

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

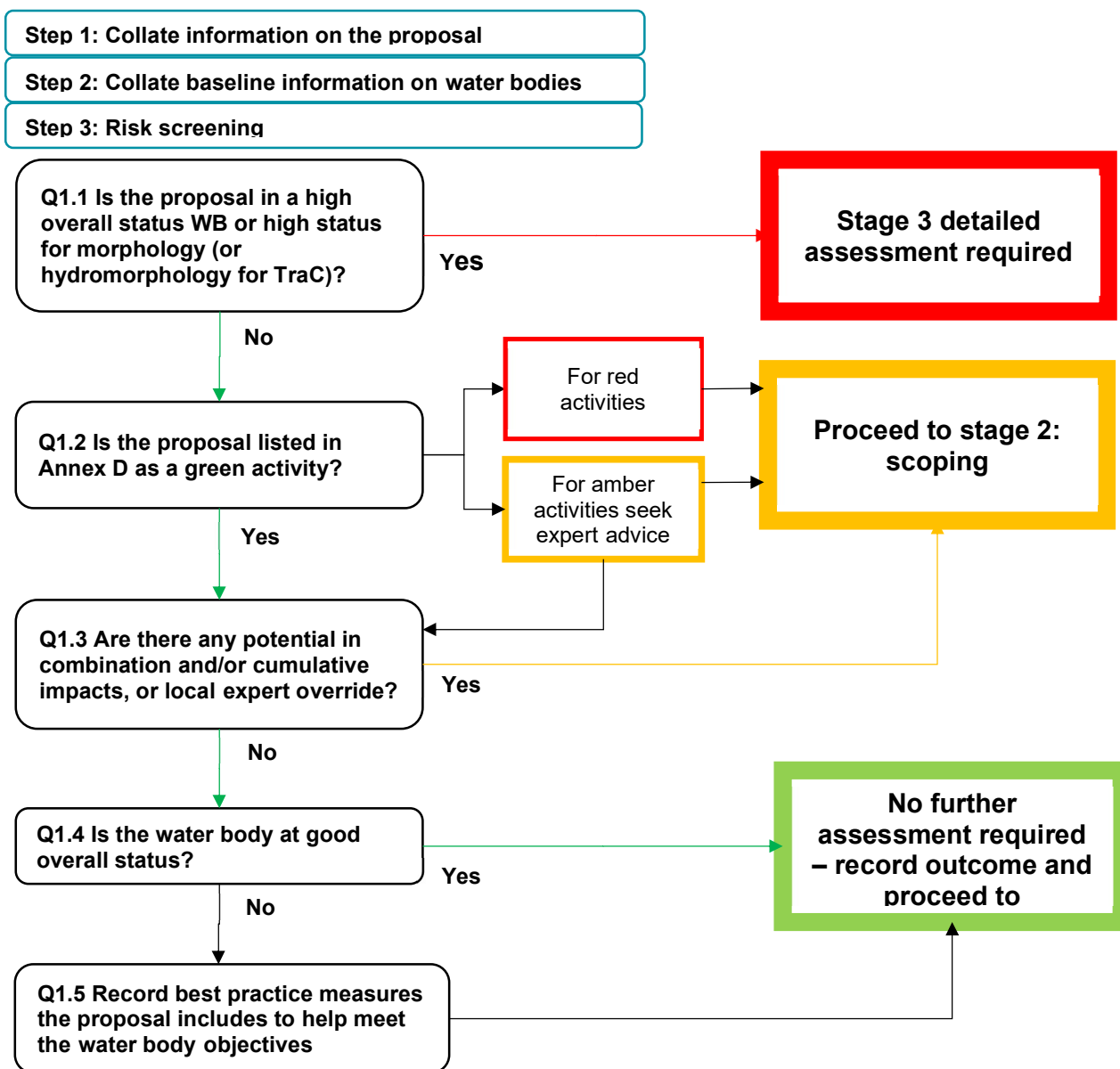
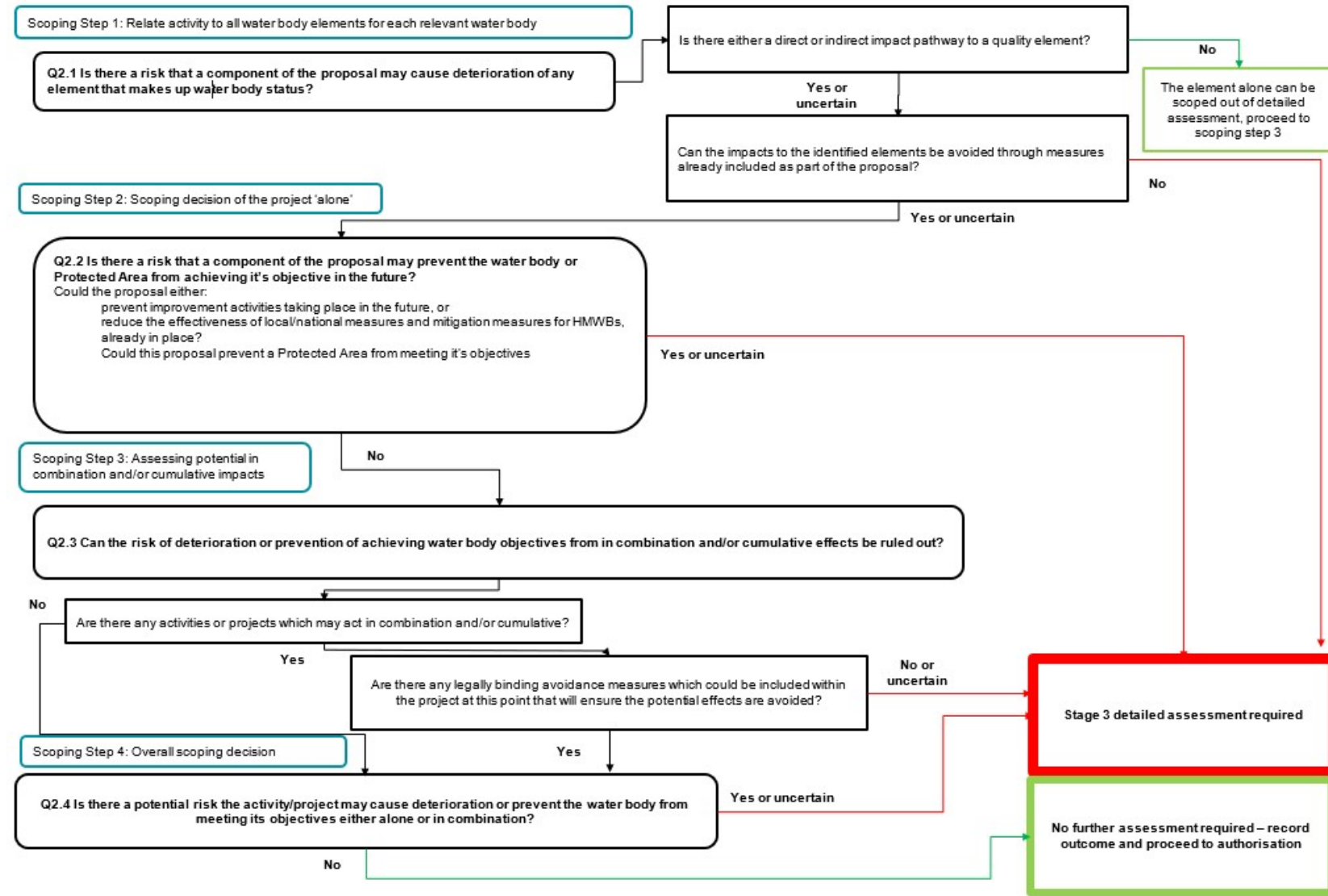


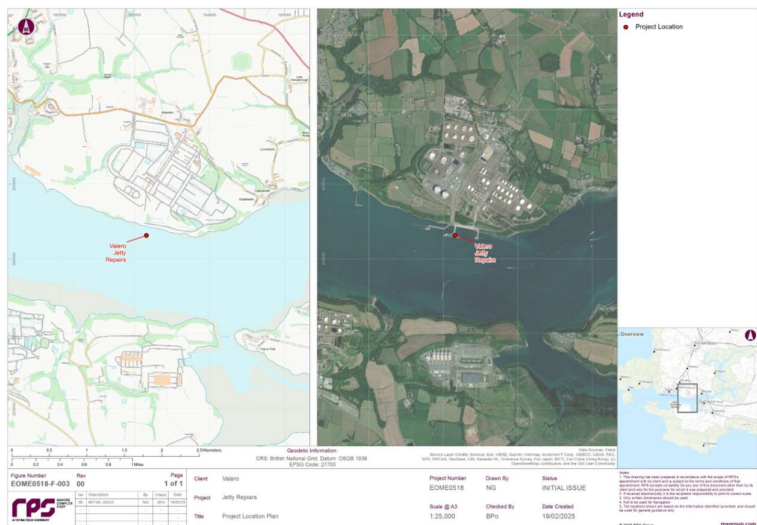
Figure 2: Stage 2 Scoping



WFD Compliance Assessment of Pile repairs at the Valero Pembrokeshire Oil Terminal Ltd. Jetty Berth 2

Stage 1 step 1: proposal details.

Project details where an <u>external party</u> has applied to NRW for any form of authorisation		
Project details	Application reference number (if applicable)	CML2517
	Date application received	26 March 2025
	Applicant details	Valero Pembrokeshire Oil Terminal
	Activity proposed	Valero Pembrokeshire Oil Terminal Ltd plans to improve the structural integrity and functionality of Jetty Berth 2. The Jetty Berth 2 extends 120 m in a south-by-south-westerly direction from the northern bank into the Milford Haven Waterway. The Project involves the removal of the existing dual pile, installation of a new permanent casing via vibro-piling, drilling of the permanent casing and installation and grouting of a new monopile within the casing.
	Relevant legislation	<i>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</i> <i>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017</i>
	List other permissions that may be required where known	Port Authority or Local Harbour permissions - Marine Works Licence under Section 18 of the Milford Haven Conservancy Act 1983
	Location (include map where appropriate)	CML2517 - EOME0518 Valero - MEA Final CML2517 - EOME0518-F-003-00-LocationPlan_250219

	 <table><tr><td>Figure Number</td><td>Rev</td><td>Page</td><td>Client</td><td>Project Number</td><td>Drawn By</td><td>Status</td></tr><tr><td>EOME0518.F-003</td><td>00</td><td>1 of 1</td><td>Valero</td><td>EOME0518</td><td>NG</td><td>INITIAL ISSUE</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Project</td><td>Scale @ A3</td><td>Created By</td><td>Date Created</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Valero</td><td>1:25,000</td><td>BP</td><td>18/02/2025</td></tr></table>	Figure Number	Rev	Page	Client	Project Number	Drawn By	Status	EOME0518.F-003	00	1 of 1	Valero	EOME0518	NG	INITIAL ISSUE				Project	Scale @ A3	Created By	Date Created				Valero	1:25,000	BP	18/02/2025
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			Valero	1:25,000	BP	18/02/2025																							
Application documents <i>Include: Project purpose and background, site map, scaled plan, site photographs and working method statement.</i>	• CML2517 - 114551-MMD-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0001 P03.pdf • CML2517 - 114551-MMD-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0002 P02.pdf • CML2517 - 114551-MMD-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0101 P03.pdf • CML2517 - 114551-MMD-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0102 P02.pdf • CML2517 - 114551-MMD-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0103 P03.pdf • CML2517 - 114551-MMD-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0104 P03.pdf • CML2517 - 114551-MMD-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0105 P02.pdf • CML2517 - 114551-MMD-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0106 P02.pdf • CML2517 - Appendix C_UWN Report.pdf • CML2517 - Appendix E_Method Statement.pdf • CML2517 - Appendix F WNMP Signposting.xlsx • CML2517 - DAS_Valero Pembrokeshire Oil Terminal_March_2024.pdf • CML2517 - eng-marine-works-licence-application_Final.pdf • CML2517 - EOME0518 Valero - MEA Final.pdf • CML2517 - EOME0518_Valero_BD7_Monopile_WorkArea_250218.cpg • CML2517 - EOME0518_Valero_BD7_Monopile_WorkArea_250218.dbf • CML2517 - EOME0518_Valero_BD7_Monopile_WorkArea_250218.prj • CML2517 - EOME0518_Valero_BD7_Monopile_WorkArea_250218.sbn • CML2517 - EOME0518_Valero_BD7_Monopile_WorkArea_250218.sbx																												

		• CML2517 - EOME0518_Valero_BD7_Monopile_WorkArea_250218.shp • CML2517 - EOME0518_Valero_BD7_Monopile_WorkArea_250218.shx • CML2517 - EOME0518_Valero_Jetty_WorkArea_Coordinates_250219.xlsx • CML2517 - EOME0518-F-003-00-LocationPlan_250219.jpg • CML2517 - EOME0518-F-004-00-Site_Location_250219.jpg
	Environmental Statement	N/A
	List ongoing maintenance requirements. All structures will require maintenance	N/A
	Timing of works	
	Pre-application correspondence	CML2517 - DAS_Valero Pembrokehire Oil Terminal_March_2024.pdf Consideration of DAS included in report
	NRW team responsible for drafting this WFD Compliance Assessment report, and name of lead officer	<i>Maria Alvarez- Marine Licensing Team</i>
	Date of assessment	<i>11 April 2025</i>

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

Date of classification information: Cycle 3 2024

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
GB531006114100	Milford Haven Inner	Transitional	Western Wales	No - Natural	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Assume good	Proposal is: adjacent to the water body
GB641008220000	Milford Haven Outer	Coastal	Western Wales	No - Natural	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate		Proposal is: within 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:

N/A

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		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: GB641008220000 - Milford Haven Outer

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 Coastal water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Outer**

Water body ID: **GB641008220000**

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	N/A – no impact pathway	There is no potential for the Project to impact the hydromorphology of the water body.	Scoped out
• tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents	N/A – no impact pathway	There is no potential for the Project to impact the hydromorphology of the water body.	Scoped out
• freshwater flow	N/A – no impact pathway	There is no potential for the Project to impact the hydromorphology of the water body.	Scoped out
• wave exposure	N/A – no impact pathway	There is no potential for the Project to impact the hydromorphology of the water body.	Scoped out
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	No		

Scoping table for Coastal water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Outer**

Water body ID: **GB641008220000**

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)
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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)	Direct – risk of direct impact	There will be drilling in the waterbody which will result in a limited increase SSC. However, the sediment plumes generated by the Project will be highly localised	Scoped out
thermal conditions (including shading)	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
microbial patterns	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
salinity/conductivity	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
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		Scoped out

Scoping table for Coastal water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Outer**

Water body ID: **GB641008220000**

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)
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	There is a potential risk as sediment samples from the vicinity of the Project were analysed to contain contaminants on the EQSD list. These contaminants could potentially be disturbed during Project activities.	Scoped in
activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	Direct – risk of direct impact	There is a potential risk as sediment samples from the vicinity of the Project were analysed to contain nickel was above the Cefas Action Level 1. These contaminants could potentially be disturbed during Project activities.	Scoped in
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. Impact assessment not required, as the Project will not have a mixing zone, such as a discharge pipeline or outfall	Scoped out

Scoping table for Coastal water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Outer**

Water body ID: **GB641008220000**

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)
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	N/A – no impact pathway	No. Impact assessment not required, no nutrient enrichment	Scoped out
• changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna	Direct – risk of direct impact	Benthic invertebrates have been taken forward for further assessment	Scoped in
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		
• 1% or more of the water body's area	N/A		
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	N/A		
• 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below)	N/A		
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
• changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna	N/A		
• an impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier,	N/A		

Scoping table for Coastal water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Outer**

Water body ID: **GB641008220000**

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)
noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)			
• entrainment or impingement of fish	N/A		
• refuge/predation areas	N/A		
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	Indirect – risk of indirect impact		Scoped in

Stage 2: Scoping Assessment for: **GB531006114100 - Milford Haven Inner**

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 water bodies			
Water body name: Milford Haven Inner Water body ID: GB531006114100			
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. <i>Could the proposal lead to changes in:</i>			
morphological conditions, for example depth variation, the seabed and intertidal zone structure	N/A – no impact pathway	No overlap with the water body.	Scoped out
tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents	N/A – no impact pathway	No overlap with the water body.	Scoped out

Scoping table for Transitional water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Inner**

Water body ID: **GB531006114100**

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)
freshwater flow	N/A – no impact pathway	No overlap with the water body.	Scoped out
wave exposure	N/A – no impact pathway	No overlap with the water body.	Scoped out
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	N/A		
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)	N/A – no impact pathway	No overlap with the water body.	Scoped out
thermal conditions (including shading)	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
microbial patterns	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
salinity/conductivity	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out

Scoping table for Transitional water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Inner**

Water body ID: **GB531006114100**

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)
is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	N/A – no impact pathway		Scoped out
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		Scoped out
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	There is a potential risk as sediment samples from the vicinity of the Project were analysed to contain contaminants on the EQSD list. These contaminants could potentially be disturbed during Project activities.	Scoped in
activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	Direct – risk of direct impact	There is a potential risk as sediment samples from the vicinity of the Project were analysed to contain nickel was above the Cefas Action Level 1. These contaminants could potentially be disturbed during Project activities.	Scoped in
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	N/A – no impact pathway	No. Impact assessment not required, as the Project will not have a mixing zone, such as a discharge pipeline or outfall	Scoped out

Scoping table for Transitional water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Inner**

Water body ID: **GB531006114100**

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)
the Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.			
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	N/A – no impact pathway	No overlap with the water body.	Scoped out
• changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna	N/A – no impact pathway	No overlap with the water body.	Scoped out
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 – other –	The footprint of the Project did not meet any the criteria for the inclusion of any higher or lower sensitivity habitats in coastal and transitional water bodies as per the NRW GN078.	Scoped out
• 1% or more of the water body's area	N/A – other –	The footprint of the Project did not meet any the criteria for the inclusion of any higher or lower sensitivity habitats in coastal and transitional water bodies as per the NRW GN078.	Scoped out
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	N/A – other –	The footprint of the Project did not meet any the criteria for the inclusion of any higher or lower sensitivity habitats in coastal and transitional water bodies as per the NRW GN078.	Scoped out

Scoping table for Transitional water bodies

Water body name: **Milford Haven Inner**

Water body ID: **GB531006114100**

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 any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below)	N/A – other –	The footprint of the Project did not meet any the criteria for the inclusion of any higher or lower sensitivity habitats in coastal and transitional water bodies as per the NRW GN078.	Scoped out
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna	Direct – risk of direct impact	Yes; requires impact assessment. Although the Project does not overlap with the Milford Haven Inner Waterbody (<1 km away), fish are mobile and may travel from the water body into the Zol of the Project. Underwater noise associated with vibro-piling has the potential to cause disturbance effects to fish.	Scoped in
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	Yes; requires impact assessment. Although the Project does not overlap with the Milford Haven Inner Waterbody (<1 km away), fish are mobile and may travel from the water body into the Zol of the Project. Underwater noise associated with vibro-piling has the potential to cause disturbance effects to fish.	Scoped in
entrainment or impingement of fish	N/A – no impact pathway		
refuge/predation areas	N/A – no impact pathway		
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	Yes; requires impact assessment. Although the Project does not overlap with the Milford Haven Inner Waterbody (<1 km away), fish are mobile and may travel from the water body into the Zol of the Project. Underwater noise associated with vibro-piling has the potential to cause disturbance effects to fish.	Scoped in

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.

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	See HRA
• Bathing Waters		
• Shellfish Waters		
Other Protected and Priority habitats and species.		
• Nationally or locally protected areas e.g. SSSI, NNR etc		N/A
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	Yes	Underwater noise during vibro-piling could cause disturbance to Section 7 marine mammal and fish species
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.		Although the project may directly impact priority habitat or species, the extent or physical impact of a project is minimal.

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?	Yes
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

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? <i>If none, put 'N/A'</i>	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'

Are there any activities or projects which may act in combination and/or cumulative? <i>If none, put 'N/A'</i>	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'
<i>Cumulative impacts are not predicted to occur due to the highly localised footprint of disturbance and habitat loss.</i>			
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? <i>(choose one of the following options and delete the other)</i>	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.
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. <i>If required, further details can be provided in separate clearly referenced documents.</i>	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 do 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'
GB531006114100 Milford Haven Inner GB641008220000 Milford Haven Outer	Fish	Both of these water bodies have a fish status of 'moderate'. Underwater noise from vibro-piling may have direct and immediate impacts on fish within the water bodies. Four of the species of diadromous fish are qualifying interest features of the Pembrokeshire Marine/ Sir Benfro Forol SAC (within which the Project is located): sea lamprey, river lamprey, allis shad and twaite shad (section 3.2). There are also a number of other fish species which are listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Increases in underwater noise will be generated during vibro-piling. The results of the noise modelling assessment suggested that vibro-piling could result in a TTS range of up to 103 m and 59 m for recoverable injury. This was for fish which	n/a	NO	YES

		are most susceptible to auditory injury as they have a swim bladder involved in hearing (Group 4; Popper <i>et al.</i>, (2014)). Fish with lower sensitivities to noise due to different auditory anatomy (such as lampreys and flatfish) would therefore have even lower impact ranges than the 103 m for TTS and 59 m for recoverable injury. In addition, the noise assessment caveated that fish would need to be exposed within these potential impact ranges for 48 hours continuously for recoverable injury effects or for 12 hours continuously for TTS effects to occur. Therefore, these modelled injury ranges are highly precautionary, and injury to fish species is unlikely to occur. Therefore, the Project is not predicted to result in the deterioration of fish communities or restrict the WFD objectives of the Milford Haven Outer and Milford Haven Inner water bodies from being achieved. The works associated with the Project are anticipated to be completed over a period of 3 to 4 weeks. Overall, vibro-piling and drilling are expected to occur intermittently over a period of up to three days, therefore do not represent a long term impact and any disturbance will be temporary over a very short duration.			
GB531006114100 Milford Haven Inner GB641008220000 Milford Haven Outer	Water quality	Both of these water bodies have an overall status of 'moderate' and chemical status of 'moderate'. The Project may have direct and immediate impacts on water quality within the water bodies. Cumulative effects are not predicted, due to the highly localised drilling activity and the low volume of drill arisings associated with it (45 m3). As detailed in section 4.3.5, sediment samples from the vicinity of the Project were analysed to contain contaminants on the ESQD list, with nickel exceeding the Cefas AL1 in all four samples. No contaminants were found to exceed Cefas AL2, wherein more serious impacts to water quality could occur. In addition, it is likely that any	n/a	NO	YES

		disturbed sediments during drilling will be rapidly diluted, due to their fine particle sizes (see section 4.3.5 for further information). The Project is located within an area that is subject to regular maintenance dredging, which will regularly disturb sediments and have the potential to release sediment bound contaminants. Therefore, drilling associated with the Project is unlikely to release contaminants above the baseline levels that occur within the footprint of the Project within the Milford Haven Outer. Given that sediment plumes associated with Project are not expected to extend beyond tens to the low hundreds of metres (section 4.2.1), contaminants released are not predicted to be transported into the Milford Haven Inner water body, which is >1 km from the Project. Overall, the Project is not predicted to result in the deterioration of water quality with respect to chemical contamination nor restrict the WFD objectives of the Milford Haven Outer and Milford Haven Inner water bodies from being achieved.			
GB641008220000 Milford Haven Outer	Benthic Ecology	The potential for accidental release of pollutants affecting benthic ecology receptors has a negligible likelihood and magnitude. The Milford Haven Outer water body has been scoped in for benthic invertebrates. This water body has an invertebrate status of 'good'. The Project may have direct and immediate impacts on benthic invertebrates within this water body as it overlaps with the Project. These impacts are the potential for morphological alterations to the seabed through localised temporary and long term habitat loss, and also the potential for the release of sediment bound contaminants. A small area of seabed habitat may be temporarily disturbed through the use of a jack up vessel (25.12 m²) and long term seabed habitat loss will occur within an area of 4.91 m² due to the installation of the permanent casing and monopile. This would therefore represent a highly localised	Pollution prevention, control measures and adherence to International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) regulations	NO	YES

		impact upon benthic invertebrates in the immediate vicinity of these works due to the Project alone. This impact could lead to a temporary, localised loss of abundance of benthic invertebrates; however, recovery is likely to occur with a similar suite of species re-colonising the temporarily disturbed areas. Recovery rates will depend on the reproductive strategy of the disturbed species, however the species disturbed would likely be tolerant to disturbance events given that the Project is located within an active jetty which features regular disturbance. Benthic invertebrates and their associated habitats within the Project site are extensive throughout the Milford Haven Outer and therefore the minor temporary and long term habitat loss will cause the extent of their habitats to significantly change within the Milford Haven Outer. Cumulative impacts are not predicted to occur due to the highly localised footprint of disturbance and habitat loss. Similarly, benthic invertebrates were scoped in as they could potentially be impacted by the release of sediment bound contaminants during drilling associated with the Project. Cumulative effects are not predicted, due to the highly localised drilling activity and the low volume of drill arisings associated with it (45 m3). As detailed in section 4.3.5, sediment samples from the vicinity of the Project were analysed to exceed several thresholds on the lower level, such as Cefas AL1, the CCME TEL and the EPA ERL. As stated, the drilling associated with the Project will result in an estimated 45 m3 of arisings, which will be deposited on the seabed. This is orders of magnitude lower than the maintenance dredging already occurring within the vicinity and elsewhere within the Milford Haven Outer, therefore, does not represent an additional significant impact compared to baseline levels. In addition, it is likely that any disturbed sediments during drilling will be			
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		rapidly diluted, due to their fine particle sizes (see section 4.3.5 for further information). Overall, the limited footprints of seabed morphological alterations will be minor in the context of the large extent of similar habitat throughout the Milford Haven Outer and high potential for recovery of benthic communities. Further, the potential for the release of contaminants will not occur at levels higher than already occurring as part of maintenance dredging in the vicinity of the Project and are likely to be rapidly diluted. Therefore, the Project is not predicted to result in the deterioration of benthic invertebrates or restrict the WFD objectives of the Milford Haven Outer water body from being achieved.			
GB641008220000 Milford Haven Outer	Benthic Ecology	A low number of vessel movements are expected as part of the Project and will remain in the local geographical area. This will reduce the potential risk of the introduction and spread of INNS within the Project site. If it is identified that there is a risk of INNS, then suitable additional mitigation will be implemented. The impact from the introduction of INNS therefore considered to be negligible.	INNS risk assessment will be undertaken by the Contractor on award of contract. A Biosecurity Risk Assessment will be conditioned to the licence	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.

~~In light of the conclusions of the detailed compliance assessment, it has **not** been ascertained that the project has no potential to cause deterioration or prevent water bodies or WFD Protected Areas from meeting their objectives, as documented in stage 3 of this form. If the conclusion of stage 3 detailed compliance assessment identifies a risk of deterioration of one or more water bodies that cannot be mitigated or may prevent a water body or WFD Protected Area from meeting its objectives, then **approval for the project cannot be given unless either:**~~

- ~~• the project specification, and/or the terms under which it might be approved, are modified so as to remove the risk of deterioration or prevention of achievement of objectives, and a revised compliance assessment report is prepared, or~~
- ~~• the project satisfies the requirements of Article 4.7 (including 4.8 & 4.9) of the Water Framework Directive, and is approved by the NRW executive team.~~

Completed by	Maria Alvarez
Job title	Lead Specialist Officer

Date	11 April 2025
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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
All	09/05/2025	NRW TE agrees with the conclusions of the WFD compliance assessment

*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