

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	Mr Christopher L Blackham
Application reference number (where applicable)	CML2407
Name of activity	Marine License Morlais, Nefyn
Brief description of activity	A length of approximately 25m of existing sea wall (stone facing to sloping ground) is to be replaced with new precast concrete, cast in-situ concrete and sheet piled structure of similar dimensions and cross section. Remedial works to the surface of an existing slipway are also to be carried out.
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	SH 29628 40845
Footprint of activity (ha)	Less than 0.02 ha
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	March 2024 (or earliest start date) – August 2025

Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	25m length of precast concrete units. Up to 40m ² of re-surfacing to slipway. Approximately 15m ³ of cast in-situ concrete.
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	None intended.

Water body¹	Description, notes or more information
WFD water body name	<i>Caernarfon Bay South</i>
Water body ID	<i>GB651010610000</i>
River basin district name	<i>Western Wales</i>
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	<i>Coastal</i>
Water body total area (ha)	<i>11582</i>
Overall water body status (2015)	<i>Moderate</i>
Ecological status	<i>Moderate</i>
Chemical status	<i>Good</i>
Target water body status and deadline	<i>Unknown</i>
Hydromorphology status of water body	<i>Unknown</i>
Heavily modified water body and for what use	<i>Unknown</i>
Higher sensitivity habitats present	<i>Subtidal kelp beds approx. 300m North</i>
Lower sensitivity habitats present	<i>Potentially intertidal soft sediments and rocky shore in close proximity to the proposed scheme</i>
Phytoplankton status	<i>Unknown</i>

History of harmful algae	<i>Unknown</i>
WFD protected areas within 2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau • Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Porth Dinllaen-Borth Pistyll

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	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>No change as like for like replacement of existing structure.</i>
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>No change as like for like replacement of existing structure.</i>
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>No</i>

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	cobbles, gravel and shingle
clam, cockle and oyster beds	intertidal soft sediments like sand and mud
intertidal seagrass	rocky shore
maerl	subtidal boulder fields
mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel	subtidal rocky reef
polychaete reef	subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud
saltmarsh	
subtidal kelp beds	
subtidal seagrass	

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	No to all – impact assessment not required	The footprint is not larger than 0.5 km ²
1% or more of the water body's area			The footprint is not larger than 1% of the area
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat			Subtidal kelp beds (higher sensitivity habitat) located approximately 300m north of the works - scope in for further assessment
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			The footprint is not larger than 1% of the 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	Go to next section	The site is not located in an estuary.
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	Impact assessment not required	The site is not located in an estuary or near any main rivers
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	The site is not located in an estuary or near any main rivers

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	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	Possible small volume of sediments as a result of the works (construction and transportation along the beach).

microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)			These are to be carried out in short term phases (within 14 days). Sediment mobilisation as a result of runoff from site works.
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>Unknown</i>
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>Unknown</i>

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	Impact assessment not required	Use of plant machinery etc poses risk of accidental spillage of chemical pollutants - scope in for impact assessment.
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	Possible small volume of sediments as a result of the works (construction and transportation along the beach). These are to be carried out in short term phases (within 14 days). Sediment mobilisation as a result of runoff from site works.

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	Impact assessment not required	No

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	Impact assessment not required	Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau Bathing Water – Morfa Nefyn

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	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No – machinery to be clean. All material to be sourced from reputable companies with adequate pollution prevention guidance.

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	None	
Biology: habitats	Possible	Subtidal kelp beds (higher sensitivity habitat) located approximately 300m north of the works - scope in for further assessment
Biology: fish	None	
Water quality	Possible	Possible small volume of sediments as a result of the works (construction and transportation along the beach).

Protected areas	Possible	Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Lleyr Peninsula and the Sarnau. Bathing Water – Morfa Nefyn
Invasive non-native species	None	

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.