

WFD Compliance Assessment of Pontoons and access gangway at Gimlet Rock, Pwllheli

Stage 2: Scoping Assessment

Stage 2, step 1

Brief description of works

The works to construct a new pontoon and access gangway supported on a number steel piles driven into the bed. To enable the design there is a site investigation programme planned, this will consist of up to 10 bore holes.

Does your proposal have the potential to introduce or spread INNS?

Yes without mitigation – Whilst no material will be brought to site that has the potential to introduce invasive species to the Afon Erch and local environment, there is potential for plant to bring INNS to site, the attached supporting documents give mitigation to this matter.

WFD Protected Areas

The site of the pontoons is within the Afon Erch, some 300m from the Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau (Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau) SAC boundary. The SAC does not extend into the river or up into the harbour, but sits along the coastline. The Tremadog bay coastal water body also is some 300m away as it too follows the coastline.

Full details can be found on the supporting document that list methods and mitigation to align to the Welsh National Marine Plan policies. This includes discussion on the WNMP policies on pollution both in construction and operation, protecting MPA, various features such as migratory fish, marine mammals and sea birds.

The attached EIA shows that it is considered that the proposed works are unlikely to affect any statutorily protected nature conservation sites, providing the works strictly adhere to a suitable method statement, once developed.

Other Protected and Priority habitats and species.

The attached EIA identifies areas that may be of concern and mitigation.

Summary of step 1 scoping

Q2.1 Is there a risk that a component of the proposal may cause deterioration of any element that makes up water body status?

NO

Stage 2, step 2: Summary of scoping decision of the project 'alone'

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?

NO

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

Q2.3 Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination and or cumulative effects be ruled out?

The works will ensure the the environment is protected by minimising works at high water, piling will take place at low water. Any localised sediment disturbance will only be minor and occur over each pile installation.

Wet concrete will be placed into the piles, pollution is therefore unlikely, but strict control will be enforced when pumping concrete. Pontoon floats and the access gangway will be prefabricated and lifted then bolted into position on the water

Stage 2, Step 4: Overall scoping summary

Summarise if there a potential risk that your proposal may cause deterioration or prevent a water body from meeting its objectives either alone or in combination.

It is considered, given the type of work and time over which installaion will take place that 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/cumulative, therefore no further consideration under the WFD Regulations 2017 is required.

Scoping Assessment Completed by	Mark Glennerster	Date	30/04/2025
Scoping Assessment Reviewed by <i>If applicable</i>		Date	
Document Reference		Version	1

Consultation with NRW and any other regulatory/advisory organisation

Officer name and job title	Organisation	Date	Advice received

Supporting information and documents

If relevant please list all supporting information and documents

Screening document, plan and details of proposed works, documents supporting WNMP	30/4/2025
EIA document	30/04/2025

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies			
Water body name: Tremadog Bay			
Water body ID: GB651009350000			
Elements	Applicable	Potential Impact (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	Avoidance measures included in the proposal
Transitional and Coastal water bodies	N/A – no impact pathway	<i>Vibration of piling may impact fish.</i>	Works to install piles will be controlled to avoid impacts to wildlife by agreeing in advance the time when works can take place. Works to install piles max 10 days. Pontoon lifted in with crane and attached to piles. Scoped Out.
<p>Hydromorphology – hydromorphology constitutes both ‘hydrology’ and ‘geomorphology’ and describes the physical characteristics and processes of a water body.</p> <p>Could the proposal lead to changes in:</p>			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● morphological conditions, for example depth variation, the seabed and intertidal zone structure ● tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents ● freshwater flow ● wave exposure 	No	n/a	n/a
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	No	n/a	n/a
<p>Water quality</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Include water quality in the detailed assessment if the activity could affect:</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● water clarity (turbidity or suspended particulate matter concentration) 	Yes	Piling may cause very short term localised sediment disturbance for each pile over the 10 days of installation	Works to install piles will be controlled to avoid impacts to wildlife by agreeing in advance the time when works can take place. Works to install piles max 10 days.
<p>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:</p>			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list • 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. 	No	n/a	n/a

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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes to the composition and abundance of aquatic flora • changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna 	no	n/a	n/a
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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:

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Elements	Applicable	Potential Impact (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	Avoidance measures included in the proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5km² or larger • 1% or more of the water body's area • Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below) • 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below) 	NO	n/a	n/a
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna • 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) • entrainment or impingement of fish • refuge/predation areas <p>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</p>	The works are in the Afon Erch, but as a floating structure will not impact the movement of fish	N/A	N/A