

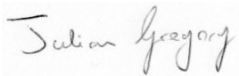
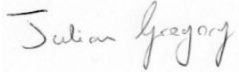
2024

Saint Ishmaels Groynes & Ferryside Sea Defence Maintenance

Water Framework Directive (WFD)





DOCUMENT INFORMATION			
Project	Saint Ishmaels Groynes & Ferryside Sea Defence Maintenance		
Location	Address: Lookout Level Crossing, Old Parish Road, St. Ishmael, Carmarthenshire, SA17 5UH ELR: SWM2 Grid Ref: SN 37142 11723 to SN 36392 07643		
Title	Water Framework Directive Assessment		
Document Ref	EV000990/WFD-2	Issue / Revision	1
File reference	EV000990/WFD		
Start Date	06/2022		
	Name	Signature	Date
Assessment Undertaken by	Owain Waters		06/2022
Document prepared by	Owain Waters		06/2022
Checked by	Julian Gregory		07/2022
Authorised by	Julian Gregory		07/2022

DOCUMENT CONTROL		
Rev.	Date	Description
0.0	06/2022	Draft
1.0	07/2022	Issued

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 EcoVigour was instructed by Dyer & Butler – Rail Division to undertake a Water Framework Directive Assessment (WFD) for proposed maintenance works to Saint Ishmaels Groynes & Ferryside Sea Defences and Tidal Culvert.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this assessment is to assess the potential impacts of the works associated with the Proposed Scheme and whether these could prevent the Afon Tywi and Carmarthen Bay and associated surface and groundwater bodies, achieving their WFD Targets. This assessment includes a summary of the current local conditions and, where appropriate, identifies mitigation measures for any likely significant effects (LSE) that may arise as part of the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme.
- 1.1.3 This WFD Assessment is required to demonstrate that the proposed works will not result in deterioration in the water body status of the Afon Tywi and Carmarthen Estuary and adjoining water bodies or prevent them from meeting their Water Framework Directive objectives.
- 1.1.4 The Afon Tywi discharges into Carmarthen Bay, which becomes part of the Bristol Channel Outer North and associated Bathing Waters.

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The Sea Defences are located between St Ishmael and Ferryside North along the eastern shore of the mouth of the Twyi (see figure 1 below). Along the Ferryside section of works, the condition of masonry around the tidal flap requires remedial measures, while further north of the culvert is a wall failure, resulting in a void that requires infill at the earliest opportunity. The southern Saint Ishmaels section will focus on the removal of the metallic remains of beach groynes. The assets pose a potential risk to public and no longer serve their original purpose. The removal of these remnants to considered to be a net positive impact to the designated site and beach users.

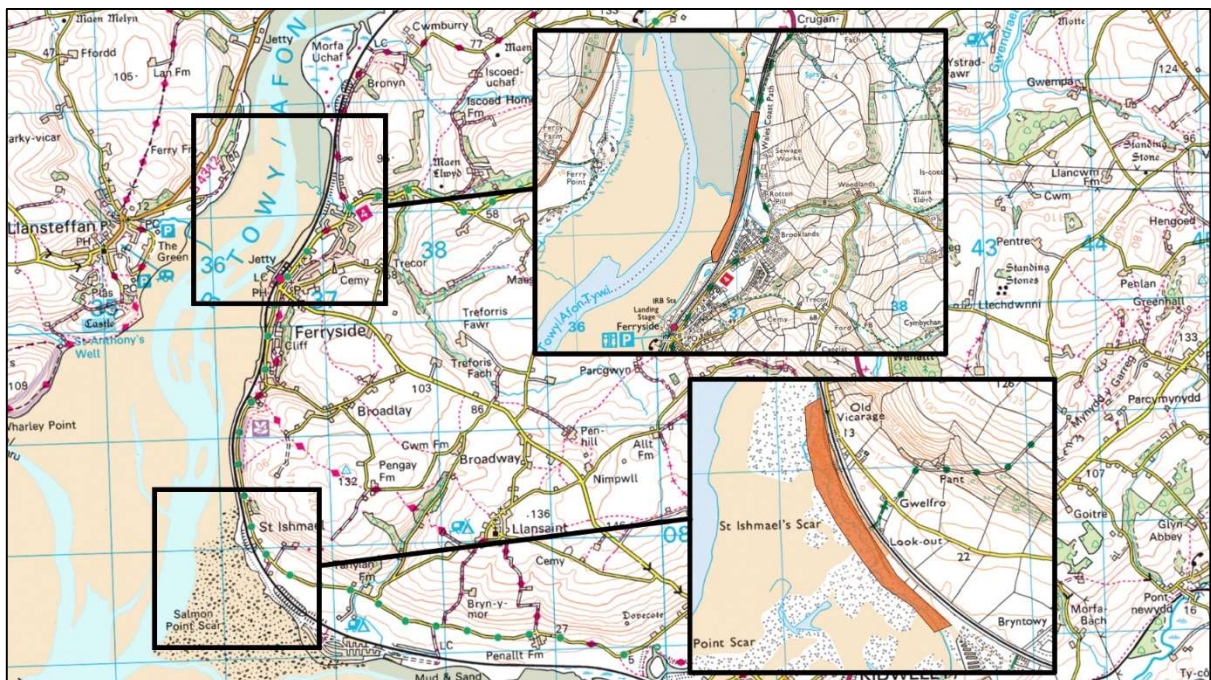


Figure 1: Project Location.



2. INTRODUCTION TO THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

2.1 THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

- 2.1.1 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000) is a European Union Directive which committed member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies by 2015. Under the Directive water bodies are defined as all ground and surface waters, including rivers, lakes, transitional waters and coastal waters (up to one nautical mile from shore).
- 2.1.2 It was not possible to achieve good status of all water bodies by 2015; therefore, outstanding water bodies had objectives set for 2021 or 2027. Interim assessments were undertaken in 2018.
- 2.1.3 The WFD is transposed into law in England and Wales by The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 Regulations). These revoke and replace The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 (subject to transitional provisions in article 38 of the 2017 Regulations).

2.2 SCOPE OF THIS ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 All new activities in the water environment need to take account of the requirements of the WFD. For a project or activity to be compliant with the WFD, it should demonstrate that:
- ◆ There is no risk of it causing a deterioration of the status of any element, in addition, for groundwater, it will limit or prevent the input of pollutants;
 - ◆ There is no risk of it preventing WFD protected areas from achieving their objectives;
 - ◆ It will not jeopardise any waterbody from achieving good status/potential; and
 - ◆ It will contribute to the protection, enhancement and restoration of waterbodies.
- 2.2.2 This WFD Assessment considers all activities that will take place as part of the proposed scheme, during both construction and operation, and identifies the potential risks associated with these activities and the WFD receptors that are at risk.
- 2.2.3 The NRW guidance includes detailed screening criteria that can be used to determine whether a proposed activity is not likely to cause a deterioration in the status of a waterbody. This includes a list of activities that in general will not cause a deterioration, such as 'temporary' works that do not normally last more than six months and are not likely to have a residual impact on a waterbody. The guidance also lists other physical works and defines screening thresholds for each; these thresholds help to determine whether any activity presents a risk to a waterbody and any requirements for further assessment. However, these thresholds are for guidance only and expert judgement is required to determine if a proposed activity may have an impact on a waterbody.
- 2.2.4 Published guidance also states that the assessment must consider the potential for impacts on the following:
- ◆ Protected Areas – these are defined under Article 6 of the Directive.
 - ◆ Priority Habitats – these are 'habitats of principal importance for conservation and biodiversity', which are defined under Section 41 of a Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 in England and Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 in Wales.
 - ◆ Invasive non-native species (INNS) – assessment of INNS is required if a development could cause the introduction or spread of INNS to a waterbody.



- 2.2.5 A detailed Compliance Assessment would be required if it cannot be concluded that the scheme would not cause deterioration or inhibit the objective status of a waterbody. Further to this and in line with WFD requirements, there would be a need to apply the Article 4.7 test to seek approval for progression of the scheme if after the full WFD

2.3 DETERMINATION OF GOOD STATUS

- 2.3.1 Good status is determined from the ecological and chemical status of surface waters. These statuses are assessed according to the following criteria:
- ◆ Biological quality (fish, benthic invertebrates, aquatic flora);
 - ◆ Hydromorphological quality (e.g. riverbank structure, river continuity and substrate of the riverbed); and
 - ◆ Physical-chemical quality (e.g. temperature, oxygenation and nutrient conditions).
- 2.3.2 The chemical quality refers to environmental quality standards for river basin specific pollutants. These standards specify maximum concentrations for specific water pollutants. The WFD works on a 'one out, all out' basis, so if one such concentration is exceeded, then the water body will not be classed as having a good status. The chemical status of surface waters is therefore classified as good or fail.
- 2.3.3 The ecological status of surface waters is classified as being high, good, moderate, poor or bad, whilst water bodies that have been modified (e.g. canals or contain significant flood defences) are classed as 'Heavily Modified Water bodies' (HMWB) and have to reach at least good potential by their objective year.



3. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 This WFD Assessment was completed using the following methodology:

- ◆ The collection of baseline data to identify the current status, as well as future baseline and ability of the water bodies within and in close proximity to the proposed works to meet the WFD objectives;
- ◆ A consultation with relevant authorities;
- ◆ The review of the proposed works and the potential impacts to the identified surface and groundwater bodies; this involves identifying the impacts that could reduce the WFD status and affect the ability of the water bodies to meet the objectives of the WFD;
- ◆ The consideration of mitigation that can be included in the design, and
- ◆ The provision of an assessment of residual risks.



4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

4.1 SITE CONTEXT

- 4.1.1 The Ferryside sea defence works site is situated north of Ferryside station and rail crossing. Access to the works areas will be a combination of beach access and rail access. The culvert will be accessed by foot and 4x4 vehicle to assist with carrying heavier equipment and allow for emergency response in event of injury.
- 4.1.2 The void repairs will be accessed on foot and from track side, as this is further north of the culvert and closer to an existing rail crossing and small hard standing.
- 4.1.3 The southern Saint Ishmaels works location will be accessed on foot and via the existing Network Rail access ramp down to beach level. This will be the chosen route for the supporting 13T 360 excavator and 6t Dumper to be used in the retrieval of defunct groyne components.
- 4.1.4 The internal repairs and inland repairs to the tidal culvert will be sanctioned by a separate Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP).



Figure 2: Location of project in relation to wider area.



4.2 METHOD OVERVIEW – SEAWARD FACING MASONARY WALL REPAIRS

4.2.1 This sub section details the equipment, general condition of the sea wall and proposed tasks as part of the maintenance project.

4.2.2 The maintenance works will consist of the summarised tasks described below:

- ◆ Works are Scheduled to commence September 2024 for approximately 6 weeks. However, night shifts will be required when periods between train movement is limited.
- ◆ No works on the outer sea wall will occur during high tide periods.
- ◆ Pre-works checks during daytime by the supporting ecologist will be undertaken.
- ◆ The project works will be monitored by an Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) to ensure abidance to the HRA conditions, undertaking supervision duties when required and undertaken audits. The ECoW has the authority to abort site operations.
- ◆ If required, rope access system may be setup in accordance with Specialist Subcontractor RAMS and operatives will access the wall from the top down to the required location of the repair along the sea wall.
- ◆ Equipment will also be transported to worksite via a trolley or gator (when using line blocks), or via a single 4x4 vehicle to the outlet of the tidal culvert. Equipment will be removed from the estuarine area at the end of each shift and returned back to the stores for secure storage. This will consist of 110v paddle mixer, 3.5kVa generator and mixing buckets.
- ◆ Clearance of vegetation growing from some areas sea wall will be removed where necessary to access the wall or prevent root systems from causing further internal damage to the walls structure.
- ◆ Pointing materials will be mixed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. The majority of mixing will occur within the rail track area. However, some mixing may need to occur at beach level where there is no safe buffer between the running rails and site personnel.
- ◆ PIC (Person in Charge) indicates rope access operatives may begin work when the tidal conditions allow access to the base of the sea wall (non-high tide times).
- ◆ Existing loose mortar will be removed using hand tools and collected where possible.
- ◆ Rope access operatives begin pointing and document section of works.
- ◆ On completion of pointing rope access operatives collect dropped pointing materials and remove from the working area.
- ◆ The repairs to the masonry are expected to be achieved within 5 days. Trips along the beach will be limited to when it is essential to move material, otherwise operatives will be instructed to walk to the point of works. Access will be limited to the shingle and sand beach section of the estuary and will avoid intertidal mud.



4.3 WALL BREACH REPAIRS

- 4.3.1 The wall breach (Grid Ref: SN 37074 11242) will likely be repaired using a rapid setting marine standard concrete patch to ensure no further rail ballast is lost to high energy events.
- 4.3.2 These works will be undertaken during low tide conditions. The approximate volume required is 1.5-2cube of concrete to ensure the failure is suitably repaired. The profile of the repair will match that of the current defence.

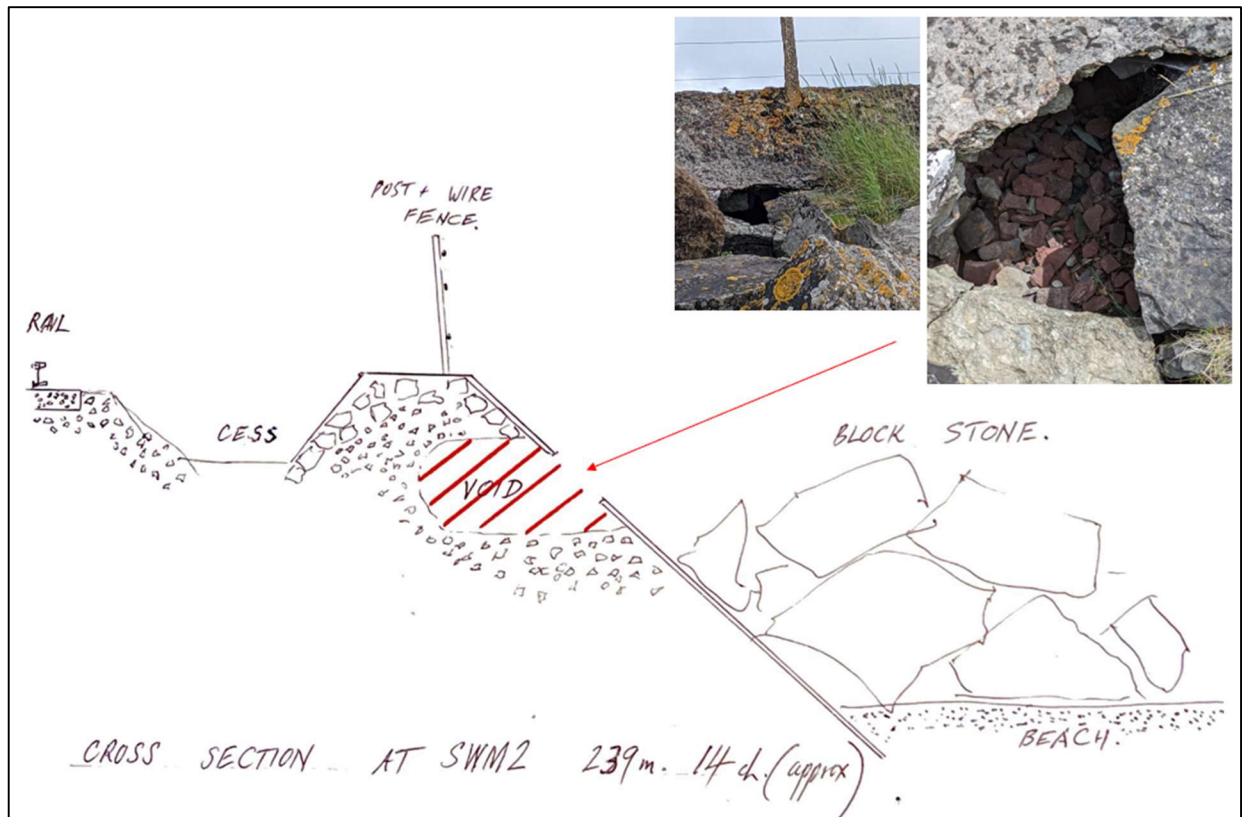


Figure 3: Breach to upper section of Ferryside North embankment.

- 4.3.3 Mixing of motor will be achieved using 110v paddle mixer. Material will be delivered during nighttime rail possessions. However, the repairs will occur exclusively during daytime low-tide periods. Any overspill will be removed by hand.
- 4.3.4 Access to this works section will be via the rail, for offloading of material and by foot using the crossing north of the void.



4.4 GROYNE REMOVAL

- 4.4.1 The removal of beach groynes will occur during daytime low tide conditions. Access to the works location will be via the Network Rail access ramp, north (upstream) of the groynes. A 13t Plant Machine and supporting 6t wheeled dumper will be used to remove the groynes.



Figure 4: Example of similar tonne excavator removing timber groynes.

- 4.4.2 In the first instance it is intended to attempt to pull out the upright metallic remnants of the groynes to avoid the need for excavations. Should this not be successful however, then excavation down to a depth of approx. 800mm will be required. Foundation depth, if foundations exist, is not known. Once the buried portions of groyne are exposed, the remains will be cut at the dig depth and removed. The excavation will then be backfilled. The back filling will endeavour to match the beach characteristics to reduce the chance of depressions developing.
- 4.4.3 Cut material will be placed into the awaiting dumper. Once full, material will be returned to rail access point near Saint Ishmaels church for further disassembly. Material will be transported via a licensed waste carrier.
- 4.4.4 This process will continue until all historic assets are removed from the beach. 4 to 5 weeks has been projected to complete the works. However, a longer license period is request to account for delays caused by rail access, weather and tidal working periods during daytime hours.
- 4.4.5 Vehicles in this location will consist of the 13t and 6t excavator only. These machines will ensure movement is along the shingle and beach sections only. Overnight, the machines will return to the access ramp and small hard standing of the rail corridor, outside of MHWS.



4.5 SUPPORTING WORKS

Site Welfare - Delivery/Setup

- 4.5.1 No formal compound is required to support the works. Welfare will be provided using mobile welfare vans. These will be moved to suitable locations as the project progresses.

Vehicle Access

- 4.5.2 The single 13 tonne excavator, 6t wheeled dumper and 4x4 pickup truck will be the only heavy machines permitted for use during this project. The latter proposed to be used, to assist teams with moving equipment to the outlet of the tidal culvert.
- 4.5.3 This vehicle will also serve so render assistance should a medical emergency occur.
- 4.5.4 In terms of agreed routes, vehicles will be limited to use on the harder shingle and sand substrate only and will not be permitted further out into the estuary in such a manner that mudflats could be impacted.

Emergency Plans

- 4.5.5 The contractor will ensure that emergency pollution control plans above standardised spill control plans are prepared prior to the commencement of the project. The contractor will ensure a plan on vehicle extraction from the in-channel environment is available with plant machines or equipment on site capable of retrieving a stranded machine.

Emergency Plan Fundamentals:

- ◆ Any disabled machine within the channel environment will be immediately checked for any potential release of hydrocarbons, and if discovered, spill kits and trays will be used immediately.
- ◆ The on-call emergency plant engineer provider will be requested to attend site in the event that the fault cannot be resolved by the operator.
- ◆ Should the on-call engineer be unable to repair the machine, then it should be attempted to extract the machine using a similar powered machine, using task specific chains or tethers to tow the vehicle to a safe position.
- ◆ Should this fail, then the contractor must drain the machine of all fuel and hydraulic fluid before the tidal waters encroach on the machine. NRW and the on-call Environmental Clerk of Works will be contacted immediately and made aware of the emergency and risk of a pollution event.



5. BASELINE CONDITIONS

5.1 WDF STATUS OF WATERBODIES

- 5.1.1 Data on the location and status of WFD waterbodies and WFD Protected Areas has been obtained from the Water Watch Wales website (Waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) and the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx)
- 5.1.2 The following WFD surface waterbodies are in proximity of the proposed scheme:
- ◆ TYWI & TAF & GWENDRAETH - THREE RIVERS ESTUARY - (GB531006013400)
 - ◆ Carmarthen Bay - (GB611008590002)
 - ◆ Burry Inlet Outer - (GB641008180000)
- 5.1.3 Table 1 (below) presents summary information on the current WFD status of each of the constituent quality elements of the waterbodies downstream of the works. This information has been obtained from the Water Watch Wales website. Each of the quality elements will be assessed to determine whether the proposed scheme has the potential to adversely affect their status.
- 5.1.4 Only one groundwater waterbody, the Tywi, Taf and Gwendraeths (GB41002G200500) is located within the project area. It has a Quantitative Status of Moderate. Potential for the proposed scheme to impact groundwater is considered in Section 15.



Table 1: Summary of the WFD status of the water bodies with potential to be influenced by the proposed works

Waterbody name, ID, Type, Management Catchment, River Basin District.	Hydro-morphological designation	Current overall status & objectives	Biological elements	Physico-chemical elements	Water body Protected Area Links
TYWI & TAF & GWENDRAETH - THREE RIVERS ESTUARY (GB531006013400) Type: Transitional (Estuary) Man Catchment: Carmarthen Bay and the Gower TraC Area Name: South West Wales;Marine	Designated as Natural Morphology = Not High Hydrological Regime = Not High Mit Assessment = NA	Current overall status = Moderate;	Fish = Not assessed Invertebrates = Good Infaunal Quality Index (IQI) = Good Phytoplankton = Moderate Angiosperm = High Salt Marsh = High Sea Grass = NA Macroalgae = High Opportunistic Macroalgae = High	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) = Moderate Dissolved oxygen = High Annex 8 Chemicals = High Arsenic = High Copper = High Iron = High Toluene = High UI_NH3 (Un-ionised ammonia) = High Zinc = High Chem_PHZ = High Cadmium = High Hex_chl_cx = High Nonylphenol = High Benzene = High Dichlo_1_2 = High Dichlometh = High Lead = High Nickel = High Tri_chl_mh = High Carb_tetra = High DDT_total = High Drins = High Pa_pa_DDT = High Tet_chl_ee = High Tri_chl_ee = High	Protected Area = No Bathing Waters = No Special Protection Area = Yes Drinking Water Protected Area = No Special Area of Conservation = Yes Nitrate Vulnerable Zone = No Shellfish Water = Yes



Waterbody name, ID, Type, Management Catchment, River Basin District.	Hydro-morphological designation	Current overall status & objectives	Biological elements	Physico-chemical elements	Water body Protected Area Links
Name: Burry Inlet Outer ID: GB641008180000 Type: Coastal Man Catchment: Carmarthen Bay and the Gower TraC RBD: Western Wales Area Name: Marine; South West Wales	Designated as Natural	Current overall status = Moderate;	Driving_Element = Angiosperm;Phytoplank;DIN Fish = Not assessed Invertebrates = Good Infaunal Quality Index (IQI) = Good Phytoplankton = Moderate Angiosperm = Moderate Salt Marsh = Good Sea Grass = Moderate Macroalgae = High Opportunistic Macroalgae = High	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) = Moderate Dissolved oxygen = High Annex 8 Chemicals = High Arsenic = High Copper = High Iron = High Toluene = High UI_NH3 (Un-ionised ammonia) = High Zinc = High Chem_PHZ = High Cadmium = High Nonylphenol = High Benzene = High Dichlo_1_2 = High Dichlomet = High Lead = High Nickel = High Tri_chl_mh = High Carb_tetra = High Tet_chl_ee = High Tri_chl_ee = High	Protected Area = Yes Bathing Waters = Yes Special Protection Area = Yes Drinking Water Protected Area = No Special Area of Conservation = Yes Nitrate Vulnerable Zone = No Shellfish Water = Yes



Waterbody name, ID, Type, Management Catchment, River Basin District.	Hydro-morphological designation	Current overall status & objectives	Biological elements	Physico-chemical elements	Water body Protected Area Links
Name: Carmarthen Bay ID: GB611008590002 Type: Coastal Man Catchment: Carmarthen Bay and the Gower TraC RBD: Western Wales Area Name: Marine; South West Wales	Designated as Natural	Current overall status = Moderate;	Driving_Element = Mercury;BDPE Calc;Phytoplank Fish = Not assessed Invertebrates = Good Infaunal Quality Index (IQI) = Good Imposex = Good Phytoplankton = Moderate Angiosperm = No Data Salt Marsh = No Data Sea Grass = No Data Macroalgae = Good Opportunistic Macroalgae = No Data RSMac_Sub = Good	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) = Good Dissolved oxygen = High Annex 8 Chemicals = High Arsenic = High Copper = High Iron = High Permethrin = High Toluene = High UI_NH3 (Un-ionised ammonia) = High Zinc = High Chem_PHZ = Moderate Anthracene = High BDPE_Calc = Moderate Cadmium = High Dioxins = High Endosulfan = High HBCDD = High Hex_chl_bz = High Hex_chl_cx = High Mercury = Moderate Nonylphenol = High PAH = High Pen_chl_bz = High PerfluSulp = High TBT_annx10 = High Chem_PR = High Benzene = High Cypermeth = High Dichlo_1_2 = High Dichlometh = High Dichlorvos = High Flourthene = High Lead = High Napthalene = High Nickel = High Octylphen = High Tri_chl_bz = High	Protected Area = Yes Bathing Waters = Yes Special Protection Area = Yes Drinking Water Protected Area = No Special Area of Conservation = Yes Nitrate Vulnerable Zone = No Shellfish Water = No



				Tri_chl_mh = High DDT_total = High Drins = High Tet_chl_ee = High	
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Waterbody name, ID, Type, Management Catchment, River Basin District.	Hydro-morphological designation	Current overall status & objectives	Biological elements	Physico-chemical elements	Water body Protected Area Links
Name: Tywi, Taf and Gwendraeths ID: GB41002G200500 Type: Groundwater RBD: Western Wales Area Name: South West Wales	Not Designated A/HMWB	Current overall status = Poor;	Driving_Element: GWSW_chem	GWQn = Good GWDTE_abs = Good GWSW_abs = Good SI_abs = Good WB_abs = Good GWCh = Poor DrWPA = Good GCT = Good GWDTE_chem = Good GWSW_chem = Poor SI_chem = Good Trend_GW = High	Protected Area = Yes Special Protection Area = No Drinking Water Protected Area = Special Area of Conservation = No Nitrate Vulnerable Zone = No



6. WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT: SCOPING FOR ACTIVITIES IN ESTUARINE AND COASTAL WATERS

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).

6.1 SECTION 1: HYDROMORPHOLOGY

6.1.1 The first stage is to consider if there is hydromorphology at risk from your activity.

Table 2: 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:	Hydromorphology risk issue(s)
Could impact on the hydromorphology (for example morphology or tidal patterns) of a water body at high status	The Afon Tywi does not have high hydromorphological status. The river is classed as being heavily natural, the section in which the works are being undertaken along the significantly modified eastern shore where the Saint Ishmael Sea Walls and Ferryside Embankment defences are situated. There will be no changes to the below MHWS sections of the structure beyond reinstating the failed toe beam back to it's former alignment and structural standard. This impact has been assessed as negligible / slight beneficial.
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body	Please see above - No impacts on any other water bodies.



6.2 SECTION 2: BIOLOGY, HABITAT & FISH

6.2.1 The second stage is to consider if habitats, Biology and Fish Species are at risk from your activity. The figures and tables below illustrate and discuss the features present within the relevant units.

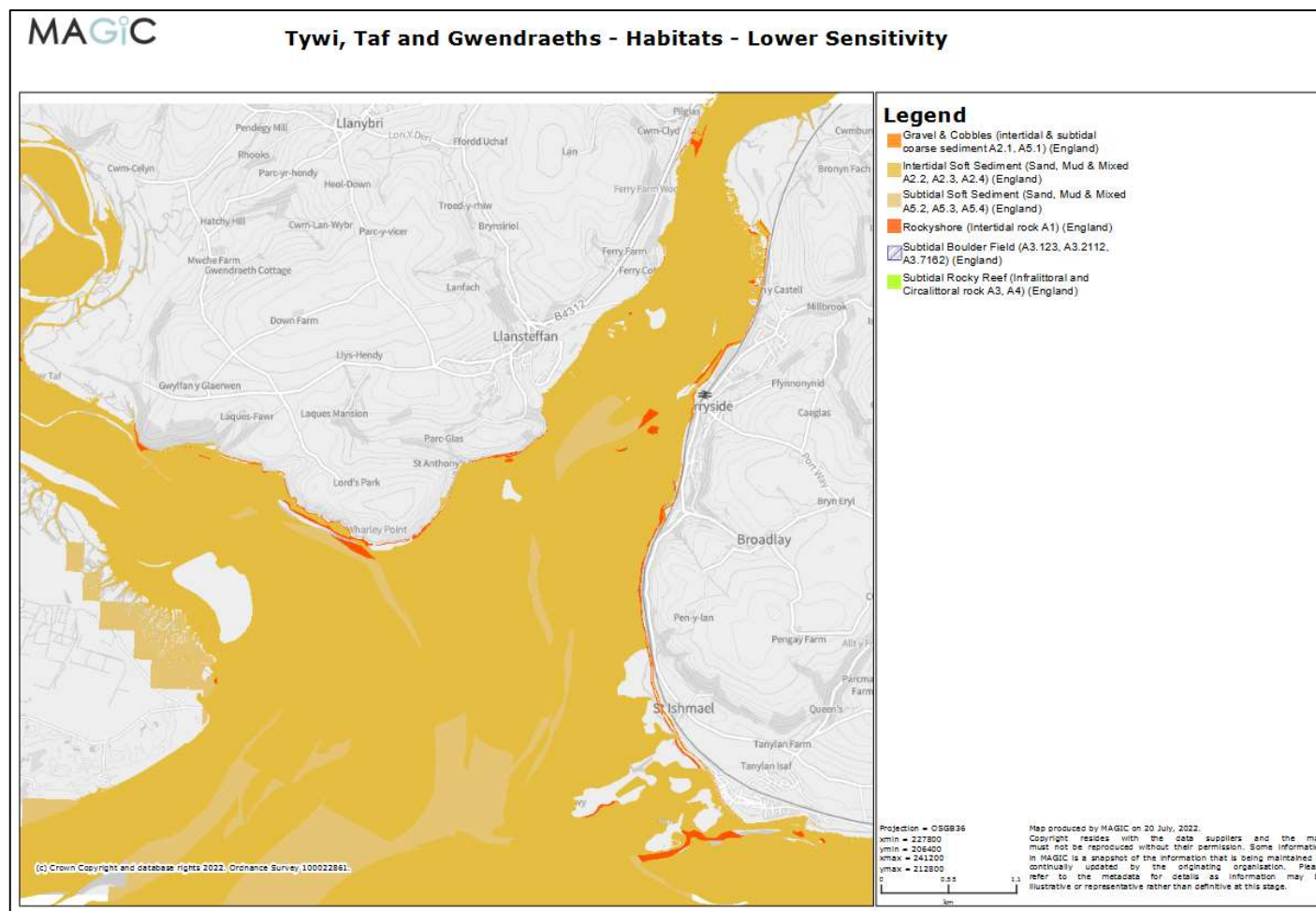


Figure 5: TYWI & TAF & GWENDRAETH - THREE RIVERS ESTUARY WFD Habitat Lower Sensitivity (www.magic.gov.uk)



MAGiC // I & TAF & GWENDRAETH - THREE RIVERS ESTUARY - Habitat - Higher Sensitivity

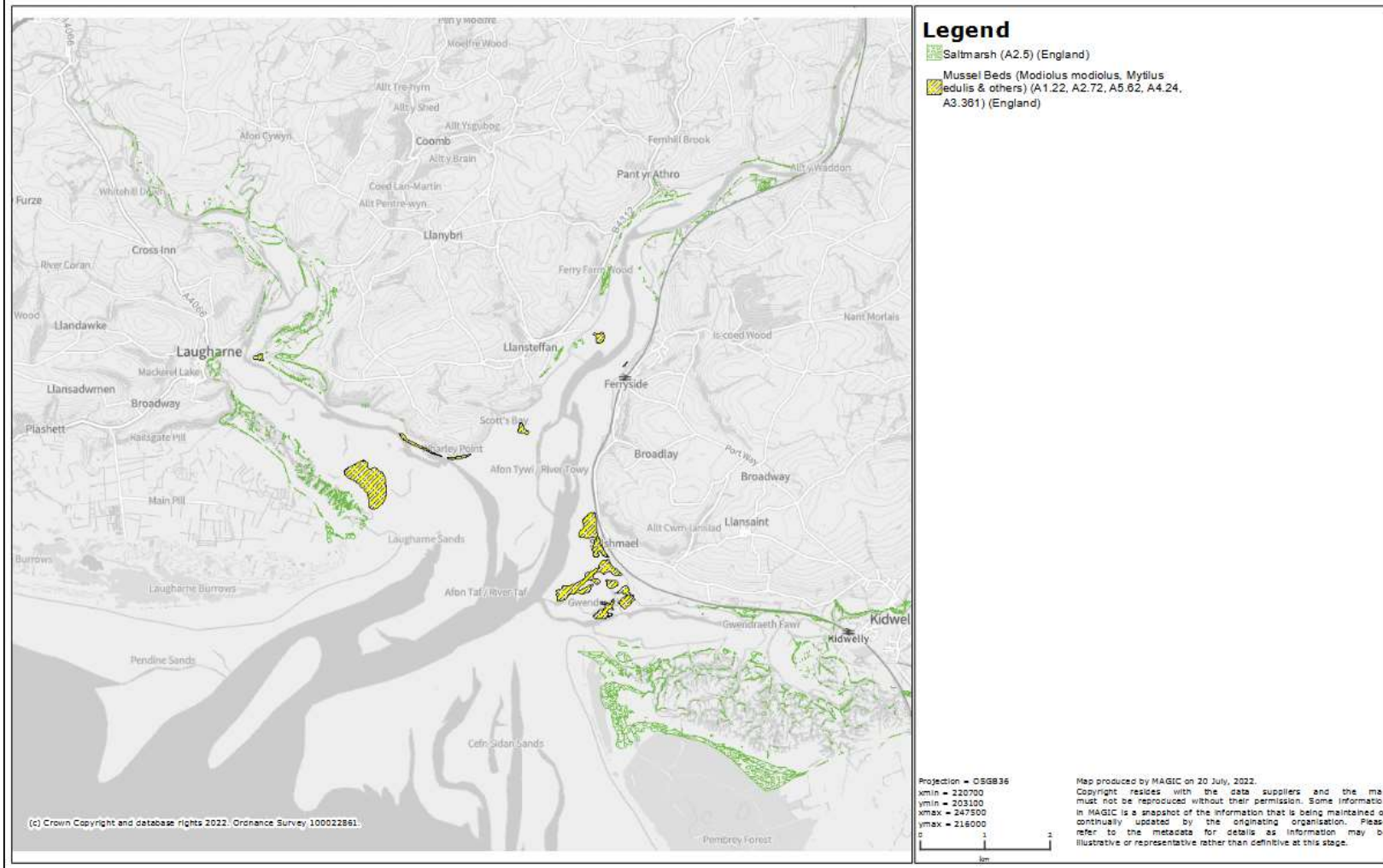


Figure 6: TYWI & TAF & GWENDRAETH - THREE RIVERS ESTUARY WFD Habitat Higher Sensitivity (www.magic.gov.uk)



6.2.2 The following tables below outlined the features and potential impact vectors. Note: Higher sensitivity habitats have a low resistance to, and recovery rate, from human pressures. Lower sensitivity habitats have a medium to high resistance to, and recovery rate from, human pressures.

Table 3: Water body summary table and Magic maps, or other sources of information if available, to find the location and size of these habitats.

Area Name & ID		TYWI & TAF & GWENDRAETH - THREE RIVERS ESTUARY (GB531006013400)	
Higher sensitivity habitats		Lower sensitivity habitats	
Potential Impacts	Habitat Type	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts
Saltmarsh (A2.5)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.	Gravel & Cobbles (intertidal & subtidal coarse sediment A2.1, A5.1)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.
Mussel Beds (Modiolus modiolus, Mytilus edulis & others) (A1.22, A2.72, A5.62, A4.24, A3.361)	Potential for indirect and direct impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place. While also physical impacts from access route deviations (saint Ishmaels) works section. Clear demarcation will be required.	Intertidal Soft Sediment (Sand, Mud & Mixed A2.2, A2.3, A2.4)	Direct impact in the form of vehicle movement over this harder substrate to access the structure Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.
		Subtidal Soft Sediment (Sand, Mud & Mixed A5.2, A5.3, A5.4)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.
		Rockyshore (Intertidal rock A1)	Direct impact in the form of vehicle movement over this harder substrate to access the structure Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.

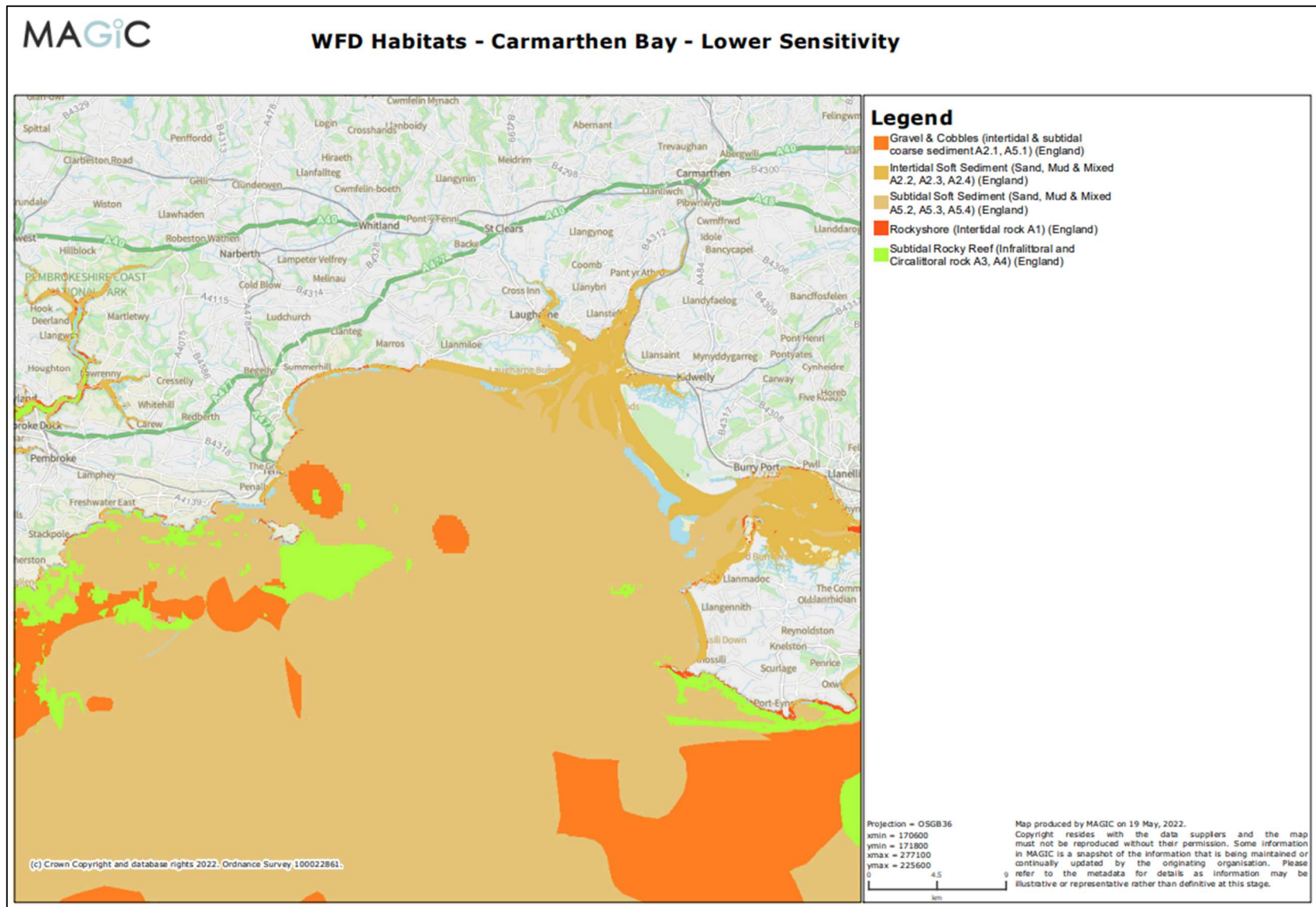


Figure 7: Carmarthen Bay WFD Habitat Lower Sensitivity (www.magic.gov.uk)

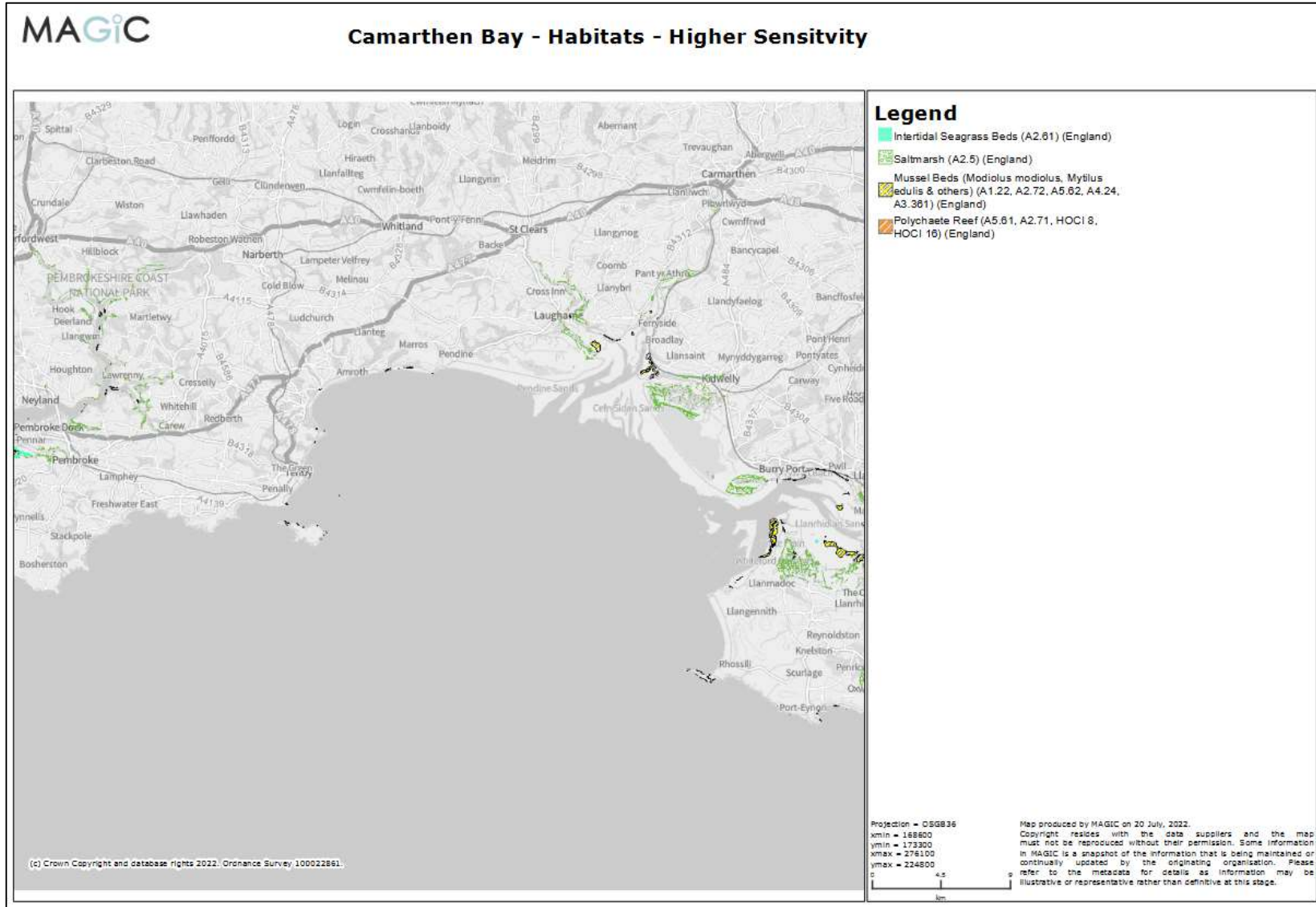


Figure 8: Carmarthen Bay WFD Habitat Higher Sensitivity (www.magic.gov.uk)



Table 4: Carmarthen Bay Water body summary table and Magic maps, or other sources of information if available, to find the location and size of these habitats.

Area Name & ID		Carmarthen Bay (GB611008590002) & Burry Inlet Outer (GB641008180000)	
Higher sensitivity habitats		Lower sensitivity habitats	
Potential Impacts	Habitat Type	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts
Intertidal Seagrass Beds (A2.61)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.	Gravel & Cobbles (intertidal & subtidal coarse sediment A2.1, A5.1)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.
Saltmarsh (A2.5)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.	Intertidal Soft Sediment (Sand, Mud & Mixed A2.2, A2.3, A2.4)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.
Mussel Beds (Modiolus modiolus, Mytilus edulis & others) (A1.22, A2.72, A5.62, A4.24, A3.361)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.	Subtidal Soft Sediment (Sand, Mud & Mixed A5.2, A5.3, A5.4)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.
		Subtidal Rocky Reef (Infralittoral and Circalittoral rock A3, A4)	Potential for indirect impacts due to chemical and hydrocarbon emissions from the works, if sufficient controls are not put in place.





Table 5: Biology.

Consider if the footprint ⁴ of your activity is:	Biology habitats risk issue(s)
0.5km ² or larger	The requested licensed area footprints combined equate to approximately 130000m ² or 13ha
1% or more of the water body's area	The Afon Tywi alone covers an area of approximately 5767ha. The footprint of the works is therefore less than 1% of the estuaries area.
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat	Works will be undertaken within 500m of the following designated sites: ◆ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries - Special Area of Conservation (SAC) ◆ Afon Tywi – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) ◆ Pembrey Coast – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat	The works footprints, including access routes to works areas is substantially less than 1% of lower sensitivity habitats.

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.



6.3 DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN THE INFLUENCE OF THE AFON TYWI

6.3.1 There are 4 statutory designated sites within 3km of the project boundary which are linked to the Afon Tywi:

- ◆ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- ◆ Afon Tywi – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- ◆ Pembrey Coast – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- ◆ Carmarthen Bay – Special Protection Area (SPA)

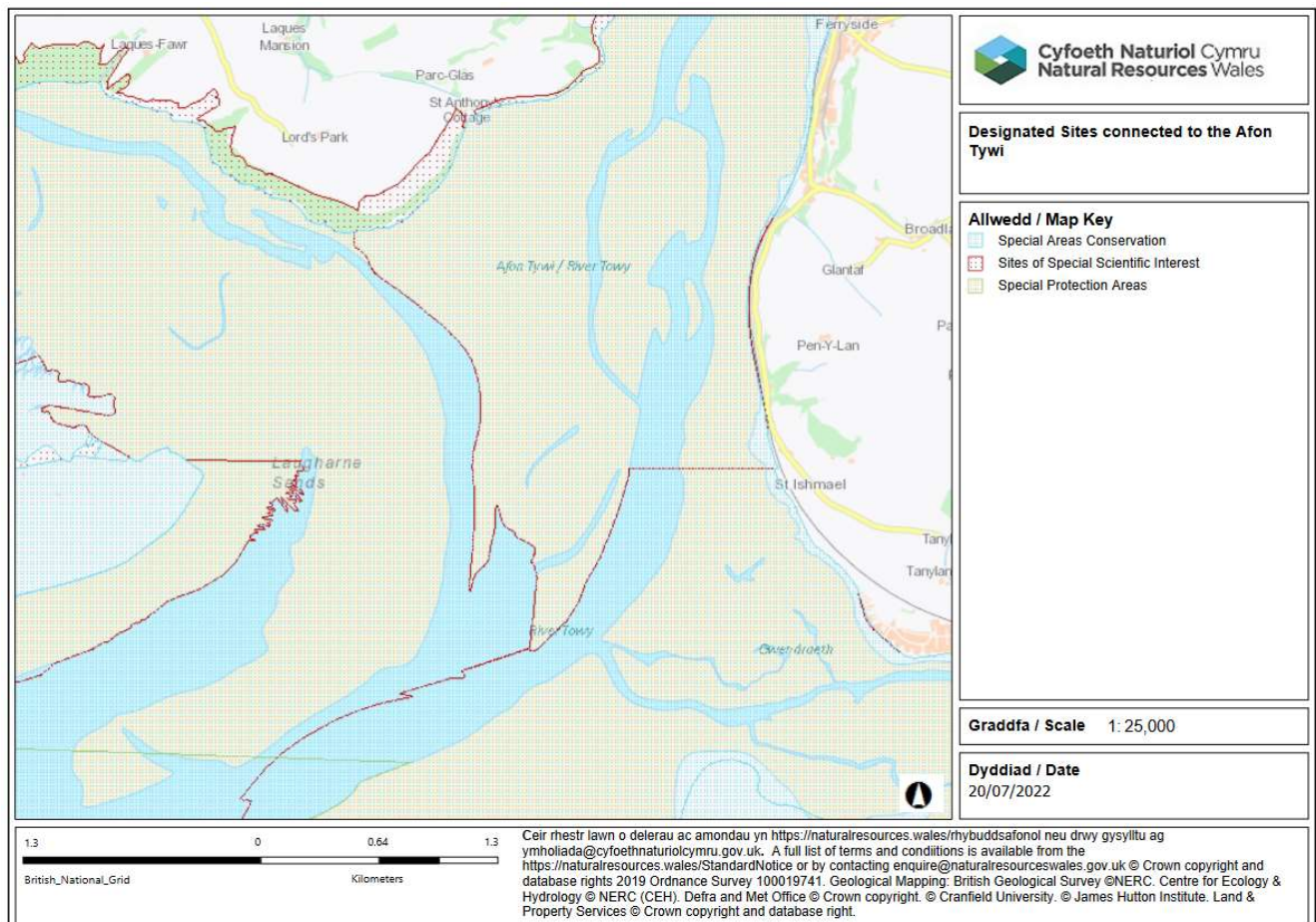


Figure 9: Designated Site Map in relation to the project area

6.3.2 There additional terrestrial Statutory and Non-statutory sites within proximity to the project, however these are unlikely to be influenced by the projects small footprint and are omitted from this assessment.

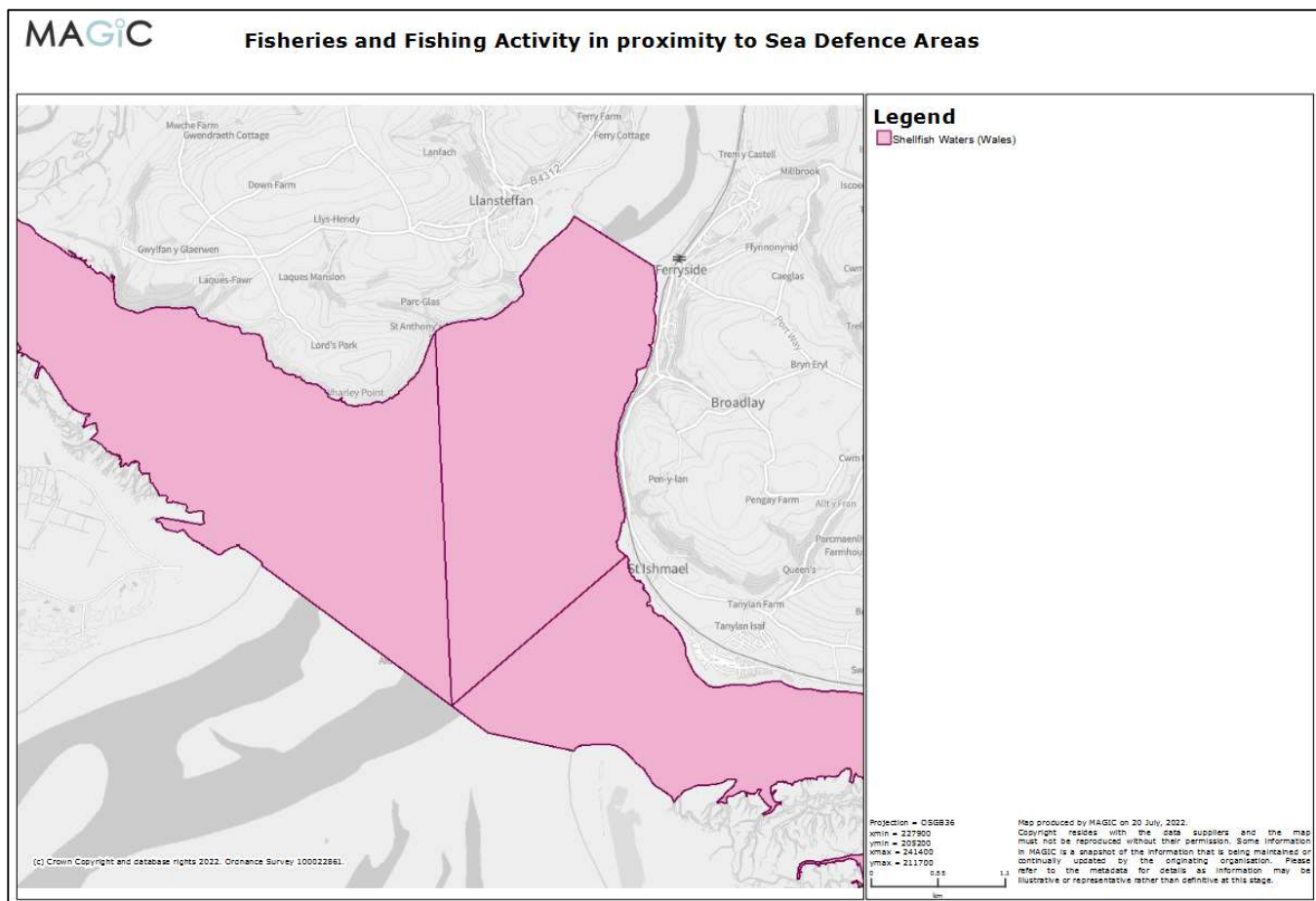


Figure 10: Location of Fisheries and Fishing Activity in proximity to works.



Table 6: Potential fish species 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:	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	Works will be restricted to periods during low tide conditions in daylight, with no physical impediment to fish passage along the estuary. The only night working permitting, is for the delivery of material or machines to sections of the rail corridor above MHWS.
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)	Please refer to information above. The work may dislodge sediment around the location of the defunct groynes, however, mobilised sediment is expected to reach equilibrium in short duration.
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish	No identified impact



6.4 SECTION 3: WATER QUALITY

6.4.1 The third stage is to consider if water quality is at risk from your activity.

Table 7: Water body summary table to find information on phytoplankton status and harmful algae.

Consider if your activity:	Water quality risk issue(s)
Could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)	The works will include the use of a 13T tracked excavator and supporting 6t Wheeled dumper during low tide, access the structures will be along rock/shingle and sand beaches along the edge of the estuary. Mudflats will be avoided. Sediment Release: Excavation will be restricted to the groyne locations, with a focus on attempting to pull the metal components from the beach as a first point of action, before any excavation is attempted. There is potential for a small amount of sediment release from the rising tide as a result of disturbed material. This would not add any materials to the marine environment but may re-mobilise deposited materials locally. Use of Hydrocarbons: ◆ All plant machinery movement will occur within the confines of the working footprint. ◆ No refuelling of plant machinery or equipment will occur within the estuary. ◆ All items of static plant will be placed within a plant nappy when not in use. ◆ Fuelled equipment will be checked for defects and leaks prior to the start of each shift. ◆ A refuelling procedure will be implemented, whereby plant nappies will be placed beneath fuelling apertures during fuelling and refuelling will only be undertaken by designated, trained individuals using equipment specifically designed for that purpose. ◆ Network Rail have a spillage plan and specialised contractor in place to respond to and clean up spills. Impact Assessment – To assess the potential impacts of these activities, the following should be considered: Construction plant will be used within the estuary and hence there is a heightened risk of hydrocarbon release due to leaks of fuels and oils. The contractor will refer to guidance from: ◆ GPP 2 - Above ground oil storage tanks, ◆ GPP 5 - Works and maintenance in or near water, ◆ GPP 7 - Safe storage – The safe operation of refuelling facilities, ◆ GPP 21 - Pollution incident response planning, ◆ GPP 22 - Dealing with spills, ◆ GPP26 - Safe storage – drums and intermediate bulk containers.



Consider if your activity:	Water quality risk issue(s)
	This includes controls for the operation of plant using biodegradable hydraulic oil (where this is within the manufacturers permitted specification), the re-fuelling of plant and equipment, inspection and maintenance routines for plant to identify defects which could result in the release of liquids, biosecurity protocols, silt mitigation procedures, waste management procedures. The ESMP also includes details on incident response and reporting, including hydrocarbon spills, remediation and reporting to NRW. Conclusion: Provided detailed mitigation plans are developed as part of the Task Specific Method Statements, in line with the broad guidance above, risks to water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns have therefore been assessed as low.
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	Phytoplankton within all discussed areas has been reported as Moderate.
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	No



Table 8: Assessing whether 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:	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Impact Assessment: Chemicals which will be taken into the estuary as part of the works will be: Hydrocarbons and coolants within plant and machinery. Conclusion: Provided the project complies with the measures set out within the ESMP, which in turn contains guidance from the relevant GPPs, the risk of release of hydrocarbons and cementitious materials is low.
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	A sampling regime has not been undertaken to date, however given the relatively limited volume of material required to be removed at any given time to access the base of groynes, it is unlikely that contaminants would be in such concentrations to be above Cefas Action Level 1.

Table 9: Assessing whether project falls within mixing zone.

If your activity has a mixing zone (like a discharge pipeline or outfall) consider if:	Water quality risk issue(s) /Assessment of Risk / Mitigation Proposals.
The chemicals released are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	The works are maintaining existing sea defence assets while also removing defunct metal components in a state of decay.

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



6.5 SECTION 4: WFD PROTECTED AREAS

6.5.1 The forth stage is to 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

Table 10: Location of protected areas in your water body (and adjacent water bodies) within 2km of your activity.

Consider if your activity is: Within 2km of any WFD protected area ⁶	Protected areas risk issue(s)
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	The project is within the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC), however due to the very localised working footprint to the sea walls and defunct groynes along the estuaries edge, impacts are unlikely.
Bathing Waters – Pendine & Pembrey	Impacts are unlikely due to the scale and relatively low impact of the proposed works. Mitigation will be implemented as described above.

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



6.6 SECTION 5: INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES (INNS)

6.6.1 The fifth is to consider if there is a risk your activity could introduce or spread INNS.

6.6.2 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.

Table 11: Risk from INNS.

Consider if your activity could:	INNS risk issue(s)
Introduce or spread INNS	The risk of introducing INNS into the estuary environment will be controlled through Biosecurity Best Practice - Plant and equipment to be used within and adjacent to the estuary will be subject to the Check, Clean, Dry process and will be treated with an aquatic safe disinfectant such as Virkon S. A Biosecurity Management Plan has been prepared for the project, which assesses the risk from INNS and proposes mitigation for this. Please refer to Appendix A.



6.7 SUMMARY OF WFD PRE-ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Table 12: Summary of Pre-Assessment Stage Findings.

Receptor	Potential risk to receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	The Afon Tywi does not have high hydromorphological status. The river is classed as being natural, the section in which the works are being undertaken is semi natural, with Sea defences demarcating much of the eastern estuarine boundary. Returning the tidal culvert and defence walls to its operational capacity is accessed as a neutral impact on the hydromorphology. While the removal of the defunct groynes is also likely to have a neutral impact.	Mitigation to be out in place to minimise impacts – Please refer to section 8.
Biology: habitats	No long term identified impacts on habitats, provided adequate pollution control measures are put in place i.e. sealed crash deck beneath the structure, controls on the storage and use of hydrocarbons. The removal of redundant manmade structures is likely to be a net benefit.	Mitigation to be out in place to minimise impacts – Please refer to section 8.
Biology: fish	No identified impact. There will be no physical blocks to fish migrating through the estuary/river. Key impacts on fish will therefore be noise and vibration from works and the use of a plant machine near channel. As the works will occur during low tide, noise and vibration will not be transmitted directly into the water column.	Mitigation to be out in place to minimise impacts – Please refer to section 8.
Water quality	No risk to water quality providing adherence to GPP and best practice is maintained.	Mitigation to be out in place to minimise impacts – Please refer to section 8.
Protected areas	Works will be within the SAC and SSSI.	Mitigation to be out in place to minimise impacts – Please refer to section 8.
Invasive non-native species	A Biosecurity Management Plan has been developed for the project, which includes INNS. Please refer to Appendix A.	Please refer to Biosecurity Plan – Appendix A



6.7.1 The WFD guidance stipulates if a pre-assessment has not identified any receptors at risk during scoping, you don't need to continue to the impact assessment stage and your WFD assessment is complete.

6.7.2 However, if the pre-assessment identifies one or more receptors at risk during scoping, you should continue to the impact assessment stage.

Table 13: Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment for the **Carmarthen Carboniferous Coal Measures** groundwater waterbody

WFD elements	Assessment
Chemical status	<u>Temporary impacts during construction</u> No identified impacts <u>Permanent effects during operation</u> No predicted impacts. <u>Assessment outcome</u> No adverse effects on the chemical status of the groundwater body have been identified and therefore this is scoped out of further assessment.
Quantitative status	<u>Temporary impacts during construction</u> No anticipated interaction with groundwater during maintenance works. <u>Permanent effects during operation</u> No predicted impacts from the operation of the existing tidal flap. <u>Assessment outcome</u> Effects to the quantitative status of the groundwater body have been scoped out of further assessment.



7. PROPOSED PROJECT MITIGATION

7.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE MITIGATION

7.1.1 In Table 14 below, measures have been set out detailing mitigation to be implemented to minimise the potential project impacts.

Table 14: Proposed Mitigation Matrix

Potential Hazard	Mitigating Circumstances / Mitigation Measures	Likelihood of Impact with Mitigation
Estuarine habitat - Loss of habitat from project activities.	During the project, all welfare, storage, parking and general works will occur within hard standing area of the road, north of the tidal flap. No habitat removal is required. Movement of the machine over the harder and more stable rock/ rock/shingle habitat is unlikely to cause lasting impacts due to the single day duration of the works.	Negligible Likelihood of significant for Impacts.
Salt marshes (also part of estuarine habitat)	There is no saltmarsh present within the works area, with the only area identified on Magic.gov, being the section up stream or a significant distance downstream.	Negligible likelihood of impacts.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide – muddy gullies in the Estuary - Loss of habitat from project activities.	No works are proposed within the main bed of the estuary. The works utilising plant machines are limited to the failed groynes which is situated along the edge of the estuary.	Negligible likelihood of impacts.
Release of contaminative chemicals from sediments within the estuary.	Some mobilisation of sediment is likely should localised excavations to cut away the base of groynes becomes a necessity. However, it is unlikely that the sediment mobilised during this release of pressure would be of a significant volume to release contaminants into the estuary.	Negligible likelihood of impacts with mitigation in place.
Contamination of the estuary from spillage of hydrocarbons during refuelling of plant and equipment or due to equipment failure.	No refuelling of plant machinery or equipment will occur within the estuary habitat. All items of static plant will be placed within a plant nappy when in use or being stored. Plant will be checked for defects and leaks prior to the start of each shift. No bulk fuels will be stored on site, the excavator will be delivered to site fuelled and due to the short duration will not need to be re-fuelled. Within the compound, a refuelling procedure will be implemented, whereby plant nappies will be placed beneath fuelling apertures during fuelling and refuelling will only be undertaken by designated, trained individuals using equipment specifically designed for that purpose. Network Rail have a spillage plan and specialised contractor in place to respond to and clean up spills. The Contractor will develop and implement an Emergency Awareness and Response Plan. This will describe how spills will be contained and cleaned up. The emergency plan	Negligible likelihood of impacts with mitigation in place.



Potential Hazard	Mitigating Circumstances / Mitigation Measures	Likelihood of Impact with Mitigation
	will appoint an Incident Coordinator, define roles and responsibilities during an incident, detail response procedures and contain an inventory of response equipment to be maintained on site. Plant will also be available to remove contaminated ballast from site if required. All machinery on site will undergo regular checks. If oil leaks or damage to hydraulic hoses is noted, plant and machinery will be removed from the site and isolated within the site compound with containment measures beneath the leak, until it has been repaired and signed off by a competent fitter. The contractor will develop an emergency response plan in the event a machine becomes stranded in the estuary from mechanical failure and cannot be removed ahead of the rising tide. Equipment will be available to syphon the fuel from the disabled machine in order to reduce the potential release of hydrocarbons into the estuary.	
Contamination of the estuary from release of chemicals.	Please see above.	Negligible likelihood of impacts with mitigation in place.
Individual wintering birds - Noise disturbance / Visual Disturbance / Habitat Destruction.	Works within the estuary are programmed to be undertaken between September/October 2024.	Impact on Wintering Birds has been assessed as low.
Otter - Noise disturbance / Visual Disturbance / Habitat Destruction.	Toolbox Talks will inform site personnel on identifying the Annex II Species. No otter holts, resting up area or evidence (e.g. spraint) have been identified within proximity to the structure to date. The project will not represent a hard boundary preventing access to the wider estuary by this species. Otter would be able to move along the river channel and along the tops of the banks at all times during the works. Habitat impact is limited, however there may be a temporary impact to prey species disturbed by ongoing works. It is not anticipated that these works will have an impact on the population. No Night works is permitted as part of the work remit.	Impact Not Likely to be Significant, with appropriate mitigation
Fish Assemblage – Pollution and water quality impacts.	Pollution control and Biosecurity measures implemented as described in above will minimise water quality impacts on fish species.	Impact Not Likely to be Significant, with appropriate mitigation
Fish Assemblage - Noise disturbance / Visual	There will be no physical blocks to fish migrating through the estuary. There will be no physical blocks to fish migrating through the estuary.	Impact Not Likely to be Significant Impact



Potential Hazard	Mitigating Circumstances / Mitigation Measures	Likelihood of Impact with Mitigation
Disturbance / Habitat Destruction.	Key impacts on fish will therefore be potential noise and vibration from works, however there will be no direct vector as works will be undertaken during low-tide conditions.	
WFD Higher Sensitivity Habitats – Muscle Beds	Muscle beds are close to the proposed access point and location of the groynes. However, from available mapping, it appears that with clear demarcation, these sensitive areas can be avoided. Consultation with the local fisheries team will be undertaken, to ensure any concerns or unmapped muscle bed locations are accounted for. 	Impact Not Likely to be Significant
Fish Assemblage - Contamination of the estuary from spillage	See comments under estuarine habitat	Impact Not Likely to be Significant
Biosecurity	A detailed Biosecurity Plan has been prepared for the project. This includes the following: - All site personnel and site visitors will be informed if any INNS are known to be present on site and that they are jointly responsible for preventing their spread/impacts. They will be made aware of what these species look like so they can avoid it where possible and take appropriate actions. - All site personnel and visitors will be inducted in good biosecurity practices. This will include adoption of the CHECK-CLEAN-DRY campaign (NNSS, 2015). - The CHECK-CLEAN-DRY poster will be displayed in the site office as a reminder of good biosecurity practices: http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/ - All equipment, tools, vehicles and personal protective equipment (PPE) used on site will be checked for seeds originating from any identified INNS before leaving the area. If seeds from identified invasive species are identified, the items will be cleaned and removed seeds will be destroyed.	Impact Not Likely to be Significant



Potential Hazard	Mitigating Circumstances / Mitigation Measures	Likelihood of Impact with Mitigation
	- The spread of waterborne diseases will be limited through the adoption of the CHECK-CLEAN-DRY campaign. This would entail the use of a suitable disinfectant e.g. Virkon® S Aquatic to decontaminate all machinery and PPE prior to it entering site and upon leaving site. Following application of a suitable disinfectant, machinery and PPE will be allowed to fully dry for at least 72 hours before being used on another aquatic site. The Biodiversity Management Plan can be found in Appendix A.	



8. WFD CONCLUSION

- 8.1.1 Due to the nature and scale of the works to be undertaken during the Saint Ishmaels Groynes & Ferryside Sea Defence and Tidal Culvert maintenance project, providing the mitigation outlined within this document and within this document and the supporting Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is implemented, this project will not prevent any of the water bodies associated with the project from meeting their Water Framework Directive objectives.