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

Use this template to record the findings of the scoping stage of your Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment for an activity in an estuary or coastal water.

If your activity will:

- take place in or affect more than one water body, complete a template for each water body
- include several different activities or stages as part of a larger project, complete a template for each activity as part of your overall WFD assessment

The WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters will help you complete the table.

Your activity	Description, notes or more information
Applicant name	Dwr Cymru
Application reference number (where applicable)	
Name of activity	Repairs to Fairbourne sea outfall
Brief description of activity	*The works are to undertake the identification and repair of the severed section of outfall at 150m off the sea wall - referenced as repair 2 on attached drawings. It has also been decided to replace the damaged and corroded section of the pipe below the shingle/cobble bank - referenced repair 1. The exact extent of both is not known until trial excavations can take place upon possession of the site. At upper replacement - repair 1- whilst length is not known it is expected to be not less than 40m from the existing valve chamber. The repair in both locations will utilise pre-cast concrete blocks with the pipe encased within; these will be made on the landward side of the sea wall and carried out to location. At repair 2 the blocks will be used to form a duct through which a new length of PE pipe will be installed. The blocks will be joined together with a small quantity of in-situ concrete with suitable anti-bleed additive. The shingle/cobble bank will be restored upon completion. The use of pre-cast elements has been selected for efficiency to*

	minimise the exposure of this section of the sea wall. The contractor will ensure that a suitable tide and weather window is used so that the risk of storm damage is minimised. Repair 2 is a single block repair and exact length shall be determined by a trial hole. The information will then determine the size of the pre-cast block to be made to include the make up piece in ductile iron. There will not be any PE pipe inserted at this location. The unit will be installed within the repair length using stepped coupling and these will then be cast in using a high strength concrete with anti bleed additive and suitable protection to prevent wash out by incoming tide. This repair includes access point to cleanse the pipe. Beach to be restored upon completion. Divers will be used to clean and install new Tideflex flap on outfall structure at suitable tide and weather condition. Duration 8 weeks.
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	*Repair no 1 261019,313600* *Repair no 2 260874,313586*
Footprint of activity (ha)	1.09
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	Start 29/04/19 Completion 28/06/19
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	2 localised repairs of the existing outfall
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	n/a

Water body[1]	**Description, notes or more information**
WFD water body name	*Cardigan Bay North*
Water body ID	*GB621009600000*
River basin district name	*Western Wales*
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	*Coastal*
Water body total area (ha)	*71219*
Overall water body status (2015)	*Good*
Ecological status	*Good*
Chemical status	*Good*
Target water body status and deadline	*Good status by 2015*
Hydromorphology status of water body	*Supports Good*
Heavily modified water body and for what use	*No*
Higher sensitivity habitats present	*No*
Lower sensitivity habitats present	*Yes*
Phytoplankton status	*High*
History of harmful algae	
WFD protected areas within 2km	*Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC*

[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	Requires impact assessment	✓	
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body	Requires impact assessment	✓	
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity	Requires impact assessment	✓	

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 to all – impact assessment not required	
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)	Requires impact assessment	✓	
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish	Requires impact assessment	✓	

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)	Requires impact assessment	✓	
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	Requires impact assessment	✓	
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	Requires impact assessment	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	Requires impact assessment	✓	
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	Requires impact assessment	✓	

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	Requires impact assessment[5]	✓	

[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)
- special protection areas (SPA)
- shellfish waters
- bathing waters
- nutrient sensitive areas

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]	✓	Impact assessment not required	Works to take place within a SAC. Shadow HRA prepared for marine licence application

[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	✓	

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	Yes	Works to take place within a SAC. Shadow HRA prepared for marine licence application
Biology: fish	No	
Water quality	No	
Protected areas	Yes	Works to take place within a SAC. Shadow HRA prepared for marine licence application
Invasive non-native species	No	

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.