WFD Compliance Assessment

OGN 72 Appendix 2 WFD Compliance Assessment template

- **In completing this template for a WFD compliance assessment, refer to OGN72 (link) for definitions, processes and further links to useful websites.**

If there are any problems or issues with the information in this desk instruction, you must report it to the responsible Manager Team member named as the owner and guidance.development@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Version History			
Document Version	**Date Published**	**Summary of Changes**	**Authorised by**
1	September 2020	Document created and ready for trialling	
Review Date: [Month & Year]			

Figure 1: Stage 1 Screening

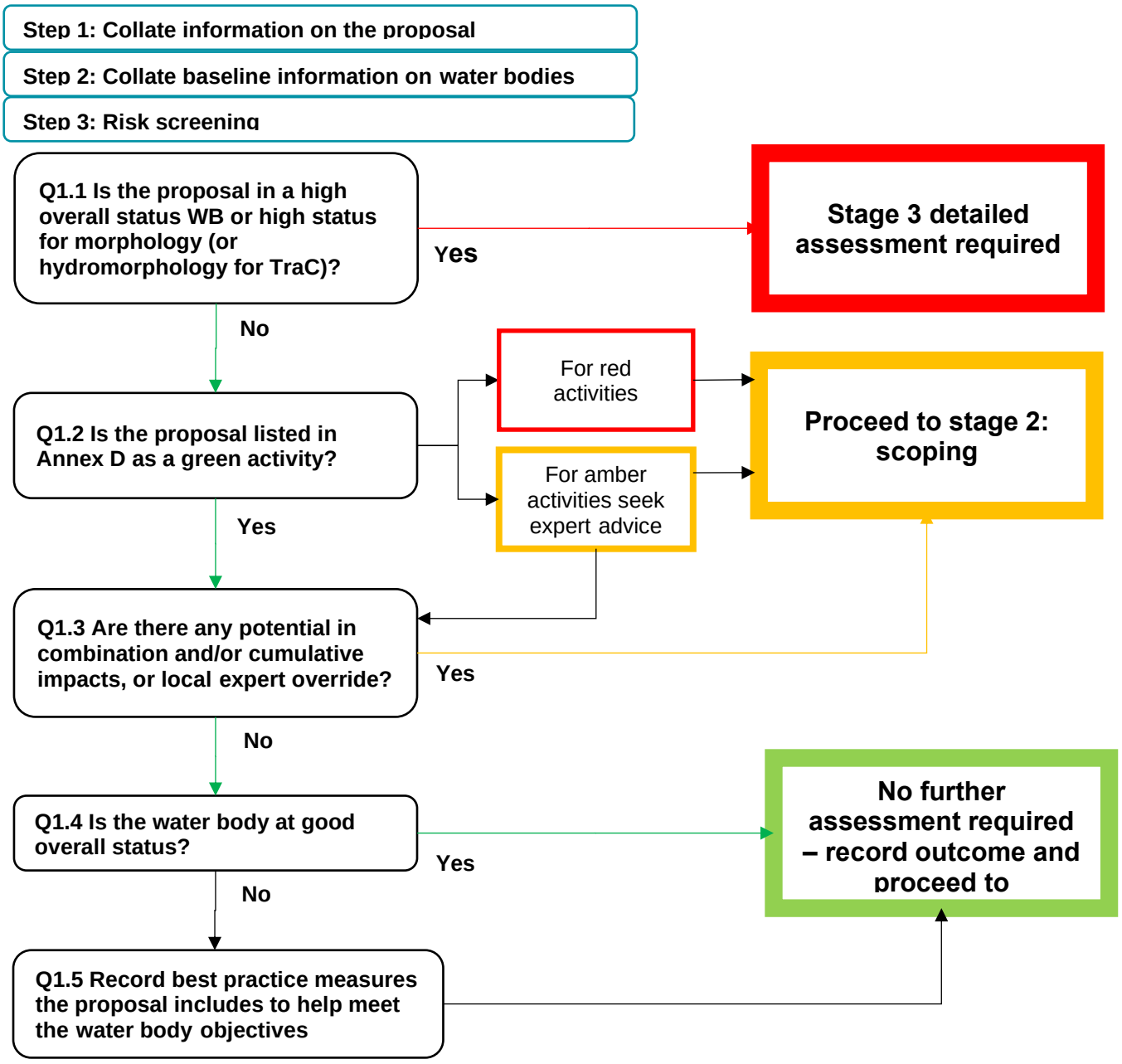
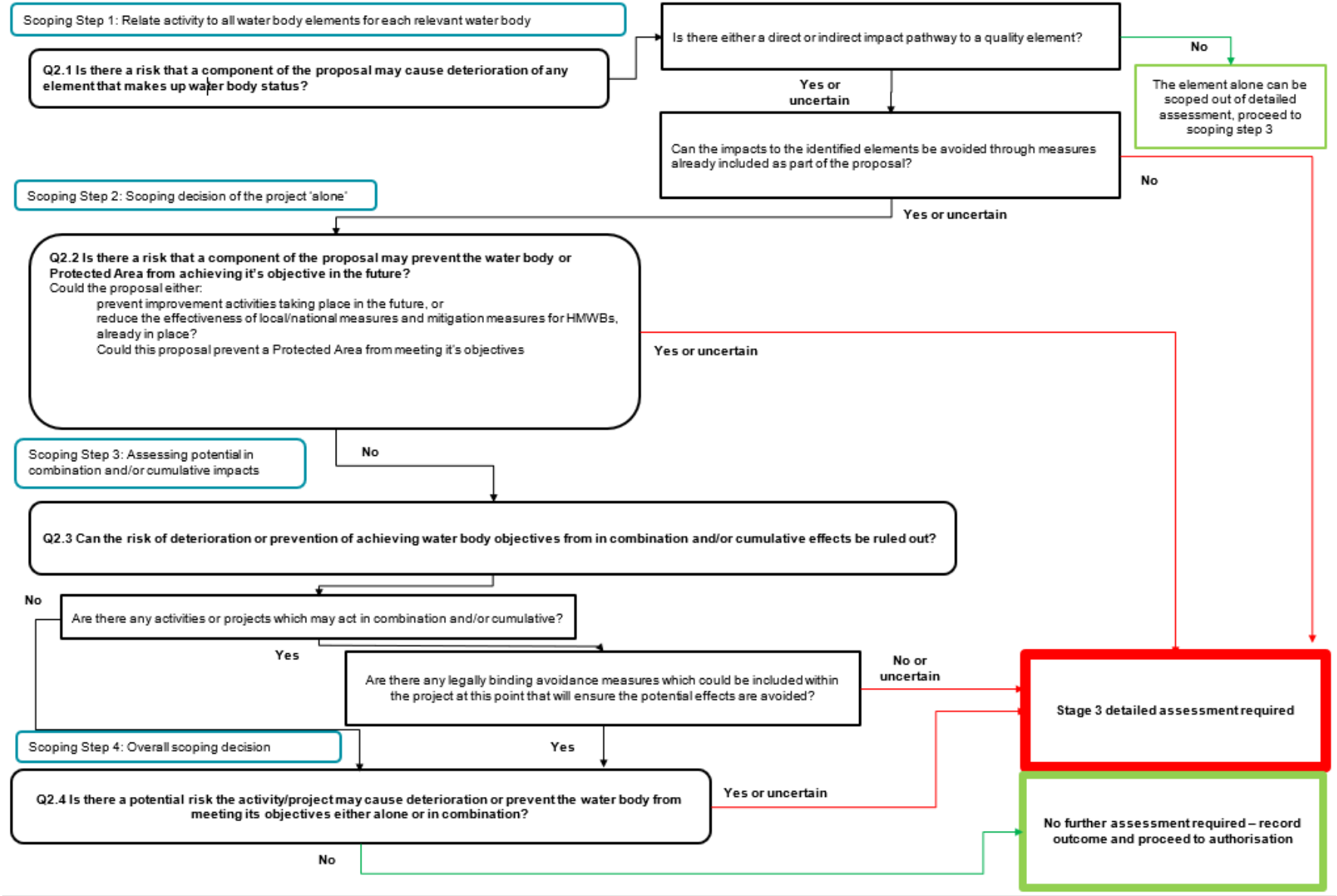


Figure 2: Stage 2 Scoping



WFD Compliance Assessment of A465 Clydach Underbridge

Stage 1 step 1: proposal details.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">Project details where an <u>external party</u> has applied to NRW for any form of authorisation</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="6">Project details</td><td>Application reference number (if applicable)</td><td>CML2437</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date application received</td><td>19 June 2024</td></tr>
<tr><td>Applicant details</td><td>South Wales Trunk Road Agent</td></tr>
<tr><td>Activity proposed</td><td>The project is located at the A465 Clydach Underbridge and involves the installation of scour
protection measures at the base of the supporting piers located within the right-hand riverbank</td></tr>
<tr><td>Relevant legislation</td><td>Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017</td></tr>
<tr><td>List other permissions that may be required where known</td><td>N/A</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location (include map where appropriate)</td><td>The project is located near Neath, at the A465 Clydach underbridge bounded by the coordinates below:
<table>
<tr><th>Lat</th><th>Long</th></tr>
<tr><td>51.6587</td><td>-3.8259</td></tr>
<tr><td>51.6588</td><td>-3.8265</td></tr>
<tr><td>51.6592</td><td>-3.8264</td></tr>
<tr><td>51.6593</td><td>-3.8259</td></tr>
<tr><td>51.6592</td><td>-3.8255</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

		 Figure 5-1 – Location Plan of Designated Sites
	Application documents *Include: Project purpose and background, site map, scaled plan, site photographs and working method statement.*	CML2437 Location Plan CML2437 General Arrangement Plan CML2437 Sections Sheet 1 of 2 CML2437 Sections Sheet 2 of 2 CML2437 Pier Elevation CML2437 Habitats Regulation Assessment_Rev1 CML2437 WFD Assessment CML2437 8449 CEMP Rev.3 09.08.24 CML2437 Welsh National Marine Plan Assessment CML2437 Centregreat - Neath Bridge Scour Works - RAMS - 12.8.24
	Environmental Statement	N/A
	List ongoing maintenance requirements. All structures will require maintenance	N/A
	Timing of works	Works to be undertaken July and August
	Pre-application correspondence	(mentioned email correspondence but not provided) In the applicant's HRA it states: "Pre-consultation correspondence was undertaken with NRW Marine Advisory Officer Delyth Rowlands who confirmed that there's one protected site located downstream of the proposed works, the Crymlyn Burrows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for its sand dune, saltmarsh and assemblage of invertebrates features. The correspondence highlighted that from a marine perspective, provided that suitable pollution prevention

		and biosecurity measures are employed during construction, NRW do not believe that the works would have a significant impact on the site's special interest features. However, it was also pointed out that NRW's Environment Team may have further comments to make on this designation, but at the time of this report it had not been received.
	NRW team responsible for drafting this WFD Compliance Assessment **report, and name of lead officer**	Maria Alvarez, Marine Licensing Team
	Date of assessment	25 June 2024

Stage 1, step 2: Collate baseline information on all water bodies at risk from the proposal.

Date of classification information: **2021 C3**

WB ID	Water body name	WB type	Management catchment	HMWB	Overall water body status	Ecological status	Chemical status	Hydro-morphology status*	Relevance to the proposal
GB541005800700	Neath Estuary	Transitional	Western Wales	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	High	No High	*in the water body*

**where there is no information, or a null value then assume it is at good status for morphology (or hydromorphology for TraC water bodies)

The potential for the proposal to affect the following water bodies was also initially considered, but can be ruled out without further consideration:

Due to the nature of the works, the scale and their location, the works will not have an impact on the WFD classification of the following water bodies and as such have been screen out of further assessment:

- GB641008260000 - Swansea Bay - Coastal - Located 6 km downstream of the Proposed Activities.
- GB110058026390 – Clydach - River - The Clydach headwaters to conf with River Neath is approximately 160 m upstream of the Proposed Activities.

Stage 1, Step 3: Risk Screening

Question number	Risk screening questions	Name of activity	Screening decision – delete as appropriate
Q1.1	**Is the proposal in a water body at high status or high status for morphology** or hydromorphology?	N/A	**No** – go to Q1.2

Question number	Risk screening questions	Name of activity	Screening decision – delete as appropriate
Q1.2	**Is the activity listed in Annex D as a green activity?** Complete new row for each activity	*Installation of scour protection measures*	**No – complete scoping assessment for each water body**
~~Q1.3~~	~~Are there any potential cumulative/in combination impacts? Or is there Local Expert Override*?~~	~~**Yes/No**~~	~~**Yes – complete scoping assessment for each water body**~~ ~~**No** – go to Q1.4~~
~~Q1.4~~	~~Is the water body at Good overall status?~~	~~**Yes/No**~~	~~**Yes, no further WFD assessment needed - Go to Authorisation**~~ ~~**No** - Go to Q1.5~~
~~Q1.5~~	~~Record best practice measures that the works include to help achieve the objectives of the water body.~~	~~**Include all measures then proceed to Authorisation section**~~	

**Expert judgement may be required i.e. for complex or cumulative interactions; or a particularly sensitive site/activity (including target water bodies).*

Stage 2: Scoping Assessment for: *GB541005800700* *Neath Estuary*

Each component of the works should be included, for example: a hydropower scheme may include in-channel impoundment, creation of depleted reach, and bank reinforcement for turbine house. Include vegetation removal/management as a scheme component. Where there is a lack of confidence on whether there is potential risk to an element then these should be scoped in for further assessment.

Stage 2, step 1 – relate activity to all water body elements for each relevant water body

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: *Neath Estuary* Water body ID: *GB541005800700*			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
Transitional and Coastal water bodies	Choose one of the following: **Direct** – risk of direct impact **Indirect** – risk of indirect impact **N/A – no impact pathway** **N/A – other** – include additional text to explain	Further detail on potential impacts. Where N/A is included then provide detail to explain.	**Colour text in green if all impacts can be avoided through measures already included in the scheme. Or red for schemes which require detailed assessment**
Hydromorphology – hydromorphology constitutes both 'hydrology' and 'geomorphology' and describes the physical characteristics and processes of a water body. ***Could the proposal lead to changes in:***			
• morphological conditions, for example depth variation, the seabed and intertidal zone structure • tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents	*Direct – risk of direct impact*	*The proposed works may impact the hydromorphology status.*	**Requires detailed assessment**
• freshwater flow	***N/A – no impact pathway***		
• wave exposure	***N/A – no impact pathway***		
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	*Direct – risk of direct impact*	*Yes - the water body is designated as HMWB*	*The designation is for "**Navigation, ports and harbours use**" – there is no link to the Proposed activities. No detailed assessment undertaken*

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: *Neath Estuary*
Water body ID: *GB541005800700*

Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
Water quality An activity can modify the flow of water, introduce artificial materials or remove sediment and/or vegetation. These can all affect the water quality – particularly physico-chemical aspects of water quality - such as levels of dissolved oxygen, nutrients and ammonia. Include water quality in the detailed assessment if the activity could affect:			
• water clarity (turbidity or suspended particulate matter concentration) • oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions • nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen • salinity/conductivity • thermal conditions (including shading)	*Direct – risk of direct impact*	**Construction** activities particularly those that require excavation have the potential to re-mobilise sediments which could be contaminated. There is also a risk of increased turbidity and debris falling into the water, as well as chemical leaks and spills.	**Requires detailed assessment**
• microbial patterns • is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad • is in a water body with a history of harmful algae (where there is an existing designation for the area, information should be available; however, local water quality officers will be able to help).	***N/A – no impact pathway***		
Chemicals - A detailed assessment will also be required if the activity uses or releases chemicals, for example, through sediment disturbance or building works. This is necessary when either the:			
• chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	*Direct – risk of direct impact*	*Construction activities, particularly those that require excavation have the potential to re-mobilise sediments which could be contaminated.*	**Requires detailed assessment**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: *Neath Estuary* Water body ID: *GB541005800700*			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
• activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).			
• or, if the activity releases chemicals on the EQSD list and has a mixing zone, like a discharge pipeline or outfall, follow the Environment Agency's surface water pollution risk assessment guidance. This is part of the Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.	***N/A – no impact pathway***	No chemicals are to be released during construction or operation	
Biology Identify if the activity or project could impact on the abundance or composition of the biological elements listed below: Biological elements for transitional (T) and coastal (C) waters under the directive are: • Benthic invertebrates (T, C) • Fish (T) • Phytoplankton (T, C) • Macroalgae (T, C) • Angiosperms (T, C) ***Could the proposal lead to:***			
• changes to the composition and abundance of aquatic flora	Direct – risk of direct impact	**Construction:** Potential impact to the sensitive habitat such as saltmarsh, rocky shore and intertidal soft sediment during excavation.	However, the footprint of the scheme is small limited to the area around the base of the piers, therefore works are small and very localised.
• changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna			
For TraC water bodies - scope in if the footprint (where footprint can be direct or a plume i.e. chemical or thermal; for dredging multiply the area by 1.5x) of your activity is:			
• 0.5km^2 or larger	**N/A – no impact pathway**	No – Footprint of activity is approximately 0.0004 km$_2$.	

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: *Neath Estuary* Water body ID: *GB541005800700*			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
• 1% or more of the water body's area	**N/A – no impact pathway**	No – Footprint of activity is ~0.01% of the water body's area.	
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	**Indirect** – risk of indirect impact	The works are upstream of saltmarsh higher sensitivity habitat. Potential risks associated during construction stages. Saltmarsh is located immediately downstream of the A465 crossing at Clydach Underbridge. They are at risk from the construction of the Rock mattresses as the construction involves excavation.	However, the footprint of the scheme is small limited to the area around the base of the piers, therefore works are small and very localised.
• 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below)	***N/A – no impact pathway***	No – Rocky shore and intertidal soft sediment (sand, mud & mixed) is present directly downstream of the A465 crossing at Clydach Underbridge. The footprint of any activities likely to impact on lower sensitivity habitat is less than 1%.	
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
• changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna	***N/A – no impact pathway***		
• an 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)	*Direct – risk of direct impact*	Although works are expected to be undertaken in July and August outside the migratory period, there is a potential risk of delays.	**Requires detailed assessment**
• entrainment or impingement of fish	***N/A – no impact pathway***	No, the works are unlikely to cause entrainment or impingement of fish.	

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: *Neath Estuary* Water body ID: *GB541005800700*			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
• refuge/predation areas	***N/A – no impact pathway***	No, the works are localised	
Or: is the proposal in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary; is outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it; or, could affect fish migrating through the estuary	*Direct – risk of direct impact*	Although works are expected to be undertaken in July and August outside the migratory period, there is a potential risk of delays.	**Requires detailed assessment**.

Info for TraC water bodies

Extract from EA Clearing the water for All

Higher and lower sensitivity habitats for TraC water bodies

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.*

Invasive Non-Native Species Refer to the Check Clean Dry campaign to help prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals in British waters. You can find out more about INNS on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat website			
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 to other water bodies **Does the activity or project have the potential to introduce or spread INNS to a water body?**			
Add in each relevant WB ID Use a separate row for each WB ID	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure **included within the project** at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
	Choose one of the following: **Direct** – risk of direct impact **Indirect** – risk of indirect impact **N/A – no impact pathway** **N/A – other** – include additional text to explain	Further detail on potential impacts. Where N/A is included then provide detail to explain.	**Colour text in green if all impacts can be avoided through measures already included in the scheme. Or red for schemes which require detailed assessment**
Neath Estuary	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	INNS have been identified (Japanese knot weed)	**Requires detailed assessment**

WFD Protected Areas

If the proposed activity is within, or hydrologically connected to, a WFD Protected Area. If the activity is hydrologically linked, then as a general rule those Protected Areas within 2 km of the proposed activity will be most at risk.

Protected Areas and Critical sensitive habitats/species Consider if WFD protected areas are at risk from your activity. These include:	Applicable	How have you considered the potential impacts?
Protected Areas:		
• SACs/SPAs/RAMSAR	Yes	*HRA has been conducted*
• Bathing Waters	No	
• Shellfish Waters	No	
Other Protected and Priority habitats and species.		
• Nationally or locally protected areas e.g. SSSI, NNR etc	Yes/No	Crymlyn Bog/ Cors Crymlyn SSSI, the proposed works fall outside the SSSI boundaries. Moreover, correspondence mention on Project Details table indicates no risk if best practice is followed. CEMP will be conditioned. Also small scale of works and at a fair distance form SSSI
Section 6 Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Environment (Wales) Act 2016) here - other Protected and Priority habitats and species. The S6 duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. Identify if there is a risk that the activity/project could impact on a water dependant priority habitat and or species which are either critical to the ecological health of the water body or sensitive to changes proposed on the water body.		
• Section 7 list of priority habitats e.g. wetlands		
• Section 7 list of priority species e.g. water voles		
Ecosystem Resilience The Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 3 states that the objective of the sustainable management of natural resources is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide now and for future generations		
Consideration of ecosystem resilience – diversity, extent, condition, connectivity.		

Stage 2, step 2: Scoping decision of the project 'alone'

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions
Q2.1 Is there a risk that a component of the proposal may cause deterioration of any element that makes up water body status?	*Colour text in green if all impacts can be avoided through measures already included in the scheme. Or red for schemes which require detailed assessment*
Q2.2 Is there a risk that a component of the proposal may prevent the water body or Protected Area from achieving its objectives in the future?	*Colour text in green if all impacts can be avoided through measures already included in the scheme. Or red for schemes which require detailed assessment*

Stage 2, step 3: Assessing potential in combination and/or cumulative impacts

It is important to consider the in combination and/or cumulative effects of pressures in a water body and the combined impacts of the proposed activity.
Do not include activities which have not yet been applied for, unless the activity is well defined and there are solid reasons for believing that it will be taken forward. Consult with technical advisors as required.

Avoidance measures - Describe any conditions, restrictions or other measures, if any, applicable to the activity/project, and/or to the other activities giving rise to the in combination / cumulative effect, which could remove the risk of deterioration or prevent of achieving water body objectives. Include details of how such measures would be applied, and who would be responsible for applying them.
If required, further details can be provided in separate clearly referenced documents.

Are there any activities or projects which may act in combination and/or cumulative? *If none, put* 'N/A'	**Nature of the in-combination/cumulative effect (if any)**	**Avoidance measures** Are there any legally binding avoidance measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?	Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination/ cumulative effects be ruled out? **'YES' *or* 'NO' *or* 'DON'T KNOW'**
N/A			
Scoping decision of the project cumulatively or 'in combination'		**Potential cumulative/in combination impacts conclusion**	
Q2.3 Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination and or cumulative effects be ruled out?	**(a) If the right-hand column is 'YES' in all cases**	It **can** be concluded that potential deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination / cumulative effects can be ruled out	
	~~**(b) If any row is 'NO' or 'Don't know' in the right-hand column**~~	~~It **cannot** be concluded that potential deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination / cumulative effects can be ruled out~~	

Stage 2, Step 4: Overall scoping decision

Scoping assessment	**Scoping decisions**
Overall scoping decision **Q2.4 Is there a potential risk that the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent a water body from meeting its objectives either alone or in combination?** *(choose one of the following options and delete the other)*	~~There is **no risk** of deterioration or prevention of the water body achieving its objectives as a result of the proposal, either alone or in combination, and no further consideration under the Water Framework Directive/Regulations is required in order to determine the application.~~ ~~If this section is selected, **delete Q2.5 and Stage 3.**~~
	There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives and therefore a detailed compliance assessment might be required if no mitigation measures that can be included at Q2.5. If this section is selected, complete Q2.5.

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions
Q2.5 Mitigation measures **Are there any legally binding mitigation measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?** Describe any conditions, restrictions or other measures, if any, applicable to the activity/project, which could remove the risk of deterioration or prevent of achieving water body objectives. Include details of how such measures would be applied, and who would be responsible for applying them. *If required, further details can be provided in separate clearly referenced documents.*	~~There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives however the following **legally binding avoidance measures will be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided.**~~ ~~List the legally binding avoidance measures that will be included in the consent/permit/authorisation, and who will be responsible for applying them.~~ ~~If this section is selected, **delete Stage 3.**~~
	There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives and therefore a detailed compliance assessment is required. There are no mitigation measures that can be included at this stage. If this section is selected, **complete Stage 3.**

Stage 3: Detailed Assessment

The amount of information provided at this stage will vary depending on the scale and nature of the project and its potential environmental effects. The detail presented at this stage should be proportionate to the scale of the project and its potential risks. For complex cases then a separate report for detailed assessment would be appropriate. For example, if the only aspect of a project being scoped in to stage 3 is the risk of chemical spills during a construction activity and the mitigation being proposed is a Construction Environmental Management Plan to ensure adequate management of the risks are in place then this may be best presented as a simple table. On the other end of the scale, for a complex project we would expect to see the evidence presented of the underpinning assessments for all aspects of the project that had been scoped in to Stage 3. This information is likely to be drawn from modelling studies and other assessments carried out as part of the wider EIA process where relevant and this should cover the following as a minimum:

Assessing for Deterioration

Deterioration in this context refers to deterioration from one status class to a lower one, unless the element is already at bad status and then this also includes within class deterioration.
Temporary effects to not count as deterioration if the water body/ies in question would recover within a short period of time.
Consider if the effects arising from the project are:

- Direct or indirect/secondary

- Alone or in combination; cumulative
- Ensure all stages of the project have been covered in the assessment where relevant, including construction, operation and maintenance, decommissioning

If stage 3 identifies a risk of deterioration, then avoidance of the impact must be considered. If this is not practicable, mitigation should be then considered to reduce the effects as far as is possible. In this context, mitigation can only apply to the water body/ies which are at risk of deterioration, it does not include compensation in other water bodies.

Protected Areas

This stage should also consider the impact of the activity on each of the protected areas identified at the scoping stage.

If it is identified that there is a potential to impact to a SAC/SPA/RAMSAR site, then an HRA must also be carried out; this should be clearly referenced within this section if so.

Assessment of Invasive and Non-native Species (INNS)

If there is a risk of the project introducing or spreading INNS, then a Biosecurity Risk Assessment must also be carried out in association with the project and clearly referenced within this section.

Jeopardising Good Status

If the water body being assessed is at less than good status, it will have the objective of achieving good status by a set date. If this is the case, it must be assessed whether the project will jeopardise the attainment of good status. This is done by assessing if the project may impact upon any improvement measures being currently carried out in the water body by conflicting with them or reducing their effectiveness. A list of water body improvement measures can be found in the RBMPs.

HMWBs – Jeopardising Mitigation Measures

If the water body in question is designated as a HMWB, then there will be a set of water body mitigation measures associated with it. This stage of the assessment must also consider if the project is in conflict with the water body mitigation measures either now or in future. The list of water body mitigation measures can be found on Water Watch Wales.

Stage 3 decision table.

Water body name & ID	WFD element/s scoped in	Description of impacts; include a list of all evidence documents to inform the detailed assessment	Mitigation measures	Is there risk of the activity preventing the water body/ PA from meeting its objectives?* 'YES' or 'NO'	Can the risk of deterioration be ruled out?* 'YES' or 'NO'
	Hydromorphology	**Construction:** In order to allow safe access of plant to the river, some minor regrading of the bank is required. Once construction is done, the banks will be reinstated to their baseline condition. Therefore, any impacts on hydromorphology are expected to be **temporary, minor and localised** in respect to this element of the construction. Bank regrading and excavation of the river banks is likely to require vegetation removal from the banks. Most of the river bank where the rock mattress will be installed is not currently vegetated, small areas of vegetation are present in close proximity to the works (as shown in Photo 2 and 3 in Table 3-1 of applicant's WFD), which may need to be removed. Although small areas of vegetation removal may be required this is a small extent and likely to have a **negligible impact** on the sediment and flow dynamics. Bank regrading has the potential to cause a small, localised impact on sediment and flow dynamics. It is expected that this impact will be minor and temporary (in the case of the bank regrading for access). The impact to the hydromorphological supporting elements is expected to be **minor and localised**. The potential impacts as a result of construction are, at worst likely to have a **minor, localised and temporary impact** on hydromorphological	Sediment retention methods will be implemented throughout construction to mitigate any increases in sediment loads within the downstream water body. This will include only working during low tides (dry site) and a silt curtain will be placed around the area of works at the start of each shift to capture any sediment produced during construction. Once construction is done, the banks will be reinstated to their baseline condition. If requested this can be conditioned in the licence	NO	YES

		elements and will not cause deterioration at the water body scale. The impacts are unlikely to prevent future attainment of water body objectives.			
	Water Quality (physicochemical and chemical)	The minor regrading of the bank to allow plant to access the river may have a **minor, temporary impact** on the physicochemical properties, due to the exposed banks and the potential for increased sediments. Works associated with grouting, to fill the scour voids beneath the concrete panels, will be conducted at low tide (dry), with an adequate amount of time left for the grout to dry before the tide comes in, to reduce the risk of washout. Therefore, there is **low a risk** of washout of grout impacting the physico-chemical status of the water body. Potential for increased sediment volumes during construction could have an impact on physico-chemical elements. Historical and present-day maps indicate that the scheme is located in an industrial area. There should be consideration that the soils may be contaminated within the Contractors, Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and appropriate mitigation in place should they be found to be contaminated. With this mitigation in place, there is a **low risk** of contaminated soils impacting the physico-chemical elements. The potential impacts as a result of construction are, at worst likely to have a **minor, localised and temporary** impact on physico-chemical elements and will not cause deterioration at the water body scale.	However, these will be **negligible** as construction will only take place at low tide, when the site is dry, and a silt curtain will be placed around the area of works at the start of each shift to mitigate impacts as a result of sedimentation. Historical and present-day maps indicate that the scheme is located in an industrial area. Condition is placed in the marine licence to work in line with the Contractors, Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP "CML2437 8449 CEMP Rev.3 09.08.24") The CEMP indicates that: • Best practice pollution prevention measures to be followed (GPP5). • Sediment barriers, filters, and settlement ponds to be used. • All fuel and contaminants to be stored in the site compound on an impermeable base. • Bulk fuel storage to be kept within bunded area. • Refueling only to be undertaken in designated refueling area. • Regularly check taps and hoses for leakage and damage	NO	YES

			• Spill kits to be available on site at all times. • Drip trays to be used when refueling and under static plant. • Emergency spill test to be undertaken and all workforce to be briefed on spill response. • Spill response contractor to be in place • All personnel to be asbestos awareness trained • No soil to be removed from site without adequate testing and classification • Site Waste Management Plan to be implemented for all waste • Silt protection measures to be implemented around works		
	Biological (not fish)	The works include excavation of the river banks for installation of rock mattresses. Excavation will be limited to the area of rock mattress installation and a maximum depth of 1.5m. The sediment removed will be retained and laid on top of the rock mattresses upon completion of the works. The works could reduce invertebrate communities and bed vegetation. Most of the river bank where the rock mattress will be installed is not currently vegetated, small areas of vegetation are present in close proximity to the works (as shown in Photo 2 and 3 in Table 3-1 of applicant's WFD), which may need to be removed. Although small areas of vegetation removal may be required this is a small extent and likely to have a **negligible impact** on the sediment and flow dynamics. This is likely to	The footprint of the scheme is small limited to the area around the base of the piers, therefore works are small and very localised. Rock mattresses will be embedded into the existing river banks and bed and the sediment which will be excavated to allow rock mattress installation will be laid on top of the rock mattresses upon completion, replacing the original conditions. The works will be undertaken when in the dry during low tide with a silt curtain being placed around each pier as it is being worked on.	NO	YES

		cause a **minor, temporary, localised impact** on biological quality elements. Regrading of the banks to allow plant to access the river, may have a **minor, localised, temporary impact** on the biological (habitat) quality elements. As the regrading is likely to involve vegetation clearance, this may reduce existing invertebrate habitats and reduce vegetation diversity within the riparian zone. This impact is unlikely to be significant as the regrading is localised and once construction is complete the bank will be reinstated to how it was originally found. The potential impacts as a result of construction are likely to have a **minor, localised and temporary** impact on biological quality elements and will not cause deterioration at the water body scale.			
	Biological (Fish)	There is a possibility of works being delayed beyond the proposed July to August, outside the migratory period.	However, fish movement will not be impacted as the works are small and very localised, will be undertaken when the works area is dry during low tide and during daylight hours as per specified in the CEMP ("*CML2437 8449 CEMP Rev.3 09.08.24*") • Working hours are kept to between dawn and dusk (Monday to Friday). No overnight working and typical working hours will be Monday to Friday 07:30 to 18:00. • No flood lamps over the river at night. • All machines and plant working near or in the river to use biodegradable hydraulic oil and engine oil. as captured within section 4.4 of CEMP.	NO	YES

			• Guidance for Pollution Prevention: Works and maintenance in or near water will follow GPP 5 as captured on pages 14 and 15 of CEMP. Moreover, a silt curtain will be placed around each pier when the work area is dry as it is being worked on. Silt and loose bed material be removed from the scoured area from under the piers and taken to the laydown area, where possible.		
	INNS	There is potential for the spread of invasive non-native species, notably Japanese knotweed. The spread of INNs during construction which will be mitigated through best practice biosecurity measures/ methods of work (detailed in the Environmental Management Plan) are **unlikely to cause a permanent impact** the biological quality elements	Condition is placed in the marine licence to work in line with the Contractors, Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP "*CML2437 8449 CEMP Rev.3 09.08.24*"), which includes mitigation to control the spread of INNS. The licence holder will also have to work in line with the Method Statement (*CML2437 Centregreat - Neath Bridge Scour Works - RAMS - 12.8.24*) which lists a series of biosecurity mitigation measures (section 3, page 5)	NO	YES

* Where there is uncertainty if the proposed activity may prevent a water body or PA from meeting its objectives or may cause deterioration then we must follow a precautionary approach, contact the Integrated Water Planning team for further advice.

Conclusion of WFD Compliance Assessment & Authorisation

~~WFD stage 1 screening has been completed and the activity/project have been ruled out as not requiring any further WFD assessment. Or, further assessment is not required because there is no conceivable impact pathway to any water body or Protected Area.~~	
~~WFD stage 2 scoping has been completed and the activity/project is considered as having no risk of causing deterioration or preventing any water body or WFD Protected Area from reaching its objectives and taking account of the advice from technical officers – is considered compliant with the Water Framework Directive/Regulations.~~	
In light of the conclusions of a detailed compliance assessment (Stage 3), and taking account of the advice received from technical specialist advisors, it has been established that the activity/project has no potential to cause deterioration of any water body or prevent a water body or WFD Protected Area from meeting its objectives, taking into account any conditions or restrictions as applicable, either alone or in-combination with other activities.	
Completed by	Maria Alvarez
Job title	Lead Specialist Officer, Marine Licensing Team
Date	28 June 2024

Consultation with technical advisors/specialists

Relevant section of the WFD compliance assessment	Date(s) of correspondence* and any meeting(s) with technical advisor(s) and include the name of the technical advisor	Description of how the comments from technical advisors have been considered
Stage 3 decision table.	16 August 2024	Addition of mitigation stated on the CEMP to pollution and fish sections

*Attach a copy of any written correspondence with the WFD assessment for the audit trail

Where there is a dispute on the conclusion the decision should be taken by the Leadership Team member of the team exercising the competent authority role