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

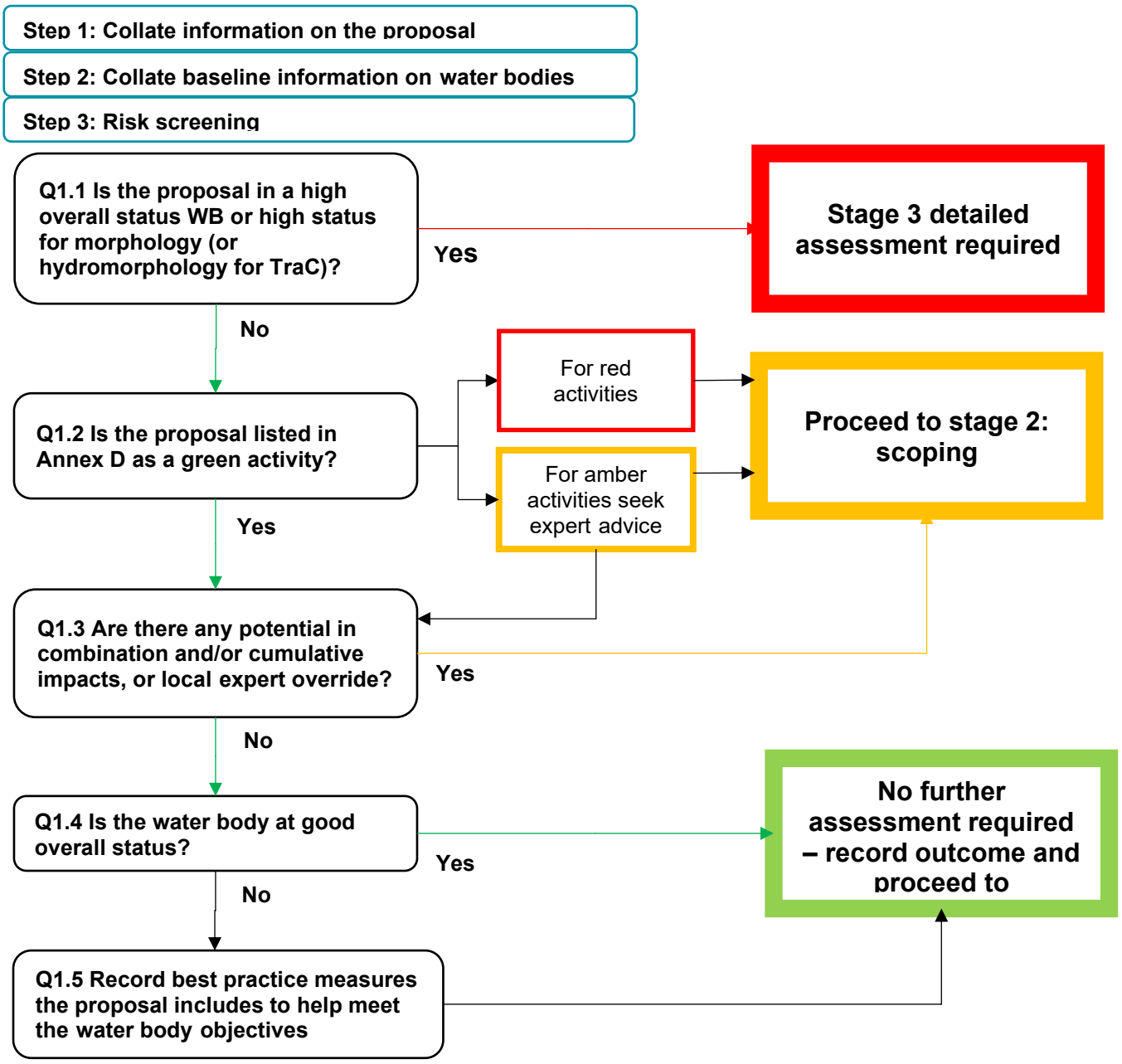
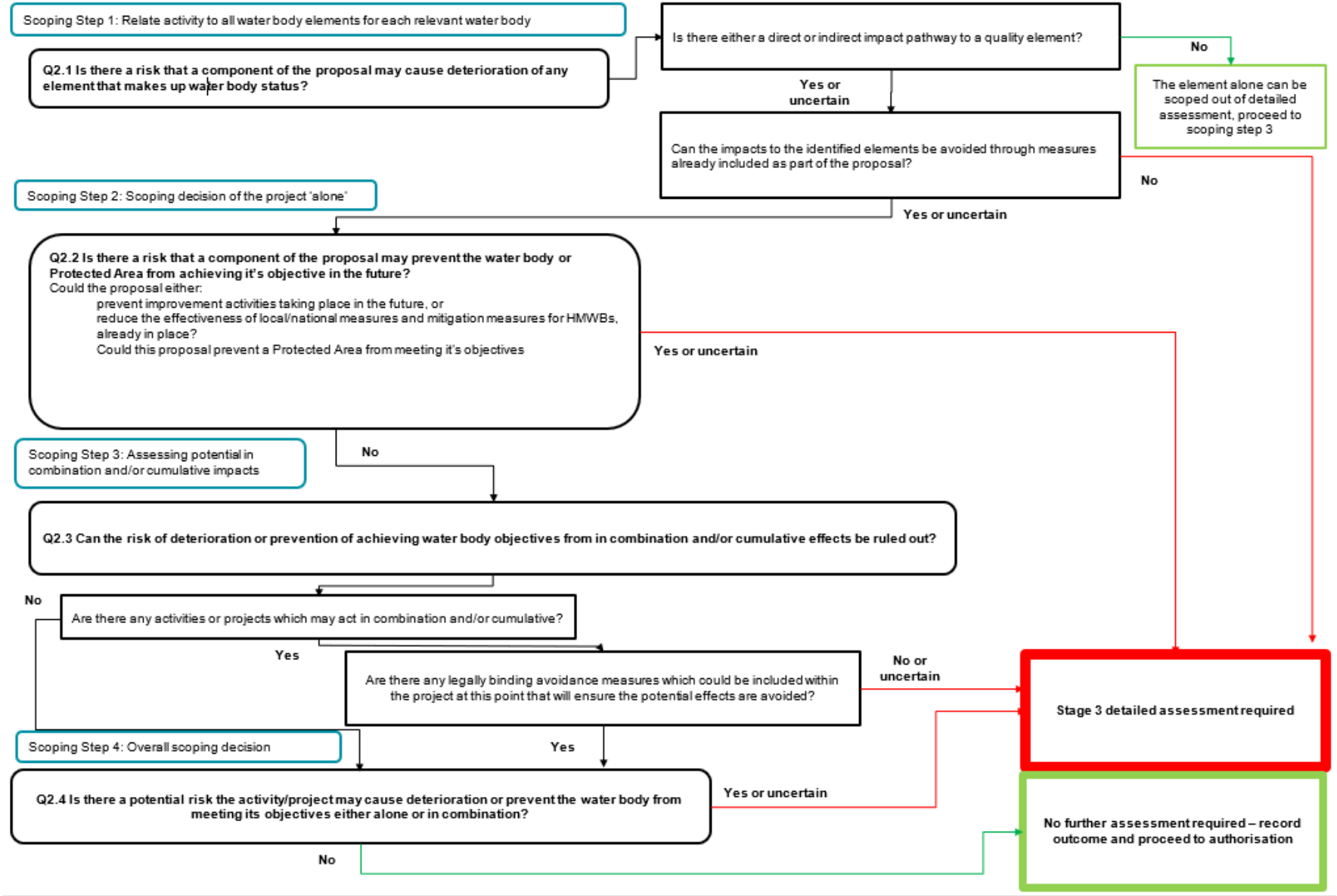


Figure 2: Stage 2 Scoping



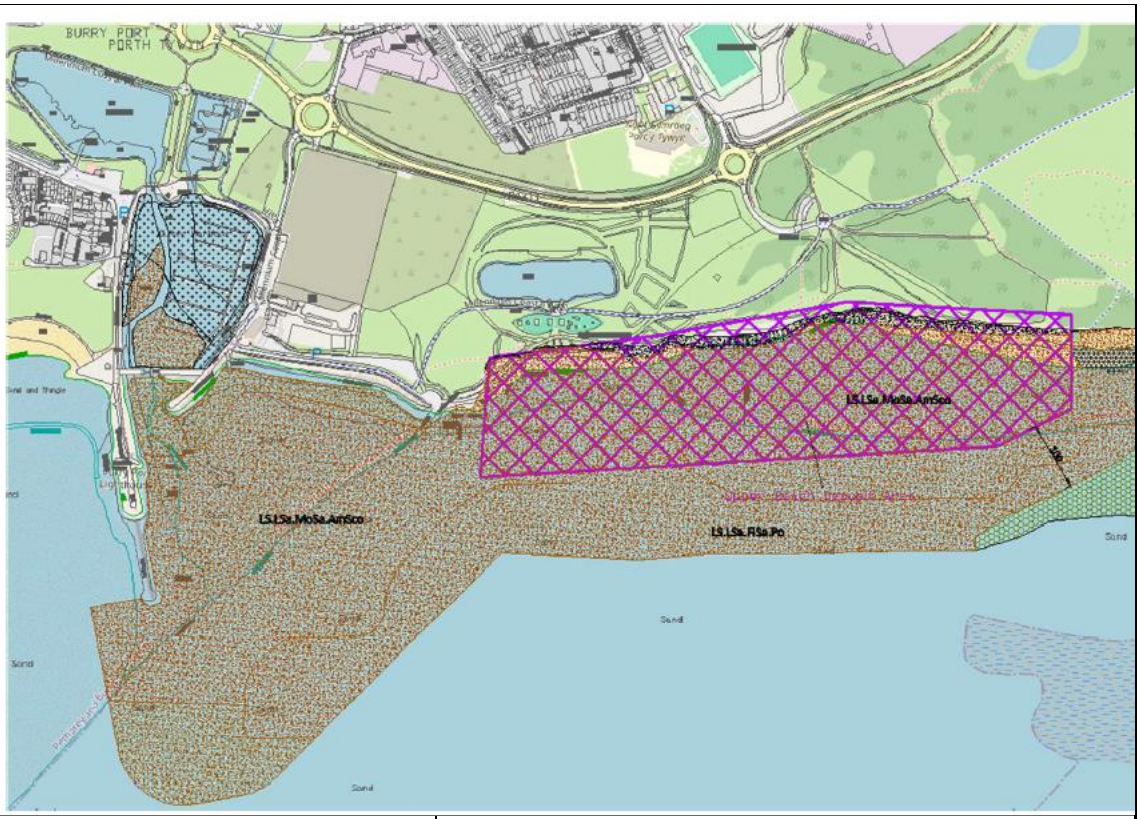
WFD Compliance Assessment of Burry Port Disposal of Dredge Material

Stage 1 step 1: proposal details.

a): Project details where an external party has applied to NRW for any form of authorisation

Project details	**Application reference number (if applicable)**	DML2562
	Date application received	07 November 2025
	Applicant details	Carmarthenshire County Council
	Activity proposed	**Burry Port Disposal of Dredge Material** Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) are proposing to undertake maintenance dredging at Burry Port Harbour to restore the required water depths in the Approach Channel and Outer Harbour, and propose to deposit the dredged material within an area of the beach situated to the east of the hatbour (known as Burry Port East Beach). Up to 140,000 tonnes (70,000m3) of dredge material to be deposited per annum. As the statutory harbour authority (SHA), CCC have powers conferred by the Burry Port Harbour Revision Order 2000 to undertake maintenance dredging but are applying for a marine licence from Natural Resources Wales under the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 to undertake the deposit of dredged material on Burry Port East Beach.
	Relevant legislation	Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017
	List other permissions that may be required where known	N/A
	Location (include map where appropriate)	

Eastings	Northings	ETRS89-Lat	ETRS89-Long
245228.4	200216.1	51.67933142	-4.24001335
245505.8	200264.8	51.67984466	-4.23602553
245835.2	200247.2	51.67977786	-4.23125760
245835.2	200108.6	51.67853261	-4.23119637
245724.6	200053.4	51.67800579	-4.23276965
244968.1	200008.8	51.67739669	-4.24368259
244982.4	200184.7	51.67898091	-4.24355405



Application documents *Include: Project purpose and background, site map, scaled plan, site photographs and working method statement.*	"DML2562 NRW Results Template MAR02686 Burry Port 2025 v3 DML2562 Burry Port Dredge and Disposal_Biosecurity Risk Assessment_FINAL DML2562 Burry Port Maintenance Dredge WNMP_2025_11_05 DML2562 - Outer Harbour Licence Area.dbf DML2562 - New NRW Disposal Area 2025.dbf DML2562 - New NRW Disposal Area 2025.shp DML2562 - Outer Harbour Licence Area.shp DML2562 - Outer Harbour Licence Area.shx DML2562 - Burry Port Harbour eng-marine-dredge-and-disposal-licence-application 2025_09_29 DML2562 - New NRW Disposal Area 2025.shx DML2562 - Approach Channel Licence Area.dbf DML2562 - Approach Channel Licence Area.shp DML2562 - Approach Channel Licence Area.shx DML2562 - 2025-09-11 Burry Port Dredge and Disposal_Habs Regs Assessment_FINAL DML2562 - 2025-09-11 Burry Port Dredge and Disposal_WFD Assessment_FINAL DML2562 - 2025-08-29 Burry Port Dredge and Disposal_Coastal Processes Assessment_FINAL"
Environmental Statement	No
List ongoing maintenance requirements. All structures will require maintenance	N/A
Timing of works	01/01/2026 - 31/12/2035
Pre-application correspondence	N/A

	Are the works located within a WFD waterbody? Or do they have the potential to impact upon a WFD water body? Waterbodies include surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters out to 1 nautical mile) and groundwaters	Yes
	NRW team responsible for drafting this WFD Compliance Assessment **report, and name of lead officer**	Chris Roscoe, Senior Marine Licencing Officer, Marine Licencing Team
	Date of assessment	24 November 2025

Date of classification information: ***Cycle 3 2021 classification***

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
GB641008180000	Burry Inlet Outer	Coastal	Western Wales	No; Natural	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Proposal is: • in the water body

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

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

- GB531005913500- Burry Inlet Inner
- GB611008590002 - Carmarthen Bay

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	**Yes – complete detailed assessment for each water body** ~~No – go to Q1.2~~

**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: *GB641008180000* *Burry Inlet 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 Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: **Burry Inlet Outer** Water body ID: **GB641008180000**			
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	Direct	Expected minor change in height of beach surface during beach nourishment, leading to variation in morphological conditions. Limited impact due to limited volume of dredged material being spread.	Screen in due to the waterbody having a high morphology status

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: **Burry Inlet Outer**
Water body ID: **GB641008180000**

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)
• tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents	Direct	Minor change in tidal behaviour in the immediate period following material deposition. Expected return to normal conditions after a short period of tidal cycles. Impact limited due to small volume of material being spread.	Screened out due to small scale of works affecting a negligible area
• freshwater flow	N/A – no impact pathway		No impact pathway. Screened out
• wave exposure	Direct	Minor change in tidal behaviour in the immediate period following material deposition. Expected return to normal conditions after a short period of tidal cycles. Impact limited due to small volume of material being spread.	Screened out due to small scale of works affecting a negligible area
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	No	N/A	No impact pathway. Screened out
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	Potential project effect resulting in changes in water chemistry for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (14 days).	Any re-suspension of sediment, following deposit, will be localised and of negligible volume. Sampling shows that it will consist of predominantly sand. Therefore impacts are screened out.
• thermal conditions (including shading)	N/A – no impact pathway		No impact pathway. Screened out
• oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions	N/A – no impact pathway		No impact pathway. Screened out
• nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen	Direct	Potential project effect resulting in changes in water chemistry for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (14 days)	The proposal is for small scale works, which would only affect a negligible area of the waterbody.

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: **Burry Inlet Outer** Water body ID: **GB641008180000**			
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)
			Material being deposited will be native to this estuary and will originate from less than 500m away. Screened out due to limited impact and no introduction of non-native material to bay.
• microbial patterns	N/A – no impact pathway		No impact pathway. Screened out
• salinity/conductivity	N/A – no impact pathway		No impact pathway. Screened out
• is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	No	Phytoplankton status is Moderate Macroalgae status is High.	No impact pathway. Screened 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).	Indirect		The application states: *"Although the activities will take place in a water body which is monitored for harmful algae, they will take place in 'dry' (not in water) conditions such that there will be no risk pathway relating to harmful algae."* Screened 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	There is a risk of oil and chemical contamination to the intertidal and marine environment from the land-based mechanical excavator while disposing of the dredge material.	Screened in for detailed assessment
• activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	N/A - other		The activities will not disturb sediment with contaminants at concentrations above Cefas Action Level 1.

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: **Burry Inlet Outer**
Water body ID: **GB641008180000**

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)
• 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 - other		
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 pathway. Screened out
• changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna	N/A – no impact pathway		No impact pathway. Screened 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	No	Foot print of the deposit area is 0.0011km^2	No impact pathway. Screened out
• 1% or more of the water body's area	No	Foot print of the deposit area is 0.0011km^2, area of the waterbody is 77.297km^2, far less than 1%	No impact pathway. Screened out
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	Indirect	The activities will be within 500m of a higher sensitivity habitat (mussel bed and/or saltmarsh).	Screened in

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: **Burry Inlet Outer** Water body ID: **GB641008180000**			
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)	Indirect		The footprints of the activity (0.0011km2) will not affect 1% or more of a lower sensitivity habitat (intertidal soft sediment). Screened out
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
• changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna	N/A – no impact pathway	Deposit area not within a transitional waterbody	No impact pathway. Screened out
• 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)	N/A – no impact pathway	Deposit area not within a transitional waterbody	No impact pathway. Screened out
• entrainment or impingement of fish	N/A – no impact pathway	Deposit area not within a transitional waterbody	No impact pathway. Screened out
• refuge/predation areas	N/A – no impact pathway	Deposit area not within a transitional waterbody	No impact pathway. Screened out
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	N/A – no impact pathway	Deposit area not within a transitional waterbody	No impact pathway. Screened out

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

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

[2] *Higher sensitivity habitats have a low resistance to, and recovery rate, from human pressures.*
[3] *Lower sensitivity habitats have a medium to high resistance to, and recovery rate from, human pressures.*

Invasive Non-Native Species Refer to the Check Clean Dry campaign to help prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals in British waters. You can find out more about INNS on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat website			
Risks of introducing or spreading INNS include: • materials or equipment that have come from, had use in or travelled through other water bodies • activities that help spread existing INNS, either within the immediate water body or to other water bodies **Does the activity or project have the potential to introduce or spread INNS to a water body?**			
Add in each relevant WB ID Use a separate row for each WB ID	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure **included within the project** at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
	Choose one of the following: **Direct** – risk of direct impact **Indirect** – risk of indirect impact **N/A – no impact pathway** **N/A – other** – include additional text to explain	Further detail on potential impacts. Where N/A is included then provide detail to explain.	**Colour text in green if all impacts can be avoided through measures already included in the scheme. Or red for schemes which require detailed assessment**
GB641008180000 Burry Inlet Outer	Direct	The application states: *"Source:* ***Dredge Area i - Approach Channel, Burry Port Harbour*** *According to the NBN Atlas for Wales (wales-species-inns.nbnatlas.org; accessed 31-10-2025) and NRW's advice on the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC (NRW, 2025), American slipper limpet (Crepidula fornicate) was noted within the SAC just outside Burry Port.* *Receiving:* ***Deposit area below MHWS on Burry Port East Beach*** *According to the NBN Atlas for Wales (wales-species-inns.nbnatlas.org; accessed 31-10-2025), no*	The application states: *"The principal marine INNS potentially present at the source location is expected to be American slipper limpet. According to the NBN Atlas for Wales (wales-species-inns.nbnatlas.org; accessed 31-10-2025), this species has only been observed / recorded near Burry Port on one occasion, back in 2008, with a location towards the low water mark. This species is typically associated with hard substrate, such as the rock used to form the harbour breakwaters, and hard surfaces of small objects such as stones or shells on sediment, and typically occupies a position around the level of MLWS.* *Reference to the NBN Atlas for Wales (wales-species-inns.nbnatlas.org; accessed 31-10-2025)*

		marine INNS on the UK marine priority list for (2020) are present at or around Burry Port East Beach."	*indicates that there is a low likelihood of American slipper limpet's presence in the Approach Channel at Burry Port. Particle size analysis of the sediment in the Approach Channel identifies that dredging will remove sand material with very limited (virtually zero) potential to contain larger particles of hard substrate to which American slipper limpet may attach (e.g., rocks, stones and/or shells). Also, American slipper limpet tends to occupy a position on the shore around MLWS, which is further down the shore than where dredging will take place for the Approach Channel.* ***Accordingly, there is a low probability – and commensurate low risk - that dredging will remove material to which American slipper limpet is attached, and then deposit this material on Burry Port East Beach."*** The risk of introducing INNS into the intertidal environment will be controlled through standard licence condition 3.18: • *The Licence Holder must ensure that equipment, machinery and PPE are washed with freshwater and/or thoroughly airdried before deployment and before moving between locations.*
		The application states: *"Source:* ***Dredge Area ii - Outer Harbour, Burry Port Harbour*** *According to the NBN Atlas for Wales (wales-species-inns.nbnatlas.org; accessed 31-10-2025) and NRW's advice on the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC (NRW, 2025), Japanese wireweed (Sargassum muticum) was present in the rocky intertidal and infralittoral fringe areas of the Outer Harbour.* *According to a survey of marine INNS in Welsh marinas (Wood et al., 2015) the sea squirt (Aplidium*	The application states: *"The principal marine INNS potentially present at the source location is expected to be Japanese wireweed and modest barnacle. Japanese wireweed is typically associated with hard substrata like rocks, stones, shells, and occupies positions from half-tide to a depth of 10m. The modest barnacle is typically associated with hard substrata including rocks, stones, shells, other crustaceans and artificial structures, and occupies positions across all levels of the shore but is more common on the mid-shore.*

		cf. glabrum) and the modest barnacle (Austrominius modestus) were present within the marina at Burry Port Harbour: these marine INNS are typically associated with the hard substrate provided by artificial structures in ports and marinas (e.g., floating pontoons, ropes, tyres). The NBN Atlas for Wales (wales-species-inns.nbnatlas.org; accessed 31-10-2025) confirms the presence of the modest barnacle at various locations at and around Burry Port Harbour. *Receiving:* ***Deposit area below MHWS on Burry Port East Beach*** *According to the NBN Atlas for Wales (wales-species-inns.nbnatlas.org; accessed 31-10-2025), no marine INNS on the UK marine priority list for (2020) are present at or around Burry Port East Beach, but the modest barnacle is present at various locations at and around Burry Port East Beach."*	*Reference to the NBN Atlas for Wales (wales-species-inns.nbnatlas.org; accessed 31-10-2025) indicates that there is a low likelihood of Japanese wireweed's presence and a moderate likelihood of the modest barnacle's presence in the Outer Harbour at Burry Port. Particle size analysis of the sediment in the Outer Harbour identifies that dredging will remove sand material with very limited (virtually zero) potential to contain larger particles of hard substrate to which japanese wireweed and/or the modest barnacle may attach (e.g., rocks, stones and/or shells).* ***Accordingly, there is a low probability – and commensurate low risk - that dredging will remove material to which Japanese wireweed and/or modest barnacle is attached, and then deposit this material on Burry Port East Beach."*** The risk of introducing INNS into the intertidal environment will be controlled through standard licence condition 3.18: • *The Licence Holder must ensure that equipment, machinery and PPE are washed with freshwater and/or thoroughly airdried before deployment and before moving between locations.*

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	Addressed through HRA process
• Bathing Waters	No	
• Shellfish Waters	Yes	Burry Inlet (North)
Other Protected and Priority habitats and species.		
• Nationally or locally protected areas e.g. SSSI, NNR etc	N/A	Burry Inlet and Loughor Estuary SSSI
Section 6 Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Environment (Wales) Act 2016) here - other Protected and Priority habitats and species. The S6 duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. Identify if there is a risk that the activity/project could impact on a water dependant priority habitat and or species which are either critical to the ecological health of the water body or sensitive to changes proposed on the water body.		
• Section 7 list of priority habitats e.g. wetlands	No	There is no impact pathway from the proposed licence area to a Section 7 list of priority habitats
• Section 7 list of priority species e.g. water voles	No	There is no impact pathway from the proposed licence area to a Section 7 list of priority 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.		N/A

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?	There is a risk that a component of the proposal may cause deterioration of the hydrological element that makes up water body status
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?	There is a risk that the chemical component of the proposal may prevent the water body or Protected Area from achieving its objectives in the future

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

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

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

Are there any activities or projects which may act in combination and/or cumulative? *If none, put* 'N/A'	**Nature of the in-combination/cumulative effect (if any)**	**Avoidance measures** Are there any legally binding avoidance measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?	Can the risk of deterioration or prevention of achieving water body objectives from in combination/ cumulative effects be ruled out? **'YES' *or* 'NO' *or* 'DON'T KNOW'**
- None -			

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	~~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~~

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions
Q2.4 Is there a potential risk that the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent a water body from meeting its objectives either alone or in combination? *(choose one of the following options and delete the other)*	~~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. *If required, further details can be provided in separate clearly referenced documents.*	There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives however the following **legally binding avoidance measures will be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided.** List the legally binding avoidance measures that will be included in the consent/permit/authorisation, and who will be responsible for applying them. If this section is selected, **delete Stage 3.**
	~~There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives and therefore a detailed compliance assessment is required. There are no mitigation measures that can be included at this stage.~~ ~~If this section is selected, **complete Stage 3.**~~

Stage 3: Detailed Assessment

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

Assessing for Deterioration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stage 3 decision table.

Water body name & ID	WFD element/s scoped in	Description of impacts; include a list of all evidence documents to inform the detailed assessment	Mitigation measures	Is there risk of the activity preventing the water body/ PA from meeting its objectives?* 'YES' or 'NO'	Can the risk of deterioration be ruled out?* 'YES' or 'NO'
GB641008180000 Burry Inlet Outer	**morphological conditions,** for example depth variation, the seabed and intertidal zone structure	Expected minor change in height of beach surface during beach nourishment, leading to variation in morphological conditions. Limited impact due to limited volume of dredged material being spread. Screen in due to the waterbody having a high morphology status	To avoid shoaling and minimise the risk of uneven material loading impacting the likelihood of changing the local wave behaviour, the following bespoke condition would be applied to any issued permit; ***Bespoke Condition*** "The Licence Holder must ensure that during the course of disposal, material is distributed evenly over [the disposal area]."	No	Yes
	chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	There is a risk of oil and chemical contamination to the intertidal and marine environment from the land-based mechanical excavator while disposing of the dredge material.	Any issued Marine Licence will include condition: ***3.14 Pollution Prevention*** The Licence Holder must ensure that pollution prevention best practice is adhered to at all times. Any incidents must be reported to the Licensing Authority as soon as possible using the hotline number 0300 065 3000. The applicant has also stated that a clause will be included in the dredging contractor's specification that a suitable pollution prevention and response plan (or similar) be produced and implemented.	No	Yes
	Within 500m of any **higher sensitivity habitat**	The activities will be within 500m of a higher sensitivity habitat (mussel bed and/or saltmarsh).	A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken which found 'Blue Mussel Beds' absent across the survey area.	No	Yes
	The proposed activity is within, or	The proposed activity is within **Shellfish Waters**	The application states:	No	Yes

	hydrologically connected to **Shellfish Waters**		"Although the activities will take place within 2km of the Burry Inlet North Shellfish Water, they will take place in 'dry' conditions such that there will be no risk pathway to water quality within the shellfish water." A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken which found 'Blue Mussel Beds' absent across the survey area.		

* 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.	**X**
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	Chris Roscoe
Job title	Senior Marine Licencing Officer
Date	24 November 2025

Consultation with technical advisors/specialists

Relevant section of the WFD compliance assessment	Date(s) of correspondence* and any meeting(s) with technical advisor(s) and include the name of the technical advisor	Description of how the comments from technical advisors have been considered
Stage 3	24/12/2025 – 13/05/2026	Further information has been provided by the applicant and extensive conversations have taken place with NRW Advisory to address their continued concerns. The applicant has addressed pollution concerns by stating that a clause will be included in the dredging contractor's specification that a suitable pollution prevention and response plan (or similar) be produced and implemented.

		Phase 1 habitat survey found there were no Blue Mussel Beds in the vicinity of the works so concerns regarding impact on this habitat have been alleviated.

*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