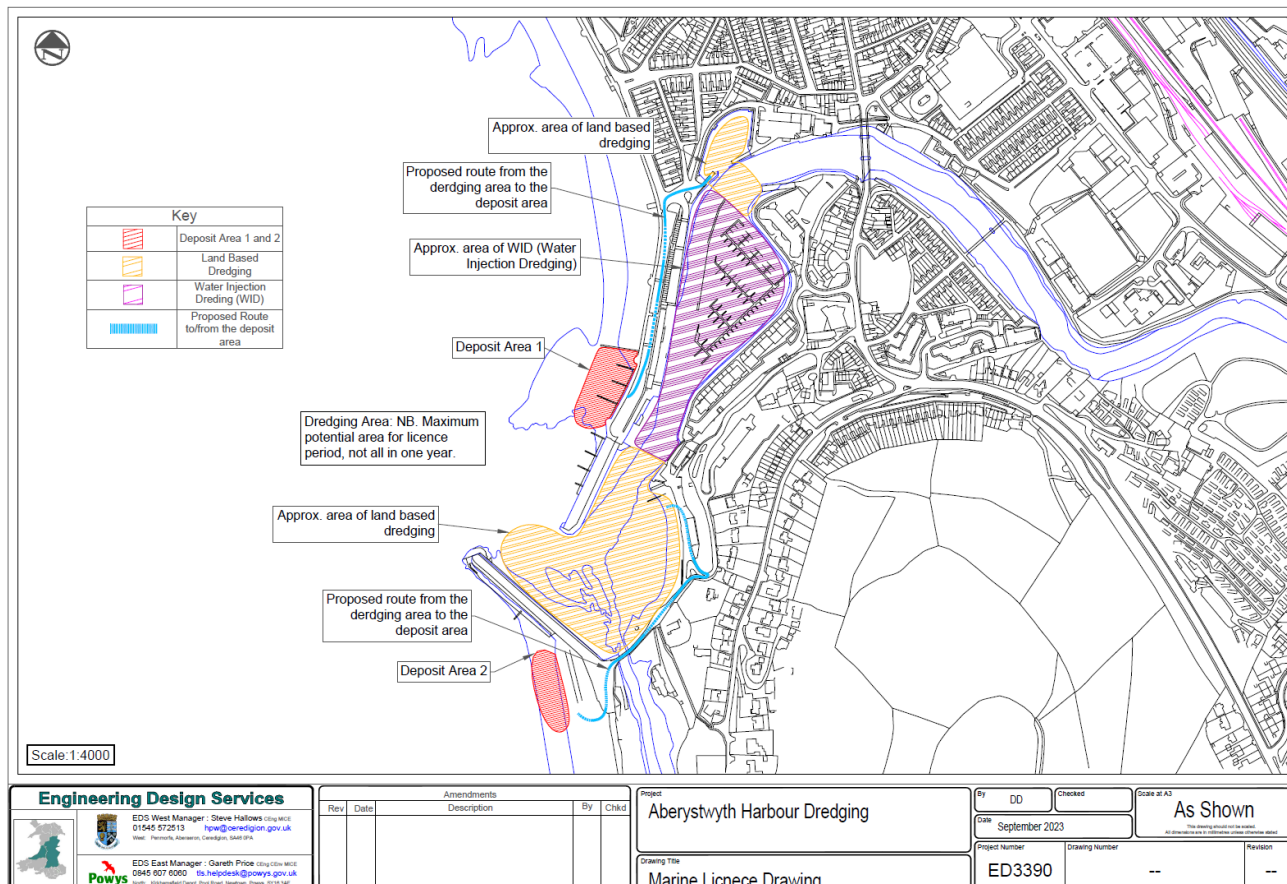




CSCC•CWIC

Engineering Design Services



ED3390 Aberystwyth Harbour Dredging

Water Framework Directive Assessment & Test of Likely Significant Effects

20/09/2024

Report Prepared for:-
**Owen Morgan –
Harbour Manager
Highways &
Environmental
Services,
Ceredigion County
Council**

Report No. ED3390 ECO 1

Prepared By George HT Ryley
BSc, MSc

ED3390 Aberystwyth Harbour Dredging

Water Framework Directive Assessment & Test of Likely Significant Effects

	Name	Signature	Position	Date of Issue	Version
Prepared	George HT Ryley		Highways Ecologist	20/09/2024	
Approved					

Record of Previous Issue and Amendments

Version	Revision date	Summary of Changes

Ceredigion County Council (CCC) is responsible for the maintenance of Aberystwyth Harbour. As part of this, the harbour basin is dredged regularly to maintain access for boats. The dredged material has historically been used locally to replenish the beach along the seaward side of the harbour breakwater at Aberystwyth South Beach, whilst this application also additionally proposes nourishment on the seaward side of the breakwater at Tanybwllch.

The Marine Licence renewal for the maintenance dredging requires CCC to demonstrate that the proposed dredging is compatible with legal requirements to safeguard water bodies (Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC) and sites which are designated under the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations (2010); the West Wales Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Northern Cardigan Bay Special Protection Area (SPA). The required assessments are the Water Framework Directive Assessment (Appendix 1 of this report) and a Test of Likely Significant Effects on a European Protected Site (TLSE; Appendix 2 of this report) to determine whether a full Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required.

The waterbody name for WFD purposes is 'Ystwyth/ Rheidol' transitional (i.e. estuarine) waterbody. The waterbody is heavily modified and its current ecological status is moderate potential, with an objective of reaching good ecological potential by 2027. The risk of undermining achievement of this target from the proposed dredging and disposal operation is negligible. The risk of undermining the conservation objectives for West Wales Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Northern Cardigan Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) is negligible. Best practice regarding pollution prevention must be adhered to at all times to ensure this outcome.

Appendix 1: Water Framework Directive Assessment

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

Your activity	Description, notes or more information
Applicant name	Ceredigion County Council
Application reference number (where applicable)	
Name of activity	Aberystwyth Harbour dredging and associated beach replenishment
Brief description of activity	<i>Localised dredging within Aberystwyth Harbour and associated beach nourishment works by means of land-based mechanical excavator at low tide.</i> <i>Renewal of licence for regular harbour maintenance dredging works.</i> <i>The proposed dredging will involve removal of sand and cobble-dominated sediment from two distinct areas – the northern harbour, and southern harbour. Material from the former is to be deposited at the traditional deposit location of Aberystwyth South Beach, whilst the latter is to be deposited at a new deposit area adjacent to the concrete pier on Tanybwllch beach. The purpose of both zones is beach nourishment.</i> <i>The works are carried out at the time of the spring tides in January to March, whilst the tide is out. Maximum annual tonnage of material to be dredged: 10,000 m³.</i>
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	Inner Harbour and Area North of Council Moorings/Marina: SN 58128 81237 SN 58077 81273 SN 58091 81293

	SN 58077 81281 SN 58069 81281 SN 58069 81308 SN 58079 81338 SN 58097 81361 SN 58133 81371 SN 58132 81324 SN 58107 81309 SN 58104 81303 SN 58147 81276
--	--

Southern Harbour Area and Harbour Entrance:

	SN 57971 80957 SN 58029 80937 SN 58001 80910 SN 57985 80887 SN 57993 80869 SN 58007 80847 SN 58017 80816 SN 58017 80795 SN 58016 80761 SN 57997 80740 SN 57981 80730 SN 57979 80701 SN 57949 80688 SN 57892 80738 SN 57834 80786 SN 57812 80809 SN 57828 80851 SN 57897 80856 SN 57902 80843 SN 57932 80870
--	--

	SN 57955 80921
Footprint of activity (ha)	~ Up to 5 ha
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	Low tide during late winter/ early spring (January-March) spring tides each year.
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	Up to 10,000 tonnes pa
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	N/A

Water body¹	Description, notes or more information
WFD water body name	<i>Ystwyth & Rheidol Estuaries</i>
Water body ID	<i>GB511006315000</i>
River basin district name	<i>Western Wales River Basin District</i>
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	<i>Estuarine</i>
Water body total area (ha)	<i>unknown</i>
Overall water body status (2021)	<i>Moderate</i>
Ecological status	<i>Moderate</i>
Chemical status	<i>Does not require assessment</i>
Target water body status and deadline	<i>Improve status to Good by 2027</i>
Hydromorphology status of water body	<i>Heavily modified</i>
Heavily modified water body and for what use	<i>Heavily modified for coastal protection</i>
Higher sensitivity habitats present	<i>None</i>
Lower sensitivity habitats present	<i>Mud/shingle; Sand/shingle; Rock</i>

Phytoplankton status	
History of harmful algae	
WFD protected areas within 2km	<i>West Wales Marine SAC, Northern Cardigan Bay SPA</i>

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

Specific risk information

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

Section 1: Hydromorphology

Consider if hydromorphology is at risk from your activity.

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

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Hydromorphology risk issue(s)
Could impact on the hydromorphology (for example morphology or tidal patterns) of a water body at high status		Impact assessment not required	
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body		Impact assessment not required	
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity		Impact assessment not required	<i>The waterbody is heavily modified, but for a different use.</i>

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

Section 2: Biology

Habitats

Consider if habitats are at risk from your activity.

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

Higher sensitivity habitats ²	Lower sensitivity habitats ³
chalk reef	cobbles, gravel and shingle
clam, cockle and oyster beds	intertidal soft sediments like sand and mud
intertidal seagrass	rocky shore
maerl	subtidal boulder fields
mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel	subtidal rocky reef
polychaete reef	subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud
saltmarsh	
subtidal kelp beds	
subtidal seagrass	

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

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

Consider if the footprint ⁴ of your activity is:	Yes	No	Biology habitats risk issue(s)
0.5km ² or larger		No No No No	
1% or more of the water body's area			
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat			
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			

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

Fish

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

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Biology fish risk issue(s)
Is in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary, outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it or could affect fish migrating through the estuary	Continue with questions		
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)		Impact assessment not required- an open river channel will be maintained at all times; no potential impact on migration.	
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish		Impact assessment not required	

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

Section 3: Water quality

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity.

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

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
Could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)		Impact assessment not required- due to the gravelly particle size, it is expected that sediment will re-settle quickly after works.	
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad		Impact assessment not required	
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae		Impact assessment not required	

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

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

If your activity has a mixing zone (like a discharge pipeline or outfall) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals released are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	N/A		

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

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

Section 4: WFD protected areas

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

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

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

Consider if your activity is:	Yes	No	Protected areas risk issue(s)
Within 2km of any WFD protected area ⁶	Requires impact assessment		

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

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

Section 5: Invasive non-native species (INNS)

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

Risks of introducing or spreading INNS include:

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

Consider if your activity could:	Yes	No	INNS risk issue(s)
Introduce or spread INNS	Requires impact assessment		Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam known upstream of watercourses feeding into harbour, whilst stands of the former are known on the harbour outskirts. Please see TLSE (appendix 2) for the impact assessment.

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

Summary

Summarise the results of scoping here.

Receptor	Potential risk to receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	No	
Biology: habitats	No	
Biology: fish	No	
Water quality	No	
Protected areas	Yes	Impact assessment: TLSE (see Appendix 2)
Invasive non-native species	Yes	Impact assessment: TLSE (see Appendix 2)

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

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

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

Appendix 2: Test of Likely Significant Effects on a European Protected Site (TLSE) for West Wales Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Northern Cardigan Bay Special Protection Area (SPA)



Habitat Regulations Assessment Record

Name of relevant CCC Officer:

George HT Ryley, Highway's Ecologist

1. INTRODUCTION

This is a record of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the proposal outlined below, undertaken by Ceredigion County Council as the Highway's Authority. This assessment is required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, in accordance with the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EDC) before the Council as the 'Competent Authority'.

2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

2.1 Type of activity:

Aberystwyth Harbour Maintenance Dredging

2.2 National Grid reference:

SN 5790 8081

2.3 Site reference:

Aberystwyth Harbour and Surrounding Beach Nourishment Zones

2.4 Brief description of the project

Localised dredging within Aberystwyth Harbour and associated beach nourishment works by means of land-based mechanical excavator at low tide.

Renewal of licence for regular harbour maintenance dredging works.

The proposed dredging will involve removal of sand and cobble-dominated sediment from two distinct areas – the northern harbour, and southern harbour. Material from the former is to be deposited at the traditional deposit location of Aberystwyth South Beach, whilst the latter is to be deposited at a new deposit area adjacent to the concrete pier on Tanybwllch beach. The purpose of both zones is beach nourishment.

The works are carried out at the time of the spring tides in January to March, whilst the tide is out.

3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE EUROPEAN AND RAMSAR SITES

3.1 European site name(s) and status:

Based on the information provided in the application the assessment is that the following European sites have features which could be affected by the project and will be taken forward:

1. West Wales Marine SAC (UK0030397)

	2. Northern Cardigan Bay SPA (UK9020327)		
	Site(s) scoped out of assessment due to lack of impact pathway (i.e. distance, no hydrological connection, not functionally linked etc):		
	Pen Llyn a`r Sarnau (UK0013117) Cardigan Bay Marine (UK0012712)		
3.2.1. Site description (reasons for designation, key ecological characteristics, information available on general ecological trends and current issues or sensitivities)			
West Wales Marine SAC (UK0030397)	Reasons for designation:		
		Habitats	Species
	Primary reason for selection	NA	1351: Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)
	Qualifying feature	NA	NA
	The sole qualifying feature of this site is the Habitats Directive Annex II species harbour porpoise. West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol has been designated because of its importance to harbour porpoise in both the summer and winter months. Current issues for the West Wales Marine SAC relevant to this HRA: At its closest point, this operation is situated within 50m of the West Wales Marine SAC.		
Northern Cardigan Bay SPA (UK9020327)			
	Reasons for designation:		
		Habitats	Species
	Primary reason for selection	NA	A001: Red Throated diver (<i>Gavia stellate</i>)
	Qualifying feature	NA	NA
	The sole qualifying feature of this site is the Habitats Directive Annex II species Red Throated diver. Northern Cardigan Bay / Gogledd Bae Ceredigion has been designated because of its importance to overwintering Red Throated diver		

	populations. Current issues for the Northern Cardigan Bay SPA relevant to this HRA: At its closest point, the development site is situated within 50m of the Northern Cardigan Bay SPA. The development may result in pollution from construction activities which could have a detrimental impact on the SPA.
3.3 Reference documents that provide further details on the site, and have been used to inform the assessment:	Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) Special Area of Conservation: West Wales Marine /Gorllewin Cymru Forol Conservation Objectives and Advice on Operations., NRW, March 2019.
	Northern Cardigan Bay / Gogledd Bae Ceredigion Special Protection Area: Advice provided by Natural Resources Wales in fulfilment of Regulation 37 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.January 2019.
	The Habitats Regulations Handbook, DTA Publications, updated 2015.
	Tyldesley, D. (2011) Assessing Projects under the Habitats Directive: guidance for competent authorities. Report to Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.
3.4 Project/Application documents used to assess impact pathways and likelihood of significant effect:	Ryley, GHT. 2024. Biosecurity Plan. Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth.
	Ryley, GHT. 2024. Water Framework Directive Assessment. Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth.
	Ryley, GHT. 2024. Personal Communications. Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth.
	Pye, K. 2024. Sediment Sample Plan Results. Kenneth Pye Associates Ltd, Millars Brook Office Park, Wokingham.

4. TEST OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- The first stage of a HRA is a Test of Likely Significant Effect (TLSE) which is a screening assessment of impacts, to determine if an appropriate assessment is required.
- Unless this screening assessment enables significant effects on any European site to be ruled out, the project will need to be subject to an appropriate assessment.
- The legislation requires consideration of plans and projects “either alone or in combination with other plans and projects”.
- The test of likely significant effect is initially carried out by considering the proposal on its own (i.e. rather than in-combination with other plans or projects).
- If it is decided that the proposal alone is likely to have a significant effect, it is subject to appropriate assessment alone.
- An assessment in combination with other plans projects is only required if the proposal would be insignificant on its own, but has effects which may be significant if combined with the effects of other plans/projects which are also insignificant on their own.

This screening assessment is based on all of the available information and documentations provided to the assessing officer.

4.1 Is the proposal directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation?

No

4.2. Screening Assessment for West Wales Marine SAC

The screening assessment indicates the possible pathways through which the proposal may impact upon the relevant European site features. Each potential impact pathway is recorded in the left-hand column below. The assessment in the right-hand column below is made in view of the conservation objectives for the European sites concerned, as set out in either NRW’s extant advice under Regulation 35 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (for a European marine site), or in the current Core Management Plan (for a terrestrial European site).

The Designated Features which could be affected are:

1351: Harbour porpoise

A001: Red Throated Diver

The following potential hazards are taken forward for the Test of Likely Significant Effect below:

1. Noise Disturbance.
2. Release and Suspension of Sediment into the Water Column.
3. Re-mobilisation of Toxic/Non-Toxic Contaminants.
4. Hydrocarbon Pollution.
5. Collision.
6. Introduction/Aid in the Movement of Invasive and Non-Native Species and other Biosecurity Risks.

The possible effects may occur:

- During Works (1-6).
- Post-Works (2-3, and 6).

4.2.2 Potential Hazards Scoped Out of Assessment and Why

The following hazards have been scoped out of the TLSE assessment, but this does not mean they have not been considered by the project.

Hazard	Why
Change in Salinity Regime Change in Water Levels or Table Changes in Thermal Regime Direct Habitat Loss Change in Surface Flooding Habitat Fragmentation Habitat/Community Simplification Entanglement Modification of Hydrodynamic Regime	Works will not introduce/remove salts or change evaporation rates. Works will not introduce/remove water to or from the SAC. Works will not directly or indirectly change rates of heat absorption. Works do not involve the potential for direct habitat loss to the protected features. Works will not increase/decrease/change dynamic of existing surface flooding patterns. Due to the exact location and small scale of the works, there will be no habitat fragmentation. Due to the exact location and small scale of the works, there will be no habitat/community simplification. Works do not involve the potential for loose materials that could cause entanglement. Works reinstate structures to original design, so there will be no alteration.

4.3 West Wales Marine SAC and Northern Cardigan Bay SPA Test of Likely Significant Effect

Hazard	Interest Features	Potential Impact Pathway	Assessment of Likelihood in View of Existing Design and Supporting Documentation	Conclusion
1. Noise Disturbance	1351: Harbour porpoise A001: Red Throated Diver	Land based machinery (dumpers and excavators) working in the water column can generate noise and vibration that may lead to disturbance in the near vicinity. This can cause local interference in natural behaviour, such as feeding, both directly affecting the protected features, and indirectly by disturbing their prey, leading to a detrimental impact. Similar noise and vibration can also occur through the tipping of dredged material into the water column.	Due to the excavators and dumpers working at spring low tide and in “dry” conditions, and also mostly working from within the confines of the harbour itself, the likelihood of significant disturbance is minimal. Whilst the deposits will be made outside the harbour, they will be done so in the dry and at low tide, therefore neutralising that pathway of noise and vibration generation.	In light of the working locations and co-ordination with spring low tides, no likely significant effect from this hazard on the listed designated features of the SAC and SPA is predicted.
2. Release and Suspension of Sediment into the Water Column.	1351: Harbour porpoise A001: Red Throated Diver	By the nature of the operation, dredging will generate large quantities of sediment through the actual excavation of material and its deposit at the beach nourishment zones. If this were to occur at high tide or at any time before the tide has receded to spring lows, then this could cause the release of	As the operation will be conducted during spring low conditions, these activities will be happening “in the dry”, which mitigates the largest risks of sedimentation associated with the dredging and deposit of the material. When the eventual high tide returns, this will mobilise some of the	In light of the working locations, co-ordination with spring low tides, and the results of the particle size analysis,

		sediment plumes, which could impact the ability of the protected features to feed, and indirectly cause harm direct impacts upon their prey.	sediment, but this will be much smaller compared with the activities occurring during periods of higher tides/in the wet. Furthermore, the particle size analysis results on the sediment samples from the harbour indicates the material is mainly composed of coarse particles that are very likely to resettle quickly.	no significant effect on this designated feature of the site is predicted.
3. Re-mobilisation of Toxic/Non-Toxic Contaminants	1351: Harbour porpoise A001: Red Throated Diver	Both the rivers Rheidol and Ystwyth flow into the Harbour, with both rivers having historic issues with heavy metal pollution as a result of mining activities upstream. The mouth of the Ystwyth is essentially the southern part of the harbour, whilst the Rheidol flows through the northern part of the harbour before meeting the sea. Over time, sediment and particles carried by the river will have (in the past) settled in the harbour. Chemical contamination may also exist from materials used by the harbour users. If material containing this pollution is mobilised, this could make these toxins available for absorption/ingestion to various species of the marine environment – both the protected features, and all of their supporting species. Depending on the severity of the contamination, this could lead to direct impacts from poisoning, or starvation through indirect impacts on their supporting species, such as prey.	The described pathway for heavy metal pollution concerns mining activities that took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with the Harbour having been dredged many times since the cessation of mining upstream, including the large excavation works undertaken in the 90's to create the modern harbour basin as we know it today. Whilst contamination can still occur from leaks from old mine shafts, this is mainly controlled, especially on the Rheidol, where NRW have created filter ponds. Furthermore, the particle size analysis results also show that the material to be dredged is fairly coarse, and well above the threshold required by ABPmer to undertake chemical tests. As such, deposited materials are likely to settle very quickly and not linger in the water column. Similarly for chemicals resulting from harbour users, the harbour has historically been dredged on many occasions, and the dredged material is unlikely to generate significant quantities due to its coarse nature. The harbour also operates to modern standards on the types of chemicals allowed to be used within the harbour and the procedures for doing so. Because of the above, the dredged material is not a contamination risk, and the likelihood of the pathways identified coming to fruition is	Due to particle size analysis results and the supporting background information on contamination risks, no significant effect on this designated feature of the site is predicted.

			negligible.	
4. Hydrocarbon Pollution	1351: Harbour porpoise A001: Red Throated Diver	Spills could occur as a result of refuelling operations and malfunctions that could end up in the waters of the harbour, which could then be carried out into the bay. This could have direct harmful effects on the protected features from smothering, and also indirectly through ill-effects on supporting species, such as their prey.	As the works will be carried out in accordance with General Practices for Pollution Prevention 5, which is to include no refuelling on the beach, in the harbour, or within drainage distance of gullies, as well as the provisions on spill kits, hydraulic hose checks, use of biodegradable oils, and the immediate notification of NRW of any incidents that do occur, the likelihood of this pathway coming to fruition is minimal.	Due to the details provided to the assessing officer on pollution prevention measures, no significant effect on this designated feature of the site is predicted.
5. Collision	1351: Harbour porpoise A001: Red Throated Diver	Plant and machinery operating in the harbour, or the sea could lead to direct collision with the protected features, causing harm directly that might be fatal or debilitating.	As the works will be undertaken at low tide, the likelihood of either protected feature occurring in the harbour or at the deposit zones is minimal, and therefore the risk of collision.	Due to the details provided to the assessing officer on coinciding with low tide working, no significant effect on this designated feature of the site is predicted.
6.Introduction/ Aid in the Movement of Invasive and Non-Native Species and other Biosecurity Risks.	1351: Harbour porpoise A001: Red Throated Diver	The movement of personnel, plant, machinery, and dredged material could lead to the localised introduction and/or spread of Invasive and Non-Native Species, such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, which are known to occur along the banks of the river Rheidol upstream, and on verges near the harbour. Whilst the effect of these species are not direct upon the protected features, they could be impacted indirectly by a deterioration in the health of ecosystems surrounding the harbour. Conversely, any establishment and movement of Japanese Wireweed could have a greater impact, by more direct implications for supporting species, such as prey. Other biosecurity risks, such as diseases and	The Biosecurity Risk Assessment considers the risks of transporting Invasive and Non-Native plants, Japanese Wireweed, and all other biosecurity risks. The mitigation within the plan on the sanitation of plant, machinery, tools, and boots will minimise these risks, along with ensuring the only material moved is sediment, and that the personnel involved are fully aware of the procedures regarding biosecurity. There are also no known Japanese Wireweed records within the vicinity of the harbour or the deposit zones.	Due to the provisions of the biosecurity plan, no significant effect on this designated feature of the site is predicted.

		parasites could also pose a risk if introduced.		
4.4 Based on the Test of Likely Significant Effect, is the project likely to have a Significant Effect on the West Wales Marine SAC <u>alone</u>?		No significant adverse effect is predicted on this site based on the information provided to the assessing officer for this project alone. All hazards have been screened out of the assessment. The magnitude of impacts on this SAC is considered to be De Minimis even in the absence of mitigation that is in addition to what has already been included in the work documentation.		
4.5 In Combination Assessment		There are no other projects occurring known to the assessing officer at the time of drafting this HRA, whilst the works described in this assessment are expected to have negligible long term residual impacts. As such, no in-combination assessment is required.		
4.6 Conclusion of the Test of Likely Significant Effect: Will a full Appropriate Assessment be required?		No significant effect is predicted based on the information provided to the assessing officer for this project alone or in combination with other projects. No Appropriate Assessment will be required for this scheme.		
 Signed: Date: 19/09/2024				