the site boundary. As a precautionary approach, to avoid the spread of invasive species which may be present on site during construction, the following measures should be adhered to, and detailed within the CEMP, during construction: • Contractor's Ecologist to undertake toolbox talks for any INNS prior to works starting. Tool box talks are to be signed by contractor on site; • ensure all site teams are briefed in EA Check, Clean Dry procedure and will be made aware of areas on site where INNS are known to be present; and • avoid working in areas where INNS are present. Where this is not possible, appropriate biosecurity measures are to be adopted.
Piling	The piling methodology should be selected to minimise the potential for alteration of the hydraulic properties of the surrounding ground, down-drag of contaminants and generation of suspended solids. If required, the properties of any materials being added to soils for soil mixed columns will be considered to ensure a pollution risk is not created. The properties of any soil stabilisation materials being added will be considered to ensure a pollution risk is not created in accordance with the EA's Groundwater Protection guidance¹¹.

¹⁰ NRW, NIEA, & SEPA (2017), Guidance for Pollution Prevention: Pollution Incident Response Plans: GPP21.

¹¹ Environment Agency (2017) *Groundwater protection guides covering: requirements, permissions, risk assessments and controls* (previously covered in GP3) (online) Accessible from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection>

2.2 Baseline Information

2.2.1 Surface water

A summary of the WFD classification for the affected waterbody and the waterbody located downstream are provided in Table 3 and Table 4 below. Full details of WFD status are provided in Appendix B.

Table 3: River Usk water body data. Based on Cycle 2 2015 and Cycle 3 2021 Classification data from Water Watch Wales.

Water Body Name	River Usk	
Water Body ID	GB530905415404	
Water body type	Transitional	
River Basin District	Severn	
Area (km ²)	4.358	
Element	2015 Cycle 2 Classification	2021 Cycle 3 Classification
Overall Status	Moderate	Moderate
Ecological Status	Moderate	Moderate
Hydro-morphological Supporting Elements	N/A	N/A
Chemical Status	Good	High
Failing Quality Element(s)	Invertebrates (<i>Moderate – Very Certain</i>) Infaunal Quality Index (<i>Moderate – Very Certain</i>)	Invertebrates (<i>Moderate – Very Certain</i>) Infaunal Quality Index (<i>Moderate – Very Certain</i>), Mitigation Assessment (<i>Moderate</i>)
Reason(s) for Failure	Unknown (pending investigation)	
Objective	Good by 2021	Good by 2027
Artificial or Heavily Modified	Designated as Heavily Modified	
Mitigation Measures Assessment	Use: Flood Protection Measure Tier 1: - Habitat creation - Operations and maintenance - Structural Modification - Working with physical form and function There are 19 Measure Tier 2s for the River Usk, 14 of which are not applicable and not required in this water body and the remaining measures are not in place due to technical infeasibility and not yet identified. Measures which are not in place (not yet identified) for the Usk are as follows: - Retain habitats; - Enhance ecology; and - Preserve or restore habitats.	

Table 4 Severn Lower (downstream waterbody) water body data. Based on Cycle 2 2015 and Cycle 3 2021 Classification data from Water Watch Wales.

Water Body Name	Severn Lower
Water Body ID	GB530905415401
Water body type	Transitional

River Basin District	Severn	
Area (km ²)	465.976	
Element	2015 Cycle 2 Classification	2021 Cycle 3 Classification
Overall Status	Moderate	Moderate
Ecological Status	Moderate	Moderate
Hydro-morphological Supporting Elements	N/A	N/A
Chemical Status	Fail	Moderate
Failing Quality Element(s)	Angiosperms (<i>Moderate</i>) Mitigation Measures (<i>Moderate</i>) Brominated diphenylether (BDPE) Calc (<i>Fail – Very Certain</i>) Mercury and its compounds (<i>Fail – Very Certain</i>)	Angiosperms (<i>Moderate – Very Certain</i>) Brominated diphenylether (BDPE) Calc (<i>Moderate – Very Certain</i>), Mercury and its compounds (<i>Moderate – Uncertain</i>)
Reason(s) for Failure	Diffuse and point source pollution from contaminated water body bed sediments, sewage discharge (continuous) and atmospheric deposition and unknown (pending investigation)	
Objective	Good by 2021	Good by 2033 (Derogation extended due to natural conditions)
Artificial or Heavily Modified	Designated as Heavily Modified	
Mitigation Measures Assessment	Use: Flood Protection Measure Tier 1: - Habitat creation - Operations and maintenance - Structural Modification - Working with physical form and function There are 19 Measure Tier 2s for the Severn Lower, 12 of which are not applicable and not required in this water body and the remaining measures are not in place (not yet identified). The measures which are not in place (not yet identified) are as follows: - Retain habitats; - Enhance ecology; - Changes to locks etc.; - Realign flood defences; - Remove obsolete structure; - Remove or soften hard bank; and - Preserve or restore habitats.	

2.2.2 Groundwater

Table 5: Usk Devonian Old Red Sandstone groundwater body data. Based on Cycle 2 2015 Classification data from Water Watch Wales.

Water Body Name	Usk Devonian Old Red Sandstone
Water Body ID	GB40902G201700
River Basin District	Severn
Area (km ²)	1,254
Overall Status	Good
Quantitative Status	Good
Chemical Status	Good

Failing Quality Element(s)	N/A
Reason(s) for Failure	N/A
Objective	Good by 2015

2.2.3 Sensitive Habitats

There is a higher sensitivity habitat within the Usk waterbody as follows:

- Saltmarsh (71.27ha)

The nearest area of higher sensitivity habitat is ~1km downstream of the proposed works.

There are lower sensitivity habitats also present within the Usk waterbody comprising:

- Intertidal soft sediment (345.57ha);
- Rocky shore (7.77ha); and
- Subtidal soft sediments (7.34ha).

There are no subtidal soft sediment habitats within 1km of the proposed works, however, rocky shore habitat is located within 30m of the proposed works and the proposed works are in the locality of intertidal soft sediment habitat.

2.2.4 Protected Sites

The following WFD protected areas have been identified within 2km of the scheme:

- River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC) on site;
- River Usk Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on site; and
- Severn Estuary SAC and Special Protection Area (SPA); 2.1km south-west of scheme (~3.5km downstream).

The River Usk is designated as an SAC based primarily on the presence of a number of migratory and non-migratory fish species and otter. Certain fish species known to use the River Usk contribute to the selection of the river as an SAC site. The fish species listed as a primary reason for the selection of the River Usk as a SAC are:

- Sea Lamprey
- Brook Lamprey
- River Lamprey
- Twaite Shad
- Atlantic Salmon
- Bullhead
- Allis shad are also an annex 2 species present within the river as a qualifying feature.

The presence of watercourses of plain to montane levels with Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachium vegetation is also a qualifying feature for this site's designation. The general site character is that of tidal river and mudflats which are found in the vicinity of the proposed scheme. The SSSI is designated based on the aquatic habitats and condition of the river and its plant and animal communities that use the feature across its range.

2.2.5 Consultation

NRW have been consulted in relation to this assessment by email on 28th October 2022 and again on 29th November 2022. The correspondence outlined the proposed retaining wall works and requested any information relevant to WFD which may affect, or be affected by the proposed scheme, that NRW might be aware of and which is not otherwise publicly accessible (via the Water Watch Wales webviewer). Responses outlining the Mitigation Measures and RNAGs for the River Usk and the Programme of Measures were provided on 25th November and 1st December 2022 respectively. NRW were then approached again on 10th February 2023 seeking pre-application advice prior to a Marine License application in relation to the location of the proposed scheme ingressing on the MHWS line. The response summarised the approach required within the Clearing the Waters for all guidance with implications for the application and mitigation dependent on the scale of impact. The responses are outlined in Section 3.3 and provided in Appendix C.

2.3 Risk Screening

Activities that may result in an impact on WFD quality elements may take place during construction and/or operation of the project. Table 6 details the expected activities and screens them for inclusion in the next stage of the assessment.

Table 6 Screening of proposed activities

Proposed Activity	Screen In/Out	Justification
Construction (temporary) activities		
Construction works, including piling activities, on the right bank of the Usk and within the MHWS line	In	Potential for vibration effects on fish. Although a temporary activity, there is potential for longer lasting effects from construction, particularly given the proximity to the SAC/SSSI
Permanent activities		
Presence of new retaining wall on the right bank of the River Usk and encroachment on intertidal area	In	Proximity to, interface with and potential impact on River Usk SAC/SSSI and ingress on intertidal habitat

3. Scoping

This stage of the assessment identifies elements within the River Usk Transitional water body which may be impacted as a result of activities screened in at the previous stage. Where a potential risk is identified, these elements will be scoped for their potential impact on the waterbody downstream, the Severn Lower Transitional water body, and progress to the detailed assessment stage.

3.1 Potential Impacts on Current Status

Table 7 presents this scoping exercise for the current status of WFD waterbodies.

Table 7 Potential impacts on WFD for the proposed new retaining wall

Activity	Quality element(s) at risk of impact	Justification
Construction work on the right bank of the River Usk	Hydromorphology – structure of the intertidal zone	The construction of the proposed scheme will have temporary impacts on the hydromorphological condition of the waterbody. The proposed works should be avoided during times of extreme high flows (highest astronomical tide combined with high fluvial flows) or storm surges to minimise the potential impact on hydromorphology and localised scour associated with the proposed works. There will be no temporary works or construction footprint on the riverward side of the proposed new retaining wall and therefore no temporary/construction works impacts to the structure of the intertidal zone.
	Biological – all elements	The construction works have the potential to affect fish, invertebrates, macrophytes and phytobenthos due to disturbance of the river banks and river bed, and the release of fine sediments and potential pollutants. This may lead to elevated levels of suspended sediment within the estuarine River Usk, which may then impact upon benthic habits within the channel. These impacts would be temporary in nature and terrestrial and aquatic pollution prevention and silt control measures implemented during construction as part of the CEMP should prevent excessive inputs of sediment or pollution spillages to the channel. Any deposits of fine sediment resulting from construction works are likely to be transported and dispersed both during and following construction during tidal and higher flows.
	Physico-chemical	The construction phase of the proposed scheme has the potential to release fine sediment to the channel, which may impact upon dissolved oxygen concentrations locally. However, these impacts will be temporary in nature and appropriate silt control measures should be developed and implemented during construction in order to prevent excessive input of sediment. Accordingly, any effects on dissolved oxygen during the construction phases are expected to be negligible.
	Specific Pollutants and/or Priority Substances	There is the potential for construction works to disturb and release contaminated material, create new pathways or introduce pollutant as a result of spillage. According to the Appropriate Assessment, a site investigation was undertaken to support the planning stage of the wider Newport Transporter Bridge scheme (Site Investigation Report. Intégral Géotechnique (Wales) Limited, Document Reference: 12496/JJ/19/SI, October 2019). The assessment states that whilst the site is in an area of previous industrial use, the site investigation indicates that there are low levels of soil contamination, but no ground water was sampled. The low levels of contamination have been considered to have a low risk to the controlled waters, i.e the River Usk and the Groundwater. National Resource Wales and the Council's Public Protection

Activity	Quality element(s) at risk of impact	Justification
		Environmental Health officer have considered the submitted document. Both NRW and the Councils Senior Scientific Officer were satisfied with the findings and have proposed precautionary conditions to unforeseen contamination that could be encountered during construction. This is corroborated by a Rapid Measurement Technique (RMT) analysis on four trial pits across the site¹², two of which are in close proximity to the proposed new retaining wall. The two trial pits (TP1 and TP2) (see Appendix D for location plan) in the vicinity of the retaining wall were classified as non-hazardous. Appropriate mitigation to control mobilisation of any sediment or pollutants into the watercourses should be carried out and outlined within a CEMP. Any onshore excavations should be inspected for any visual or olfactory evidence of contamination during the works and should any such contamination be identified, the works in the area should be paused whilst further assessment and testing are carried out as appropriate and any further necessary mitigation measures implemented.
Piling works to construct the retaining wall	Biological – fish Protected Areas	Vibratory works such as piling have the potential to disturb fish migration and/or spawning. The timing of any in-channel works should be programmed to take place outside of sensitive times of year for juvenile fish and migratory fish. This could affect the migratory fish species listed as features of the River Usk SAC (Twait and Allis Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Sea and River Lamprey). Within the CEMP, condition specific details of measures to minimise noise and vibration are required to minimise disturbance as well as control light spill which may also be prevalent during construction in winter. A Habitats Regulations Assessment⁵ has been undertaken, informed by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal⁷ and Ecological Impact Assessment⁶, assessing these potential impacts on the habitats present for the replacement retaining wall. The assessment considered that with the inclusion and full implementation of the identified conditions, there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the River Usk SAC either alone or in-combination with other relevant projects. The duration of the proposed piling works is scheduled to last 1 week for visit 1 (37no piles) and a similar duration is expected for visit 2 (36no piles). As such, the potential impact of fish disturbance would be short term, temporary and localised to the proposed site. In accordance with Environment Agency Guidance for WFD in estuarine and coastal waters¹³, temporary effects due to short-duration activities like construction or maintenance do not count as deterioration if the water body would recover in a short time without any restoration measures.

¹² Foxtree Solutions Ltd. (2022) Newport Transporter Bridge – Contamination Assessment Letter Report. 18322 – 01 – WCL01. Written by Hannah Darley.

¹³ Environment Agency (2017) Water Framework Directive assessment: estuarine and coastal waters. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-framework-directive-assessment-estuarine-and-coastal-waters>. Accessed: November 2022

Activity	Quality element(s) at risk of impact	Justification
Presence of new retaining wall on the right bank of the River Usk for ~50m	Hydromorphology – structure of the intertidal zone	The proposed new retaining wall will permanently impact the hydromorphology of the River Usk by altering the position of the MHWS riverward resulting in the loss of 11.52m ² of intertidal habitat. However, the new retaining wall is replacing the existing retaining wall which previously represented the limit of the MHWS in this location. As such, there is not considered to be a change in the character or quality of the river's hydromorphology during the operation of the proposed new retaining wall. Further, it is therefore not considered to change the current status of the hydromorphological quality element (however, please see Future Status Objectives below).
	Quantitative status (Groundwater)	There will be 50mm weepholes cut 1m above ground level into the retaining wall will allow water to escape from behind the wall. The proposed new retaining wall will be placed in front of an existing retaining wall for a similar length. It is not therefore considered to cause a barrier to groundwater flow or significantly alter groundwater flow pathways at the waterbody scale.
	Biological – all elements	The permanent scheme components of the proposed scheme are not considered to alter existing aquatic or marginal habitats along the channel compared to the existing baseline scenario.
	Protected Areas	The proposed scheme will result in the loss of 11.52m ² of intertidal area as the proposed retaining wall will artificially modify the MHWS line riverward marginally. The 11.52m ² intertidal area lost is occupied by lower sensitivity intertidal soft sediment, of which there are over 345ha in the River Usk and the habitat is an abundant habitat type in the local area. The area of intertidal habitat lost is considered to be negligible at the waterbody scale. Further, as the proposed retaining wall is replacing the existing retaining wall over a similar length, there will be no significant change to the degree of channel modified compared to the existing retaining wall, therefore the impact of the proposed scheme on protected areas is considered to be negligible.

3.2 Potential Impacts on Future Status Objectives

The future status of WFD waterbodies is controlled by the Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAGs) and the Mitigation Measures and Programme of Measures (PoM) for the affected waterbodies. The Mitigation Measures are outlined in Table 3. The Programme of Measures are national measures identified by NRW to help achieve the objectives under the WFD legislation. Consultation with NRW (provided in Appendix C) identified the following PoM measure relating to the Usk estuary's designation as a HMWB for flood protection use:

- CYM5: Physical Modification – in waterbodies designated as heavily modified due to flood and coastal protection, mitigation for NRW owned assets and activities will be reviewed and delivered on a prioritised basis.

Whilst the proposed scheme is not anticipated to worsen the existing RNAG that is considered to be limiting the Usk water body status (invertebrates), it will not contribute to the delivery of the Programme of Measures or Mitigation Measures which will contribute to the achievement of the waterbody's objectives in the future. The proposed scheme is considered to comprise the Measure Tier 1s of Operation and Maintenance and Structural Change identified for the Usk waterbody. These represent a mechanism to enable habitat creation, retention of habitats, enhanced ecology and preservation or restoration of habitats which are required for the waterbody to achieve its future status objectives. The proposed retaining wall will inhibit the development of any new intertidal habitat in this location and result in a net loss of 11.52m² of intertidal habitat. However, the area of

habitat loss is less than 0.01% of the waterbody/habitat area and is therefore insignificant at the waterbody scale. The proposed scheme is therefore considered to have a negligible effect on the future status objectives of the waterbody.

3.3 Consultation

In order to ensure compliance of this scheme with WFD requirements, consultation with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has been undertaken and summarised in Table 8. The consultation sought to determine NRW's opinion on any potential requirement for mitigation associated with the loss of 11.52m² of habitat and the associated Marine License application.

Table 8 Summary of Consultation

Consultee	Consultation Type	Correspondence Details	Summary of Consultation
NRW	Email	Request for Information. Email sent on 28/10/2022 and response received on 25/11/2022 and 01/12/2022.	Provision of details of the HMWB mitigation measures, waterbody extended reports and RNAGs. Usk waterbody Mitigation Measures Assessment report.
NRW	Email	Consultation request to understand the potential requirement for mitigation and/or potential implications on the Marine License application. Email sent on 10/02/2023 and response received on 02/03/2023	The consultant was advised to utilise the (withdrawn) 'Clearing the Waters for All' guidance to calculate the biology and habitats metrics (guidance superseded by Water Framework Directive assessment: estuarine and coastal waters). The consultee further advised to assess any impacts on water quality and hydrodynamics against the most recent WFD classification (cycle 3).
NRW	Email and Meeting	Pre-application advice in support of Marine License request sent on 07/08/2023, WFD assessment and note summarising the scheme shared on 15/08/2023. Clarifications and additional information provided between 19/09/2023 and 29/09/2023. Consultation meeting held on 18/10/2023.	Consultee team included marine area advice case officer, Specialist Marine Ecology Advisors and Specialist Advisor – Marine and Coastal Physical Processes. The consultee confirmed that no compensation/mitigation is required in relation to WFD. The requirement for a Coastal Squeeze Assessment and updated Habitat Regulations Assessment was outlined. Recommendation to contact Council regarding their flood embankment asset on opposite bank of the river to the proposed works to raise awareness of the proposed works. Minutes of meeting provided in Appendix C.
Newport City Council	Email	Inform Council of proposed scheme and proximity to flood resilience asset. Sent on 23/10/2023.	No response received at the time of writing.

3.4 Scoping Summary

The impact of the proposed scheme on the current status and future objectives of the affected waterbody, and any waterbody downstream, has been scoped out.

Table 9 summarises the scoping assessment..

Table 9 Summary of WFD Scoping

WFD Receptor	Potential impacts requiring detailed assessment	Potential impact identified with proposed scheme?	Scoping Result (in/out)
Hydromorphology	Impact on the hydromorphology of a waterbody at high status	No – Moderate Status	Out
	A significant impact on the hydromorphology of any waterbody	No	Out
Biology: Habitats	Footprint of activity 0.5km ² or larger	No – the proposed scheme is smaller than 0.5km ² , with an estimated footprint of 11.52m ² beyond the MHWS	Out
	Footprint of activities 1% or more of the waterbody's area	No – footprint is less than 0.01% of the waterbody's area (4.36km ²)	Out
	Activity within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat	No	Out
	Footprint of activities 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat	No - <0.01%	Out
Biology: Fish	Activity within an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary for example by: • a physical barrier like a barrage or weir; • noise or vibration; • a chemical change like low dissolved oxygen across part or all of the estuary; • a significant change to the depth or flow of the water body; or • entrainment, for example fish drawn into mechanical plant like cooling systems or tidal turbines; • impingement, for example fish trapped against debris screens.	No	Out
	Activity is outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish from entering the estuary	No	Out
	Activity could affect fish migrating through the estuary to freshwater	No	Out

Water Quality	Activity could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)	No	Out
	Activity is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	No – not recorded for the waterbody	Out
	Activity is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	No – Not monitored for the waterbody	Out
Protected Areas	Activity within 2km of protected area	Activity is located within an SAC, but no potentially significant impacts have been identified.	Out
Invasive Non-Native Species	Activity could introduce or spread INNS to a waterbody	No	Out

4. Conclusions and Scoping Outcome

A WFD Screening and Scoping has been undertaken for the proposed new retaining wall in support of the Newport Transporter Bridge works. The assessment is based on the currently available outline design information in order to support a Marine License application.

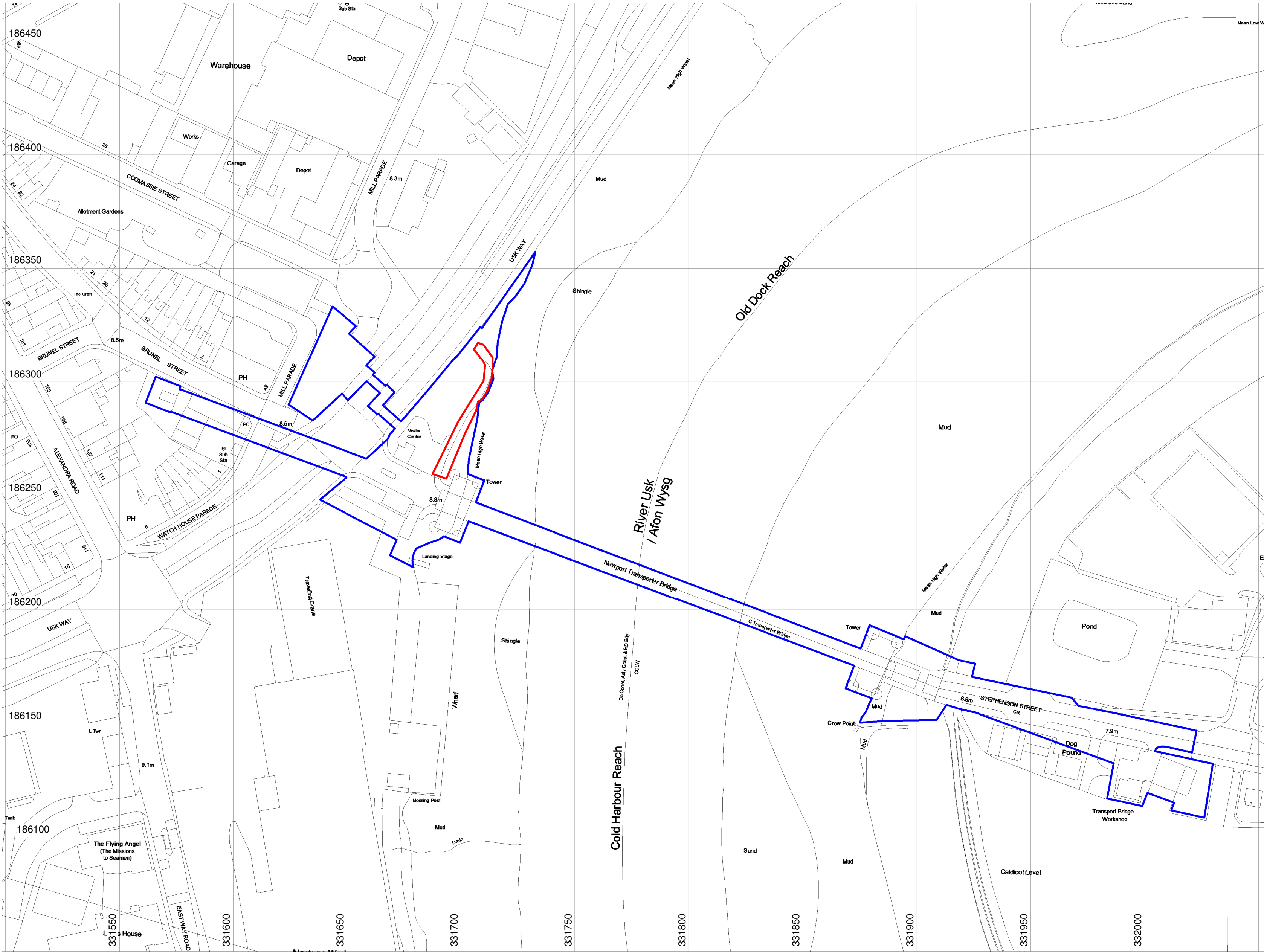
Assuming appropriate construction phase mitigation and best practice measures are outlined within a CEMP and undertaken, the construction of the replacement retaining wall is not anticipated to impact WFD quality elements at the waterbody scale. The construction effects will be localised, short term and temporary; temporary effects are not considered to result in deterioration in WFD status.

The permanent components of the proposed scheme are not considered to alter the existing baseline condition of the waterbody, owing to the nature of the proposed retaining wall placement in front of an existing retaining wall and artificially modified reach. Whilst the proposed retaining wall will inhibit the development of any new intertidal habitat in this location and result in a net loss of 11.52m² of intertidal habitat this is considered insignificant at the waterbody scale and is therefore considered to have a negligible effect on the future status objectives of the waterbody. Therefore, the proposed scheme is considered to be compliant with the WFD (and Water Environment Regulations), and no further mitigation or Regulation 19 derogation is required.

This Preliminary Assessment presents a ‘living assessment’ and should be updated where necessary in consultation with NRW in response to any significant design changes and/or provision of further relevant site baseline information at the site.

Appendix A Scheme Drawings

A.1 Site Location Plan

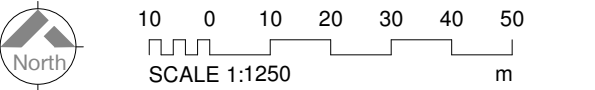


Notes

This drawing may be scaled for the purposes of Planning Applications, Land Registry and for Legal plans where the scale bar is used, and where it verifies that the drawing is an original or an accurate copy. It may not be scaled for construction purposes.

Always refer to figured dimensions. All dimensions are to be checked on site. Discrepancies and/or ambiguities between this drawing and information given elsewhere must be reported immediately to this office for clarification before proceeding. All drawings are to be read in conjunction with the specification and all works to be carried out in accordance with latest British Standards / Codes of Practice.

Rev	Date	Init	Notes	Chkd
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Drawing Originator

AWW

London - 106 Weston Street, SE1 3OB 020 7160 6000
Plymouth - East Quay House, PL4 0HX 01752 261 282
Bristol - pivot + mark, 48 - 52 Baldwin Street, BS1 1QB 0117 923 2535
RIBA Chartered Practice www-uk.com

Project Title

**Newport Transporter Bridge
Visitor Centre
Proposed Retaining Wall**

Drawing Title

Site Location Plan

Scale	Sheet	Drawn	Checked	Date
1 : 1250	A2	EBG	CM	Nov'21

Status	Project No.	
PLANNING	3896	
Drawing Reference	Drawing No.	Revision
3896-AWW-ZZ-ZZ-DR-A	0116	

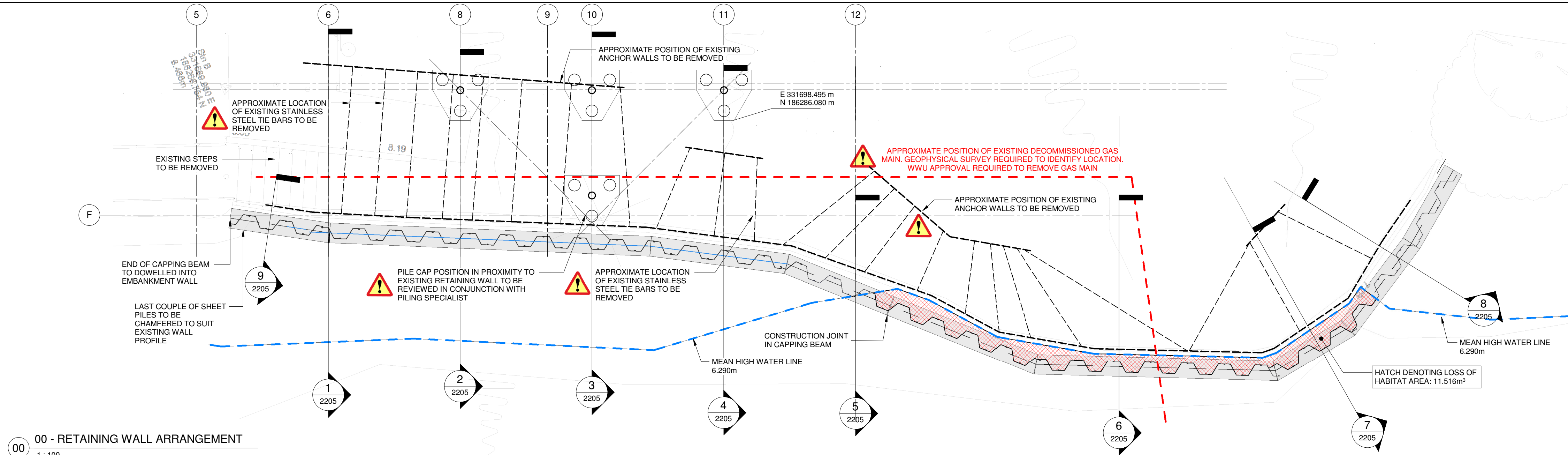
A.2 Illustration of Proposed Works in relation to MHWS

CONTRACTORS MUST CHECK ALL DIMENSIONS ON SITE. ONLY FIGURED DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE WORKED FROM. DISCREPANCIES MUST BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO CAMBRIA CONSULTING LIMITED BEFORE PROCEEDING.

THE CONTRACTOR IS TO REFER TO THE SPECIFICATION, FULL SCHEDULE OF RESIDUAL RISKS IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTATION AND ALSO TO INFORMATION FROM OTHER DESIGNERS, IN PARTICULAR THE M&E CONSULTANT REGARDING EXISTING LIVE SERVICES.

THIS SYMBOL IS USED TO HIGHLIGHT INSTANCES OF RISK WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.

ALWAYS CHECK FOR LATER REVISIONS OF THIS DRAWING.

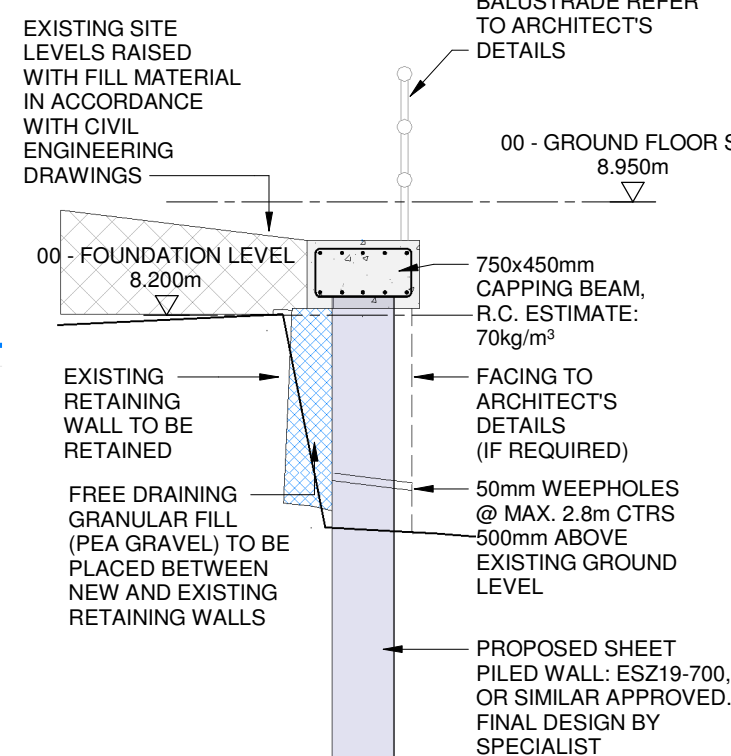


00 - RETAINING WALL ARRANGEMENT

1:100

PILING MATT IS TO BE DESIGNED AND CERTIFIED BY SPECIALIST TO SUIT PROPOSED RIG LOADINGS. PILING MATT IS TO BE AGREED WITH CONTRACTOR AND PILING SUB-CONTRACTOR.

NOTE EXISTING BALUSTRADE TO BE CAAREFULLY REMOVED FOR POTENTIAL REUSE. FINAL BALUSTRADE DETAILS AND RECOMONDATION BY ARCHITECT.



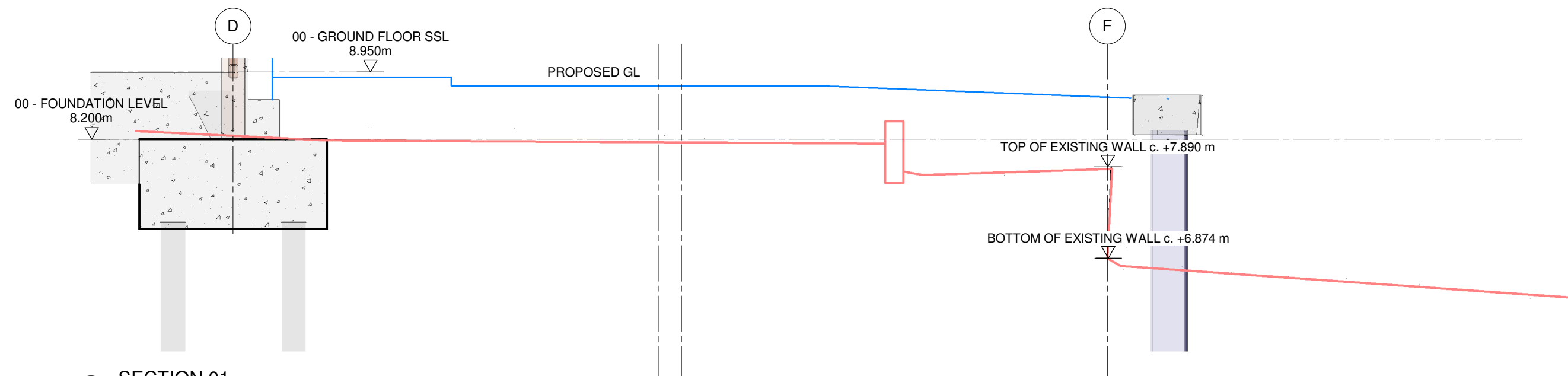
9 RETAINING WALL SECTION

1:50

FOR COMPREHENSIVE LEVEL INFORMATION REFER TO DRAWING No. CC1991-CAM-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0603

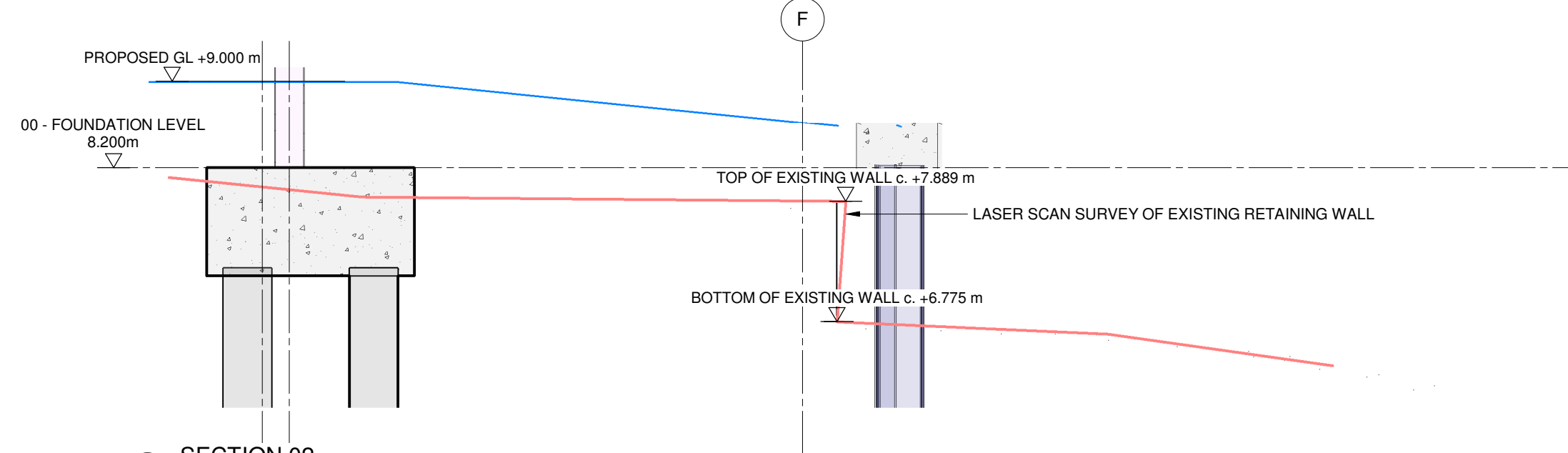
RW LS 01

1:100



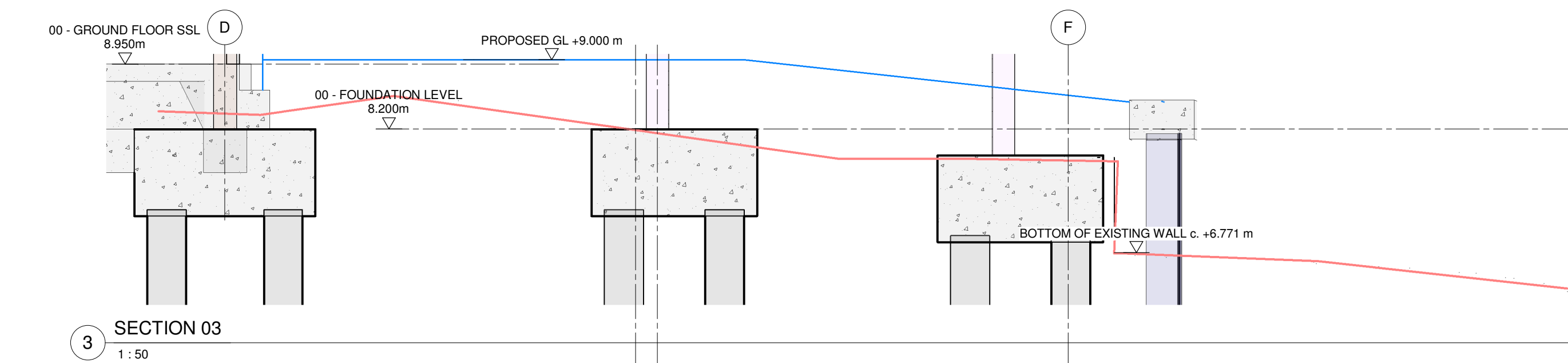
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1:50



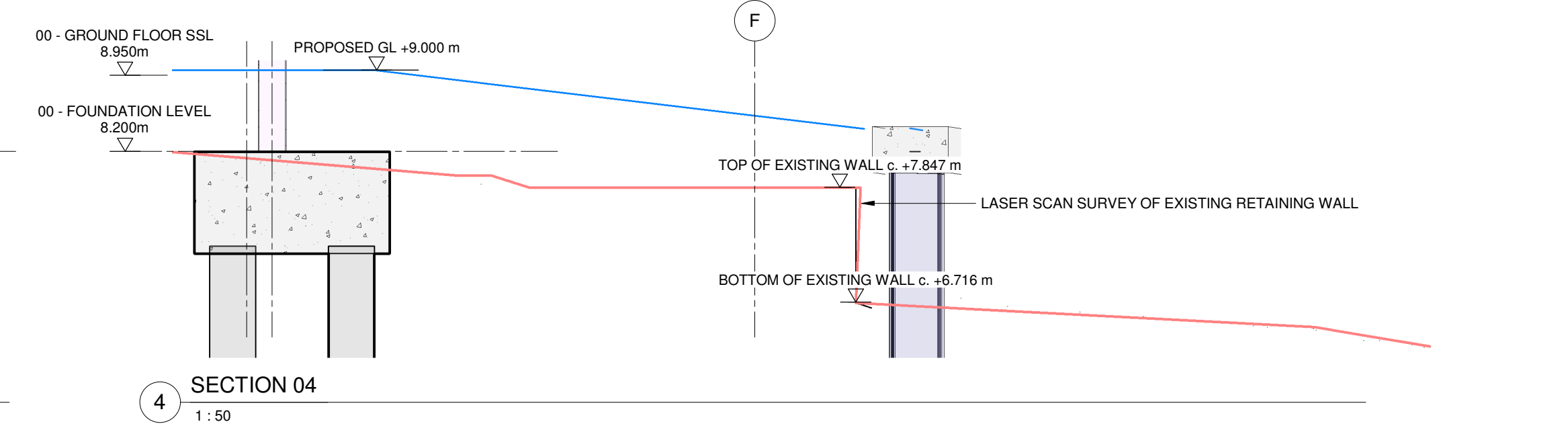
2 SECTION 02

1:50



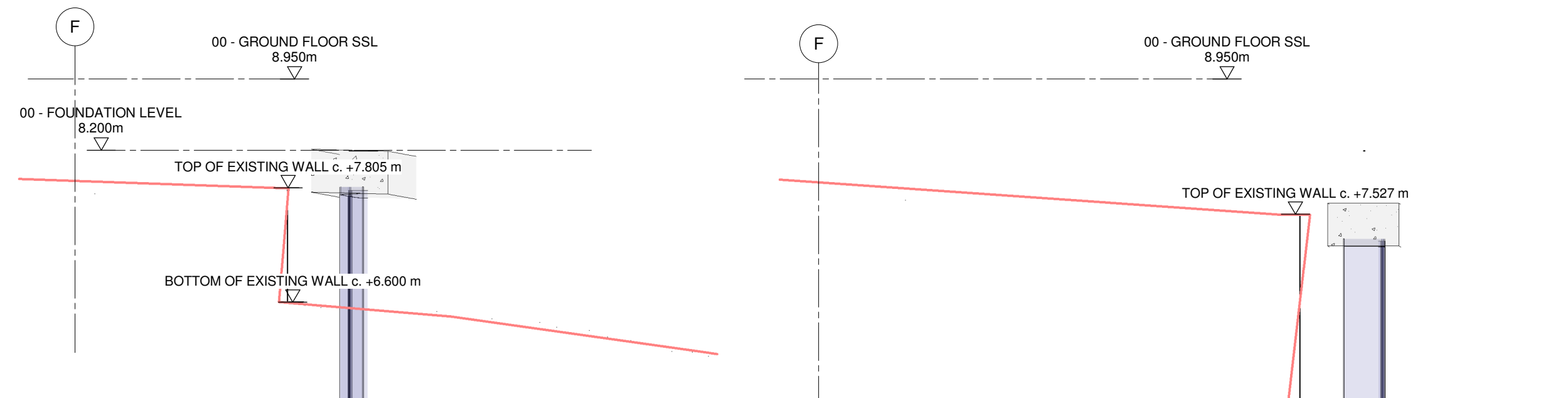
3 SECTION 03

1:50



4 SECTION 04

1:50



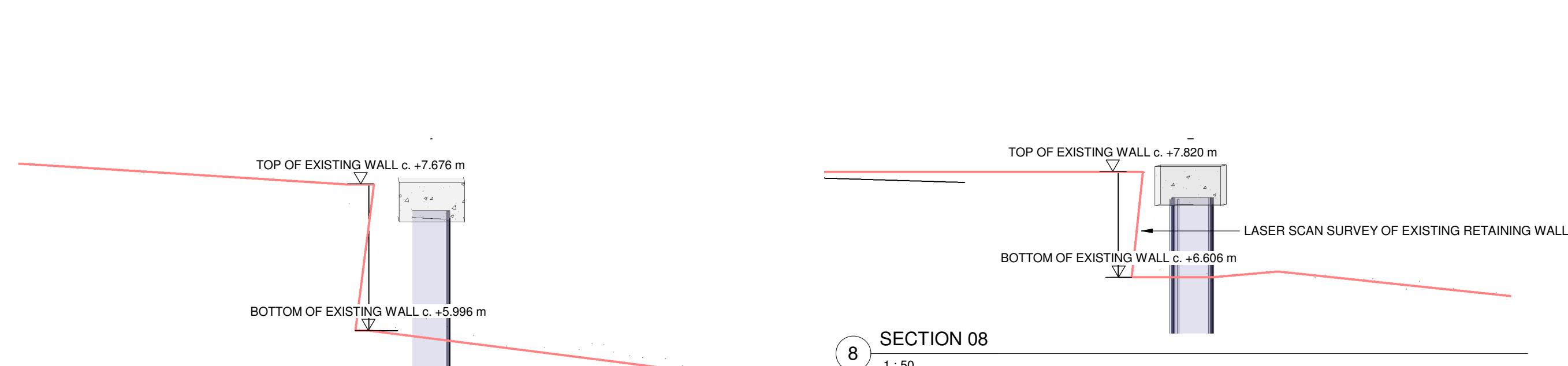
5 SECTION 05

1:50



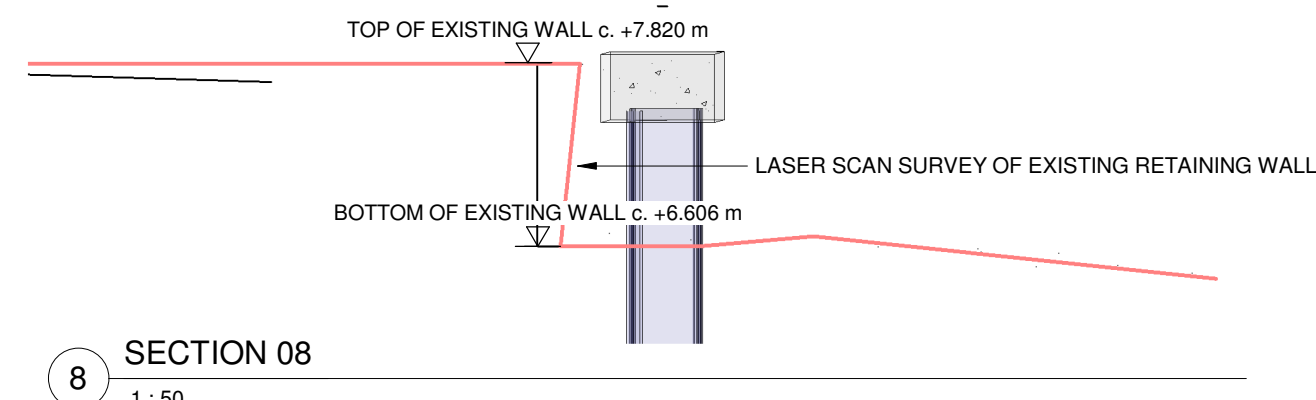
6 SECTION 06

1:50



7 SECTION 07

1:50



8 SECTION 08

1:50

C03	MEAN HIGH WATER LEVEL, HABITAT AREA NOTED	MD	KH	KH
				06/02/23
C02	CONSTRUCTION JOINT RELOCATED	MD	JH	KH
				02/09/22
C01	CONSTRUCTION ISSUE	MD	KH	KH
				05/08/22
P02	LASER SURVEYS SCAN INCLUDED	MD	KH	KH
				21/07/22
P01	FIRST ISSUE	MD	KH	KH
				12/08/21
Rev.	Description	By	Chk	App

Client:



Project:

NEWPORT TRANSPORTER
BRIDGE VISITOR CENTRE

Drawing Title:

RETAINING WALL

Drawing No.

CC1991 CAM ZZ FN DR S 16 2205

Project No. Org. Vol. Level Type Dis. Class No.

Suitability Status:	Scale @A1:	Rev:
A5 CONSTRUCTION	As indicated	C03

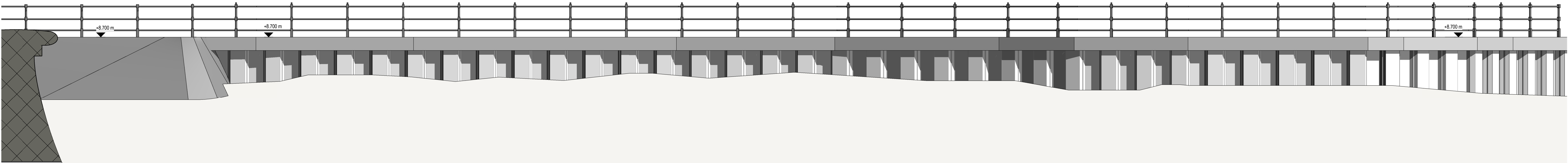
CAMBRIA
Constructive Thinking

Civil & Structural Engineers
Cambria House
16 Plas St. Poi de Leon
Penarth Marina
Cardiff, CF64 1TR

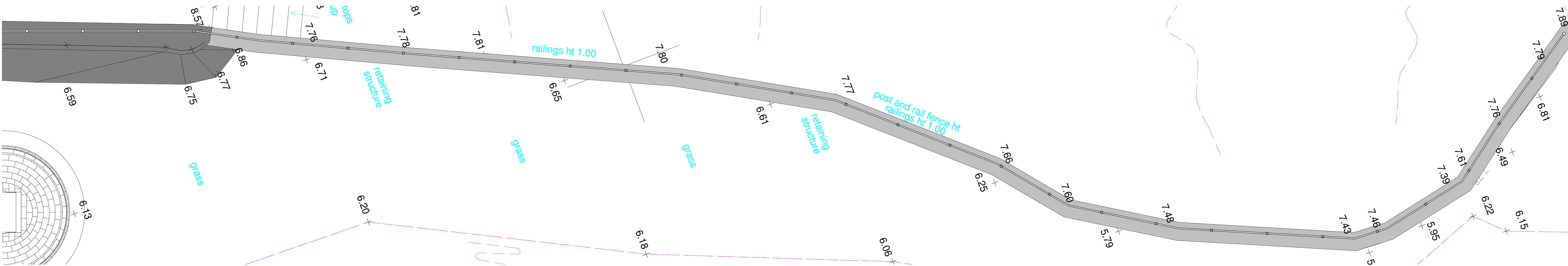
T 029 2099 3333
E admin@cambria.co.uk
W www.cambria.co.uk
@cambriauk
in uk.linkedin.com/in/cambriauk

A.3 Phasing of Proposed Works

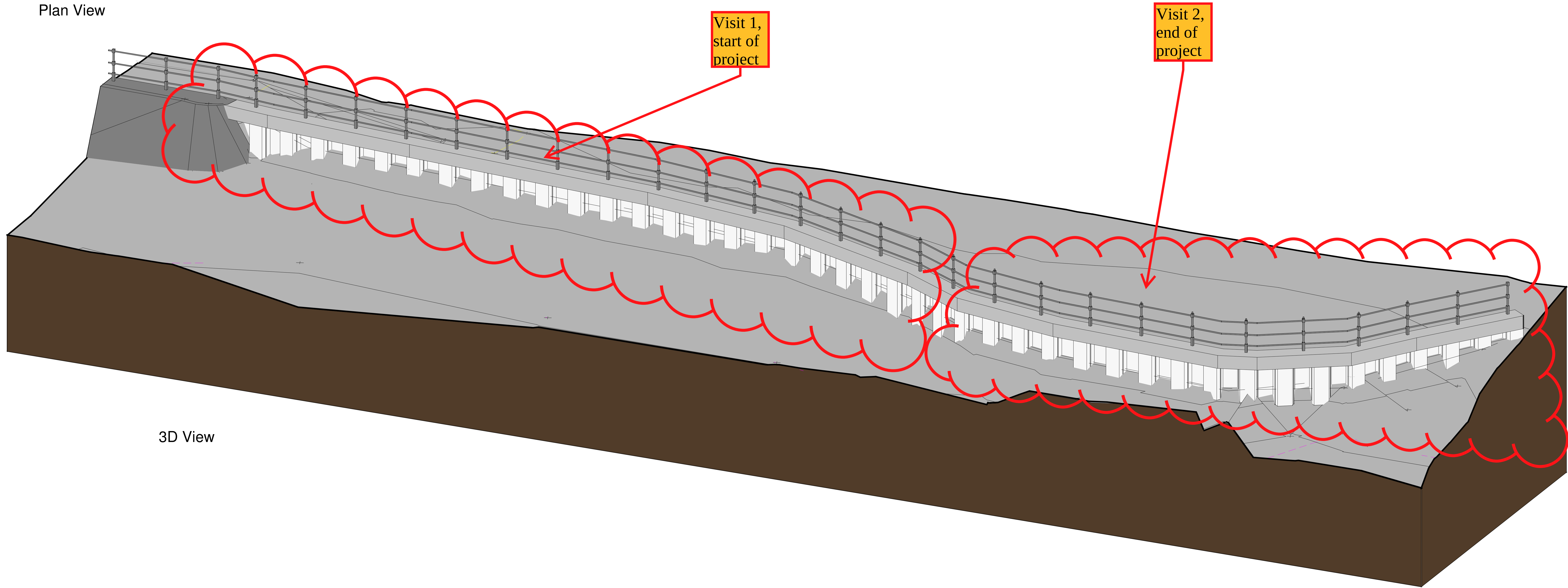
Notes
This drawing may be issued for the purposes of Planning Applications. Land
ownership and the legal status of the land is not shown and should be verified by
the client. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose.
The drawing is the property of the client and should not be used for any other purpose.
The drawing is the property of the client and should not be used for any other purpose.
The drawing is the property of the client and should not be used for any other purpose.
The drawing is the property of the client and should not be used for any other purpose.



Proposed Retaining Wall
Elevation
1:50



Plan View



3D View

Rev Date Int Notes Chg

Client

Drawing Originator

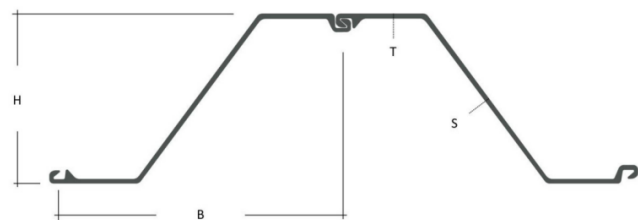
AWW
London: 100 Western Street, SE1 3QB 020 7165 6500
Plymouth: 5000 Gower Street, PL4 8PH 01752 501 282
Bristol: 10000 Gower Street, BS1 1QB 0117 503 2535
FEMA Chartered Practice www.aww.com

Project Title
**Newport Transport Bridge
Visitor Centre**

Drawing Title
Proposed Retaining Wall

Scale	Sheet	Drawn	Checked	Date
1:50	A0	AM	CM	
Sheet	Drawn	Checked	Date	
PLANNING	3896			
3896-AWW-ZZ-XX-DR-A	6001			

A.4 Specification for the proposed sheet pile wall EZ19 700¹⁴



Single Pile					Wall		
Width	Height	Thickness		Weight Single Pile	Weight	Moment of Inertia	Section Modulus
B	H	T	S	G	M	I _x	W _x
mm	mm	mm	mm	kg/m	kg/m ²	cm ⁴ /m	cm ³ /m
700	420	9.5	9.5	80.8	115.4	39420	1875

¹⁴ All rights reserved by Maxx Piling BV

Appendix B WFD Status

B.1 Surface Water Body Status

WFD Transitional Waterbody	Severn Lower	Usk
WBID	GB530905415401	GB530905415404
WB type	Transitional	Transitional
NRW Area	South East Wales;Marine	Marine;South East Wales
EA Area	WA South East	WA South East
RBD Desc	Severn	Severn
Man Catch	Wye MC TraC	Usk TraC
HMWB	Heavily Modified	Heavily Modified
OverallWaterBody	Moderate	Moderate
Eco	Moderate	Moderate
Chem	Moderate	High
Driving_Element	Mercury;Inverts;Mit_Assmnt	Inverts;Mit_Assmnt
Mit_Assmnt	Moderate	Moderate
Eco_Bio	Moderate	Moderate
Fish	Good	
Fish_Conf	Quite Certain	
Inverts	Moderate	Moderate
Inverts_Conf	Uncertain	Uncertain
IQI	Moderate	Moderate
IQI_Conf	Uncertain	Uncertain

Imposex	High	
Imposex_Conf	Very Certain	
Phytoplank	Good	
Phytoplank_Conf	Quite Certain	
Angiosperm	Moderate	High
Angiosperm_Conf	Very Certain	Quite Certain
SalMar_Sub	Moderate	High
SalMar_Sub_Conf	Very Certain	Quite Certain
SeaGrs_Sub	Good	
SeaGrs_Sub_Conf	Quite Certain	
Macroalgae		High
Macroalgae_Conf		Very Certain
OppMac_Sub		High
OppMac_Sub_Conf		Very Certain
Eco_Gen	Good	Good
DIN	Good	Good
DIN_Conf	Uncertain	Uncertain
DO	High	High
DO_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain
Eco_HM	Not Assessed	Not High
Hydro		Not High
Spec_Poll	High	High
Arsenic	High	High

Arsenic_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain
Chrom VI	High	High
Chrom VI_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain
Copper	High	High
Copper_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain
Iron	High	High
Iron_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain
Zinc	High	High
Zinc_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain
Chem_PHZ	Moderate	High
Cadmium	High	High
Cadmium_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain
Mercury	Moderate	
Mercury_Conf	Very Certain	
Noyphenol	High	
Noyphenol_Conf	Very Certain	
TBT_annx10	High	
TBT_annx10_Conf	Very Certain	
Chem_PR	High	High
Benzene		High
Benzene_Conf		Very Certain
Lead	High	High
Lead_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain

Nickel	High	High
Nickel_Conf	Very Certain	Very Certain
Octylphen	High	
Octylphen_Conf	Very Certain	
Pen_chl_ph		High
Pen_chl_ph_Conf		Very Certain
Tri_chl_bz		High
Tri_chl_bz_Conf		Very Certain
Tri_chl_mh	High	
Tri_chl_mh_Conf	Very Certain	
Chem_Other	Not Assessed	High
Tri_chl_ee		High
Tri_chl_ee_Conf	-	Very Certain

B.2 Groundwater Body Status

WBID	GB40902G201700
WB name	Usk Devonian Old Red Sandstone
WB type	Groundwater
NRW Area	Mid Wales
EA Area	WA South East
RBD Desc	Severn
Man Catch	Usk GW
HMWB	Natural

OverallWaterBody	Good
Driving_Element	DrWPA;GCT;GWDTE_chem;GWSW_chem;SI_chem;GWDTE_abs;GWSW_abs;SI_abs;WB_abs
GWQn	Good
GWQn_Conf	Low
GWDTE_abs	Good
GWDTE_abs_Conf	High
GWSW_abs	Good
GWSW_abs_Conf	Low
SI_abs	Good
SI_abs_Conf	High
WB_abs	Good
WB_abs_Conf	High
GWCh	Good
GWCh_Conf	Low
DrWPA	Good
DrWPA_Conf	Low
GCT	Good
GCT_Conf	Low
GWDTE_chem	Good
GWDTE_chem_Conf	Low
GWSW_chem	Good
GWSW_chem_Conf	Low
SI_chem	Good
SI_chem_Conf	High
Trend_GW	High
Trend_GW_Conf	Low

Appendix C Consultation

Initial NRW Consultation

Louise Bingham

From: Revill, Sarah <Sarah.Revill@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 March 2023 16:11
To: Louise Bingham
Cc: Marine Area Advice and Management Team; Anna Ntasiou; Clon Ulrick; Sally German
Subject: RE: ATI-24226a RFI - WFD information in relation to Newport Transporter Bridge

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sarah.revill@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Louise,

Many thanks for your email.

If the works are a replacement like for like, then a WFD assessment isn't needed. It is not clear so it would be good for confirmation whether this is the case or not.

Through the WFD assessment the authors will need to calculate the metrics under the "biology-habitats" header (see Clearing the Waters for All guidance) and provide those in the detailed assessment should the metrics be exceeded. The authors will then need to go into the significance of the loss of that habitat. They will also need to assess any impacts to Water Quality and hydrodynamics through sheet piling (e.g. release of sediment) and any noise issues for fish. The assessment will need to take into account the most recent classification ([Water Watch Wales \(naturalresourceswales.gov.uk\)](#) – cycle 3). In terms of mitigation / implications for the application I don't think we can consider that until we've got some idea of scale of impact.

The Usk is also a SAC so will need an HRA presumably. There may be mitigations / implications for the Marine Licence application associated with that?

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,

Sarah

Sarah Revill

Hi/Hithau – She/Her

Uwch-ymgyngorydd Morol (De-ddwyrain) / Senior Marine Advisor (South East)

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

Caerdydd / Cardiff

Ffôn/Tel: 0300 065 3175

MCIEEM CEnv

Currently working Tuesday-Friday* Gweithio Dydd Mawrth-Dydd Gwener

[Yn falch o arwain y ffordd at ddyfodol gwell i Gymru trwy reoli'r amgylchedd ac adnoddau naturiol yn gynaliadwy.](#)

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[cyfoethnaturiol.cymru](#) / [naturalresources.wales](#)

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

From: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Sent: 10 February 2023 12:33

To: Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

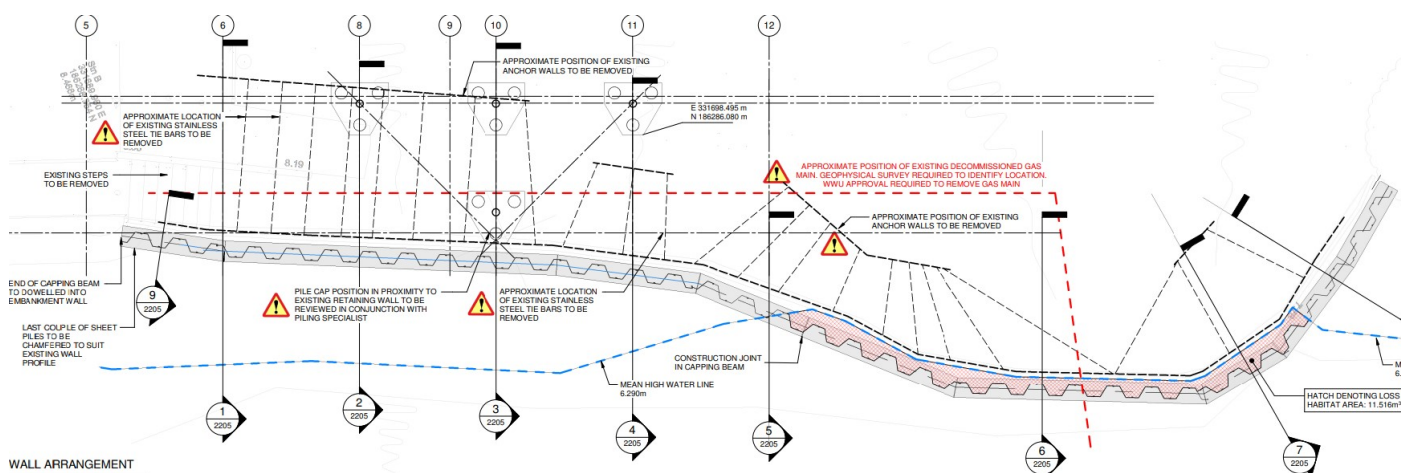
Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>; Clon Ulrick <Clon.Ulrick@arup.com>; Sally German <Sally.German@arup.com>

Subject: FW: ATI-24226a RFI - WFD information in relation to Newport Transporter Bridge

To whom it may concern,

We are undertaking a WFD assessment in support of a Marine License Application for a proposed new retaining wall along the River Usk (NGR: ST 31707 86283). The project involves permanent works riverward of the Mean High Water Spring (MHWS) and we are therefore requesting some preapplication advice.

The proposed new retaining wall will comprise a sheet pile wall approximately 60m in length, of which the southern half has already been completed without the requirement for a Marine License. The northern ~30m of retaining wall will be installed riverward of the existing, degraded, retaining wall. As a result, the proposed wall will ingress beyond the MHWS resulting in a footprint loss of approximately 12m³ of intertidal area. The figure below denotes the proposed new retaining wall in relation to the MHWS.



Given the location of the proposed works and ingress into the MHWS, we are seeking consultation with you to understand the potential requirement for mitigation and/or potential implications on the Marine License application.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Many thanks,
Louise

Louise Bingham
Environmental Consultant

Arup
d +44 191 238 7431
arup.com

From: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 February 2023 14:28

To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Cc: Campbell, Marc <marc.campbell@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: ATI-24226a RFI - WFD information in relation to Newport Transporter Bridge

Hi Louise,

I hope this finds you well.

As you've mentioned in your email, it would appear from the outline proposal that any modification or construction works in this area would require a marine licence as it is seaward of the Mean High Water Springs line. Unfortunately the Marine Licencing Team can only provide limited advice on site specific proposals such as this as to avoid any perception of pre-determination of any forthcoming applications. This advice would focus on the process of applications, rather than the content or adequacy of specific apps.

We have lots of guidance on the Marine Licence pages of the NRW website ([here](#)) which can help to direct applicants down the correct path to application building and submission.

For site specific advice on waterbodies, potential species or habitat impacts then it would be best to contact NRW Marine Advisory (marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) to discuss proposed works. NRW Advisory are a consultee of our licencing process and may be able to provide bespoke advice on proposals. Any pre-application advice gathered from NRW Advisory can then accompany any submissions as part of the application process.

Hope this helps to answer your query. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks,

Chris Roscoe

Swyddog Trwyddedu Morol / Marine Licensing Officer
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales
Ffôn/ Phone: 03000 65 3474
Symudol / Mobile: 07768 421 043
Llys Afon, Hwlfordd / Llys Afon, Haverfordwest
Siaradwr Cymraeg

cyfoethnaturiol.cymru / naturalresources.wales

From: Campbell, Marc <marc.campbell@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 February 2023 09:07
To: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: ATI-24226a RFI - WFD information in relation to Newport Transporter Bridge

Hi Team.

I've had this through from Arup. Apologies if this isn't for your team. I hope you can help.

Thanks,
Marc.

From: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Sent: 01 February 2023 18:07
To: Campbell, Marc <marc.campbell@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Cc: Clon Ulrick <Clon.Ulrick@arup.com>; Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>
Subject: FW: ATI-24226a RFI - WFD information in relation to Newport Transporter Bridge

Dear Marc,

I have previously been I touch about the RFI in the email chain below relating to a proposed new retaining wall near Newport Transporter Bridge on the River Usk.

Since our initial RFI, the scheme design has now changed and the proposed works will be situated in front of the existing retaining wall and potentially permanently encroaching into the MHWS line. We are therefore seeking pre-application advice from NRW to support our development of the WFD assessment in support of a Marine License Application.

Please can you direct me to a relevant individual or team so that we can assigned a case officer to offer this advice? Our previous case officer for this project (Will Cooke) has since left NRW.

Please feel free to give me a call on the number below if you need any additional information.

Many thanks,
Louise

Louise Bingham
Environmental Consultant

Arup
d +44 191 238 7431
arup.com

From: Data Distribution <datadistribution@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 December 2022 14:57
To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Subject: ATI-24226a RFI - WFD information in relation to Newport Transporter Bridge

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Louise.
Please find attached the requested data. Apologies for the delay.

WFD Programme of Measures are on Water Watch Wales [Natural Resources Wales - Citrix FileShare \(sharefile.eu\)](https://sharefile.eu/NaturalResourcesWales)

The main issue on the Usk estuary is the HMWB designation for flood protection use. There is a national measure aimed at addressing this:

CYM5	Physical Modifications	In waterbodies designated as heavily modified due to flood and coastal protection, mitigation for NRW owned assets and activities will be reviewed and delivered on a prioritised basis.	Natural Resources Wales	Flood Risk Management
CYM4E1	Manage the impacts	Continue to improve awareness and implementation of the UK	Natural Resources	Forestry

Thanks,
Marc Campbell
Swyddog Trwyddedu Data/Data Licencing Officer
Cwsmer, Cyfathrebu a Masnach/ Customer, Communications and Commercial
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales
Ffôn/Tel: 0300 065 3000
E-bost/E-mail:marc.campbell@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk /marc.campbell@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
Gwefan/Website:<http://www.cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk/> /www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Ein diben yw sicrhau bod adnoddau naturiol Cymru yn cael eu cynnal, eu gwella a'u defnyddio yn gynaliadwy, yn awr ac yn y dyfodol.

Our purpose is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay

From: Data Distribution <datadistribution@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Sent: 25 November 2022 14:20

To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Subject: FW: ATI-24226a RFI - WFD information in relation to Newport Transporter Bridge

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Louise.

Please find the requested information below.

- **HMWB mitigation measures assessment data and the latest Cycle 3 RBMP measures and actions data for the waterbodies;**

HMWB mitigation measures are on [Water Watch Wales \(naturalresourceswales.gov.uk\)](https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk). **Previous Usk report attached** (there is a similar severn lower report, which I have not attached as they are large in size but could be provided if required, though I suspect of little value and as produced by ARUP they may already have on file).

However, the assessment would have been carried out on the estuary as it was at the time and given their scheme is a new modification they should consider all of the mitigation measures categories and consider whether they relate to their proposed scheme.

From the information provided the most obvious consideration is the proposed 'sheet pile wall' – that relates to the mitigation measure 'remove or soften hard bank'. They should not automatically rely on the previous assessment as applying to their new scheme. They would have to justify the use of sheet pile as opposed to alternatives and if they can justify it then what measures could be put in place to soften in this particular location.

- **Any waterbody extended reports;**

We have undertaken an investigation into the WFD Infaunal Quality Index (benthic invertebrate) failure in the Usk transitional waterbody but have determined there is insufficient data to confirm or deny the failure at this point in time. A WFD survey has been carried out in this waterbody this year but this data needs analysis from the lab before it is available to use to continue our investigation. The failure investigation remains open for the Usk IQI element and will be picked up again in due course.

- **The Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG) and any relevant RNAG investigations;**

RNAGS are on water watch Wales. The Usk estuary invertebrate failure is still under investigation.

For severn lower the Angiosperms still requires investigation while the BDPE and Mercury RNAGs were assigned following generic chemicals guidance (no specific WB investigations undertaken).

- **Any other information relevant to WFD in relation to these waterbodies beyond what is available on the Water Watch Wales webviewer.**

Sheet piling near the Usk will require consideration of potential to disturb fish migration.
The Usk (and Severn estuary) are SACs and therefore require HRA consideration.

I trust this is of use to you.

Thanks,

Marc Campbell

Swyddog Trwyddedu Data/Data Licencing Officer

Cwsmer, Cyfathrebu a Masnach/ Customer, Communications and Commercial

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales

Ffôn/Tel: 0300 065 3000

E-bost/E-mail: marc.campbell@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk / marc.campbell@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Gwefan/Website: <http://www.cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk/> / www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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Oddi wrth: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Anfonwyd: 28 October 2022 13:03

At: Access to Information Team <accesstoinformationteam@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

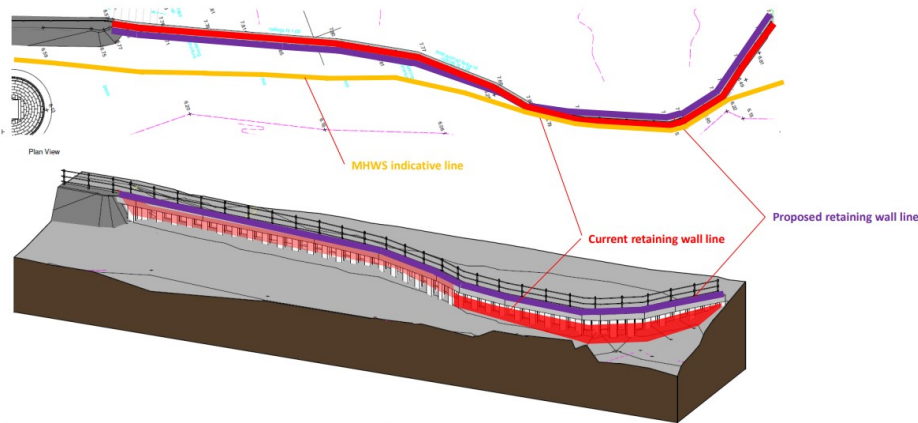
Copi/Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>; Lucy Rushmer <Lucy.Rushmer@arup.com>; Clon Ulrick <Clon.Ulrick@arup.com>

Pwnc: RFI - WFD information in relation to Newport Transporter Bridge

To whom it may concern,

We are currently undertaking a Water Framework Directive compliance assessment (screening and scoping) for the proposed refurbishment works of the Newport Transporter Bridge spanning the River Usk. The works comprise a proposed new visitor centre, which will require a new retaining wall as the existing wall has been deteriorating and would be unable to retain the land and any new developments that are planned in the area behind it. The new retaining wall will comprise a sheet pile wall approximately 60m in length. Whilst the retaining wall works are all landward of the MHWS line, the proposed methodology involves excavations at the north end of the wall, which will bring the MHWS line temporarily landward so that the works would fall on the riverward side of the new MHWS line. As such, the WFD assessment is being undertaken in support of the marine license application.

The location of the proposed works is [here](#), and plans for the proposed works are provided below:



Plan view of proposed visitor centre and retaining wall (AWW) alignment (AWW)

Proposed new retaining wall

The proposed scheme is located within the River Usk transitional waterbody (WFD ID GB530905415404), over the Usk Devonian Old Red Sandstone groundwater body (WFD ID GB40902G201700) and has the potential to affect the Severn Lower transitional waterbody (WFD ID GB110064048390) located downstream. We are collating information to understand the baseline conditions in relation to the WFD and would like to request the following information:

- HMWB mitigation measures assessment data and the latest Cycle 3 RBMP measures and actions data for the waterbodies;
- Any waterbody extended reports;
- The Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG) and any relevant RNAG investigations;
- Any other information relevant to WFD in relation to these waterbodies beyond what is available on the Water Watch Wales webviewer.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments on the proposed scheme in relation to the WFD. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Louise

Louise Bingham
She/her/hers
Environmental Consultant
BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWEM

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Pre-Application Consultation Minutes and Emails

Minutes

Project title	Newport Transporter Bridge- River Wall Works Marine Licence	
Job number	271411	
Meeting name & number	Newport Transporter Bridge-WFD Mitigation Requirements Discussion	
File ref		
Time and date	16:00 to 17:00	18 October 2023
Location	Teams Meeting	
Purpose of meeting		
Present	Paige Minahan-NRW Ben Wray-NRW Susana Jackson -NRW Leyre Nieva- NRW Anna Ntasiou- Arup Louise Bingham- Arup James Bilham-TACP	
Apologies		
Circulation	Those present Paige Minahan, Ben Wray, Susana Jackson, Leyre Nieva, James Bilham, Louise Bingham	

Topic	Action
1. Introductions - Paige Minahan- NRW case officer of marine area advice team - Ben Wray-NRW- Specialist Marine Ecology Advisor - Suzana Jackson- NRW- Marine Specialist Advisor-Marine and coastal physical processes - Leyre Nieva, NRW- Specialist Marine Ecology Advisor - Anna Ntasiou- Arup- Maritime Engineer - Louise Bingham- Arup -WFD specialist - James Bilham- TACP- Ecologist	
2. Project Background AN gave a project background update.	
3. WFD Assessment LB gave brief of the WFD assessment findings and key mitigation measures and issues arising. LB posed key questions to NRW:	

Project title Newport Transporter Bridge- River Wall Works Marine Licence
 Job number 271411
 Date of Meeting 18 October 2023

Topic	Action
- Quantify the footprint area of mitigation-NRW to confirm. - What mitigation measures NRW would accept?	
BW (NRW) confirmed that: - no compensation/mitigation is required from WFD assessment. BW referred to Elena's (NRW) comments that the sheet pile wall footprint inflicts small losses of the foreshore, and the project area does not fall within the marine SAC. - The NRW Environment Team assessed that Mudflats not required. Mudflats are a lot of effort, and not much improving the situation. their ecological value is questionable. - Section 7 habitat -not feature of SAC (marine ecologist NRW)-.	HRA to be updated as per NRW guidance by either previous consultant or Arup-TBC with Client
SJ (NRW) suggested: - Maintain good practice during construction. - Reduce sediment plumes, work when tide is out.	Coastal Squeeze Assessment to be undertaken by Arup or another Consultant-TBC with Client
4. HRA SJ stated that: - HRA needs to assess the potential for production of suspended sediment plumes as a result of the proposed construction works. We also advise mitigation to minimise suspended sediment agitation. - HRA Updates required: marine side and impacts to fish, reduce sediment plumes, work when tide is out, piling will need to be considered. features within the estuary that are sensitive, seagrass etc to assess secondary impact.	Arup to contact Newport City Council to inform them regarding the new River Wall Works and confirm no effect on the Flood embankment asset
5. Coastal Squeeze Assessment PM(NRW) confirmed that a Coastal Squeeze Assessment is required and has sent guidance on how to undertake Coastal Squeeze Assessment.	
6. Flood Defence Embankment Newport City Council is the owner of the embankment asset. NRW suggested Arup contact the Council to inform them about the intention to undertake river wall works.	

Project title Newport Transporter Bridge- River Wall Works Marine Licence
Job number 271411
Date of Meeting 18 October 2023

Topic

Action

Louise Bingham

From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 October 2023 16:28
To: Anna Ntasiou
Cc: Louise Bingham; James Bilham
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements
Attachments: NRW Evidence Report No. 624 - Advice on Physical Processes for Small-scale Marine and Coastal Projects (1).pdf; GN 062 - Assessment of Coastal Squeeze.pdf

Hi all,

Apologies that these were not included in my original response.

Please find guidance documents Suzie has referenced in terms of coastal squeeze assessment attached.

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan

Swyddog Cyngchori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer

Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service

Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114

Hi/Hithau / She/Her

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

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From: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>
Sent: 13 October 2023 14:52
To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Cc: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Paige,

Yes, I can confirm that 1 hour is enough for the meeting. It would be ideal if we could schedule it from Tuesday onwards, if that is possible.

Kind regards,

Anna A.

Anna Ntasiou

she/her

Senior Maritime Engineer | Infrastructure London

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From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 12:38 PM

To: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Cc: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Hi Anna,

Thank you for providing your availability.

Can I confirm that I should schedule the meeting for an hour or do you think you'll need more time?

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan

Swyddog Cyngtori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer

Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service

Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114

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From: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Sent: 13 October 2023 11:47

To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Cc: Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Dear Paige,

Thank you very much for your email and comments from the internal NRW consultation. Our availability for next week is as follows:

- Monday 16th October: 10:00 to 14:00 and 15:00 to 17:30
- Tuesday 17th October: 12:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 17:30
- Wednesday 18th October: 10:00 to 12:00 and 15:00 to 17:30
- Thursday 19th October: 9:00 to 11:00 and 15:30 to 17:30
- Friday 20th October: 9:00 to 12:00 and 13:30 to 17:00

We look forward to receiving a Teams invite and have the pre-app consultation with you. It would be beneficial to have the NRW specialists who have provided the comments below as well.

Kind regards,

Anna A.

Anna Ntasiou

she/her

Senior Maritime Engineer | Infrastructure London

Msc Meng CEng MICE

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London W1T 4BQ, England
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From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>; Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

You don't often get email from paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Louise/Anna

I have now received comments back from all specialists regarding the construction of the new river wall at Newport Transporter Bridge. Our Benthic Ecologist along with other specialists agree that a meeting would be beneficial to discuss options for offsetting the loss of intertidal habitat. If you could let me know your availability I can look to set this up. Please note, there would be a charge for this meeting and once availability has been confirmed I can get a quotation sent out for you to review before we go ahead. I have also obtained some initial comments from our specialists which can be found below.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

An updated HRA is required which considers all aspects of the development, including the planned works in the river channel on the conservation objectives of the River Usk SAC. The updated HRA will need to consider the following:

- Construction methods of the river wall.
- Details of construction works intended in the river channel.
- Potential impacts of suspended sediment which could arise from construction (this is required due to potential secondary impacts of increased suspended sediment concentration on the SAC).
- Further information relating to the distance between the old wall and new wall (narrowing the channel will impact the local hydrodynamics, which also needs to be assessed in the HRA).

Coastal Squeeze

The potential for coastal squeeze needs to be assessed. The Shoreline Management Policy (SMP) for the project area is 'Hold the Line', and the information provided in the supporting documents indicate the construction of a new defence seawards of the existing wall. The proposed works would therefore result in a habitat loss of soft intertidal sediments, this does not meet the description of maintenance. Since the works cannot be classified as maintenance, a coastal squeeze assessment requires consideration.

Further Advice

We also note the site lies across from a flood defence embankment (EMB1501441; ST 31921 86194) managed by Newport County Council. We recommend you liaise with the asset manager to ensure the proposed works will not impact on the resilience of this asset.

If you have any queries on the advice provided as above, please feel free to get in touch with myself.

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan

Swyddog Cynghori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer

Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service

Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114

Hi/Hithau / She/Her

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From: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Sent: 10 October 2023 15:22

To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Paige,

Hope you're well.

I was just wondering if you can provide an update on when we can expect a response from the specialists?

We supplied the WFD assessment and FileNote summarising the project and proposed mitigation on 15th August, so are keen to avoid any further delays where possible.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Kind regards,
Louise

Louise Bingham
Environmental Consultant

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From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>; Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Hi Anna,

Thank you for confirming.

I will consult our specialists and will come back to you in regards to the requested meeting.

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan
Swyddog Cyngchori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer
Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service
Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114
Hi/Hithau / She/Her

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From: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Sent: 28 September 2023 10:16

To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Paige,

Thank you for getting back to us. Please go ahead with consulting your specialists on the current HRA that we have provided you.

We look forward to arranging a pre-application consultation meeting with NRW as soon as possible to.

Kind regards,

Anna A.

Anna Ntasiou

she/her

Senior Maritime Engineer | Infrastructure London

Msc Meng CEng MICE

Civil & Coastal Engineering

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London W1T 4BQ, England

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From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 9:45 AM

To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Hi Louise,

Thank you for confirming the same HRA will be used. I'm a little concerned that it doesn't reflect the true extent of the works, rather the works undertaken at the more landwards location. Of course, we can consider the current HRA in our pre-application advice but I wanted to let you know that we will probably be asking for an amended one which takes into account the works proposed, and to assess potential pathways (i.e. disturbance to fish) that may not have been of concern for the works at the landwards location.

Did you want me to go ahead with consulting our specialists on the current HRA (along with the other supporting information you have already provided).

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan

Swyddog Cyngchori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer

Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service

Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114

Hi/Hithau / She/Her

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From: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Sent: 21 September 2023 10:04

To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Paige,

Please see the HRA attached.

The HRA was undertaken for the river retaining wall works and is dated 18th May 2022. This is the HRA which would be submitted with the Marine License and is not proposed to be updated.

Thanks,
Louise

Louise Bingham
Environmental Consultant

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From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:50 AM
To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Hi Louise,

Thanks for this.

However, we would expect an updated HRA be submitted with any marine licence application for the northern works. I believe my colleague Sarah Revill advised this previously.

Can you confirm whether the existing HRA will be amended or would you like us to consider the one submitted with application 21/1217?

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan
Swyddog Cyngchori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer
Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service
Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114
Hi/Hithau / She/Her

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From: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Sent: 20 September 2023 17:41
To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Paige,

A HRA was undertaken as part of the planning permission to replace the retaining wall (<https://publicaccess.newport.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=R34PS5LCG3N00&activeTab=summary>).

NRW's response was as summarised below, with the full available on the planning portal:
“We have reviewed the HRA Screening Matrix and Appropriate Assessment (AA), prepared by your Authority, undated. We consider that provided a robust Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is implemented for the works, and the other conditions suggested within the AA are fully implemented, adverse impacts on the features of the River Usk SAC will be avoided.”

Hope this helps.

Many thanks,
Louise

Louise Bingham
Environmental Consultant

Arup
d +44 191 238 7431
arup.com

From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 4:52 PM
To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Hi Louise,

Thank you for this, it's most helpful in determining who out of technical advisors is best to provide advice.

Just one last query, has a HRA been undertaken yet? I'm aware my colleague Sarah Revill has previously advised that one would be needed given the site's location within the River Usk SAC.

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan

Swyddog Cynghori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer

Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service

Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114

Hi/Hithau / She/Her

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

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From: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Sent: 19 September 2023 10:11

To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Paige,

As I understand it, the Client undertook the works for the southern section of the retaining wall as part of the planning permission 21/1217. This was prior to our involvement in the project and further assessment was not undertaken as a marine license was not required.

With regards to the mitigation, this is what we are seeking advice on. We had previously sought advice (see email attached) "*to understand the potential requirement for mitigation and/or potential implications on the Marine License application*" and we were directed to guidance to calculate metrics. We have calculated the metrics (see Table 8, pg.14 of the WFD Scope assessment we have previously shared) which indicated that a potential impact was not anticipated.

However, our assessment indicated that the proposed works could have the potential to impact future achievement of objectives, hence we identified the mitigation options outlined. We are seeking advice from NRW to confirm whether they agree with our assessment and whether the proposed mitigation would be sufficient and agreeable to them before we submit a marine application.

Let me know if you have any further questions or clarifications.

Many thanks,
Louise

Louise Bingham
Environmental Consultant

Arup
d +44 191 238 7431
arup.com

From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:52 AM
To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Hi Louise,

Apologies in the delay getting back to you.

I note from the information submitted that the southern works have already been completed. Did you seek planning permission for this?

Furthermore, with regards to the mitigation you have proposed (artificial mudflats) did you seek this advice from NRW or elsewhere?

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan
Swyddog Cyngtori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer
Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service
Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114
Hi/Hithau / She/Her

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.



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From: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Sent: 18 September 2023 12:53

To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Cc: Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Subject: FW: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Paige,

Hope you're well.

Please can you share your team's thoughts on the email below/attached shared on 15/08/23. We are keen to progress this project as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Louise

Louise Bingham
Environmental Consultant

Arup
d +44 191 238 7431
arup.com

From: Louise Bingham

Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 5:20 PM

To: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Cc: Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>

Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Hi Paige,

Many thanks for reaching out last week.

I have attached a File Note outlining what we wish to receive comment on, and the WFD assessment itself for reference.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks,
Louise

Louise Bingham
Environmental Consultant

Arup
d +44 191 238 7431
arup.com

From: Minahan, Paige <paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:44 AM
To: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>
Cc: Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

You don't often get email from paige.minahan@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Louise,

Thank you for taking my call earlier.

As discussed, I think it would be beneficial to see a draft version of the WFD assessment and any mitigation/compensation strategies you have proposed to offset this intertidal habitat loss.

By submitting this information I can forward to the relevant technical advisors and provide a more accurate quotation to provide our advice.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself.

Many thanks,

Paige Minahan
Swyddog Cyngtori Morol / Marine Advisory Officer
Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service
Rhif ffôn / 0300 065 3114
Hi/Hithau / She/Her

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.



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naturalresources.wales**

From: Louise Bingham <Louise.Bingham@arup.com>

Sent: 07 August 2023 12:31

To: Permit Receipt <permitreceiptcentre@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Cc: Anna Ntasiou <Anna.Ntasiou@arup.com>; Clon Ulrick <Clon.Ulrick@arup.com>; Sally German <Sally.German@arup.com>

Subject: Newport Transporter Bridge - WFD mitigation requirements

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

We are seeking bespoke pre-application advice in support of Marine License in relation to Water Environment Regulations mitigation requirements (WFD).

The scheme is located in the right bank of the River Usk (transitional waterbody - NGR: ST 31707 86283). The works involve a new retaining wall located riverward of the existing river wall and within the MHWS line. The scheme will therefore result in a loss of intertidal habitat associated with the footprint of the scheme totalling ~11.5m². Previous communications regarding this scheme are attached for reference, and a WFD assessment in line with the Clearing the Waters for All guidance has been undertaken as previously advised.

Given the location of the scheme ingressing within the MHWS, associated loss of intertidal habitat and the waterbodies Programme of Measures (in relation to Physical Modification), the WFD assessment has identified a risk with future WFD Status Objectives. We are therefore seeking advice to determine the requirement for mitigation and a proportionate and feasible approach to any mitigation option. It is considered likely that the following team input may be required:

- Marine Fish and Fisheries
- Environment Team
- Marine Geomorphology and Physical Processes
- WFD
- Marine Ecology

Please can you assist in arranging a pre-application advice meeting?

Many thanks,

Louise

Louise Bingham

She/her/hers

Environmental Consultant

BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWEM

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Newport City Council

Louise Bingham

From: Louise Bingham
Sent: 23 October 2023 12:34
To: info@newport.gov.uk
Cc: Anna Ntasiou
Subject: Flood Risk Asset - Newport Transporter Bridge
Attachments: LocationPlan.png

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are contacting you regarding proposed in-channel works within the River Usk which we understand are located opposite a flood mitigation asset of Newport City Council.

The proposed works are associated with the Newport Transporter Bridge and associated new visitors centre works, centred around National Grid Reference: ST 31712 86298 (location plan attached). The in-channel works comprise a new retaining wall on the right-hand bank. The retaining wall will be located immediately riverward of the existing, dilapidated, retaining wall for the same approximate extent. As a result, the works will ingress within the Mean High Water Spring, with a footprint loss of 11.5m² of intertidal mudflat.

A Water Environment Regulations (WFD) assessment has been undertaken and an updated HRA and coastal squeeze assessment will be produced. Consultation with NRW has been undertaken and identified that no mitigation is required. The works are not anticipated to impact your asset.

We are reaching out to inform you of the proposed works in the vicinity of your flood embankment. Please let us know if you require any additional information.

Many thanks,
Louise

Louise Bingham
She/her/hers
Environmental Consultant
BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWEM

Please Note: I am currently working on a secondment for 50% of my time, so may take longer to respond than usual. My non-Arup day is Wednesday. Apologies for any inconvenience.

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Appendix D Ground Investigation Plan

D.1 Plan of Trial Pit locations

