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

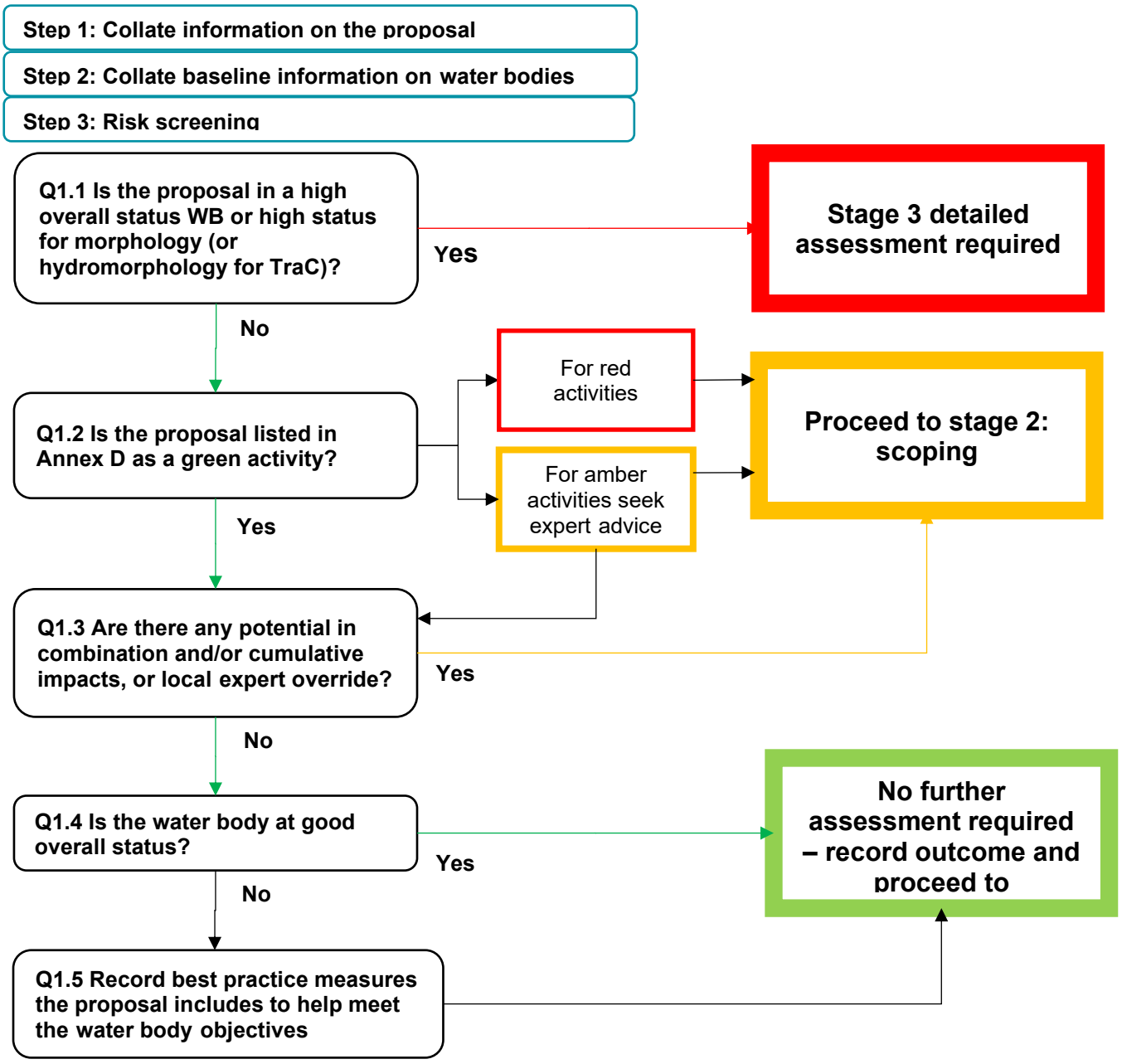
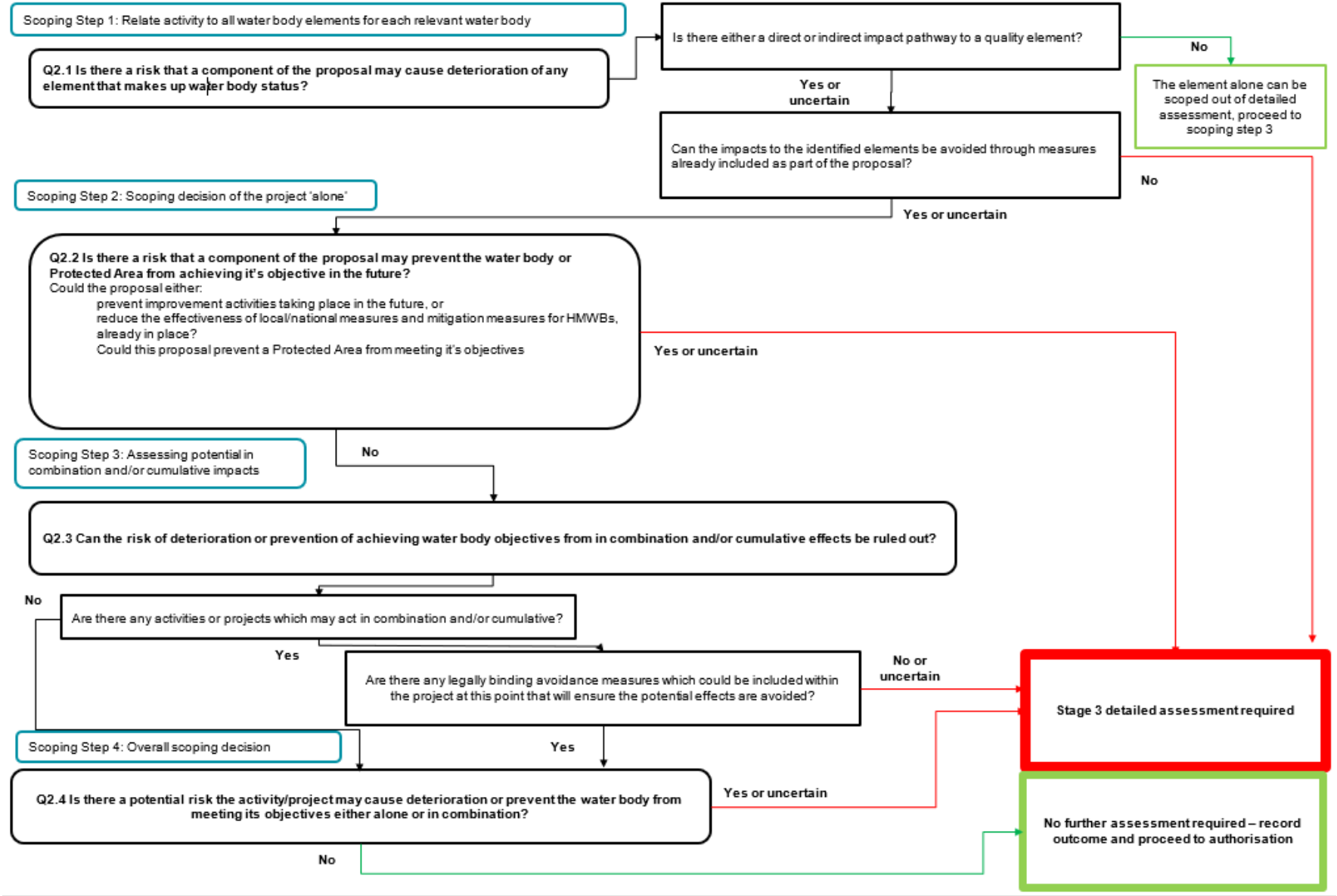


Figure 2: Stage 2 Scoping



WFD Compliance Assessment

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)**	CML2615
	Date application received	Received: 06 May 2026 Duly made: 03 June 2026
	Applicant details	Copart UK Limited
	Activity proposed	Construction of concrete headwall on the southern bank of the River Dee
	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	Landowners Consent FRAP Sustainable Drainage Approving Body application (SAB)
	Location	 53.198599, -2.9830434 53.198512, -2.9827869 53.198466, -2.9828308 53.198554, -2.9831022
	Application documents *Include: Project purpose and background, site*	CML2615 - 20260505 Marine Licence Application COMPLETED CML2615 - 35403 R5 Rev2 - Copart Expansion - sHRA commentary for Marine Licence Application_as issued CML2615 - 23009-210 LOCATION PLAN MARINE LICENCE WORKS CML2615 - 23009-215 MARINE LICENCE WORKS SITE LAYOUT

	map, scaled plan, site photographs and working method statement.	CML2615 - 23009-216 MARINE LICENCE WORKS CROSS-SECTION LONG-SECTION CML2615 - FP6202-T-01 Rev C CML2615 - 23009 WNMP_Marine Licence Application CML2615 - Additional SI_GSL3219_Copart Chester_Factual Report - March2025 CML2615 - CEMP_MYCO-CEMP-CCS-001 Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) CML2615 - Copy of Sandycroft WFD_Appendix A CML2615 - P16952_Shear Design Ltd_Sandycroft WFD_v2.0 CML2615 - Safe System Of Work_MYCO-CCS-001 Copart Chester CML2615 - SHRA_Atmos Consulting 35403R2Rev4
	Environmental Statement	N/A
	List ongoing maintenance requirements. All structures will require maintenance	N/A
	Timing of works	Proposed start date of September 2026 – works estimated to take 6 weeks. 5 year licence applied for as these works are a small part of a much wider scheme of works so timings are subject to change.
	Pre-application correspondence	Pre-application advice from Chris Roscoe in MLT as well as FRAP team.
	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	The project is located within the Dee (N. Wales) transitional waterbody therefore, it is necessary to complete a WFD assessment.
	NRW team responsible for drafting this WFD Compliance	Jack Thompson – Marine Licensing Team

	Assessment **report, and name of lead officer**	
	Date of assessment	29 June 2026

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

Date of classification information: **Cycle 3 2024 Interim**

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
GB531106708200	Dee (N. Wales)	Transitional	Dee TraC	Yes		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Assumed good	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:

- **Sandycroft Drain** (GB111067052160) - *Scoped out due to no hydrological connectivity to the site.*

- **Dee Carboniferous Coal Measures** (GB41102G204800) - *The Scheme is limited to surface elements with no groundwater interaction. Assumed no connectivity with the underlying groundwater body.*

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
Q1.2	**Is the activity listed in Annex D as a green activity?** Complete new row for each activity	**Construction**	**No – complete scoping assessment for each water body**

Question number	Risk screening questions	Name of activity	Screening decision – delete as appropriate
~~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: **Dee (N. Wales)** *GB531106708200*

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: **Dee (N. Wales)** Water body ID: *GB531106708200*			
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** – risk of direct impact	Installation of outfall and headwall could lead to hydromorpholgical changes.	Due to the minor impacts identified, and the design of the outfall and associated

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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 • freshwater flow • wave exposure			headwall, there would be negligible impacts on hydromorphology elements of the Dee (N.Wales) waterbody and no sensitive habitats are expected to be at risk. The Project proposes to install scour prevention such as reno mattresses at the outfall to prevent degradation. Thus, no impacts on hydromorphology from the proposed works or impacts to the WFD status of the Dee (N.Wales) waterbody are anticipated.
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	**Yes, designated for "Navigation, ports and harbours use"**	The activity is not related to the designation reason for HMWB.	HMWB - detailed assessment required
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) • thermal conditions (including shading) • oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions • nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen • microbial patterns	Direct	There is a risk of impact on dissolved oxygen and phosphate (via increased silt/sediment) during construction. Without mitigation the construction phase is considered to have slight to large adverse effects on the water environment as a result of decreased water quality, increased pollution potential and alterations to existing ecological conditions.	The contractor would need to adopt water pollution prevention procedures in line with good practice. The risk of sediment reaching the water courses and of leakage or spillage of fuel, chemicals and other potentially polluting substances would be mitigated through good site practice and management. This includes:

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• salinity/conductivity		The use of vehicles or machinery during construction, requiring fuel or hydraulic oil, may pose a risk (via accidental spillage) in terms of increased concentrations of e.g. benzo(a)pyrene at a localised scale. This could have an acute effect on the water quality of the river. Additionally, works for the new headwall could result in sediments being washed downstream during construction which could affect water quality at a local scale.	- All treatment of the water off flow from the Site will be confirming to the Simple Index Approach in the CIRIA Report C753 following the SuDS Manual. - All material will be disposed of in the appropriate skip with secure lids and no holes in any of the skips so that there are no potential pollution incidents. - All refuelling will be carried out away from the SAC. At any refuelling point a spill kit will be available, an absorbent spill blanket will be laid out whilst refuelling takes place. Fuel will be contained within its own compound; at the end of each day the fuel will be secured within the compound. - A bespoke CEMP will be created prior to construction to ensure pollution prevent measures are in line with British standards - The operational silt management will be in line with treatment of TSS (Total Suspended Solids) within the Simple Index Approach of CIRIA Report C753 “The SiDS Manual”

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: **Dee (N. Wales)** Water body ID: *GB531106708200*			
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)
			- Silt will be trapped within the Type 3 stone layer, similar to that of a large scale filter drain know as a 'French drain
• is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	**N/A**		
• 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**		
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	**N/A – no impact pathway**		
• activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	**N/A – no impact pathway**		
• 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**		

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: **Dee (N. Wales)**
Water body ID: *GB531106708200*

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**		
• changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna		Invertebrate drift is directly affected by increased suspended sediment load in freshwater systems. Increases in suspended sediments can result in increased drift, significantly altering the distribution of benthic invertebrates in streams and rivers which can have an overall impact on the food web and health of a river. If mitigation is not in place, there is potential for a deterioration of invertebrate status from indirect impacts of decreased water quality.	The contractor would need to adopt water pollution prevention procedures in line with good practice. The risk of sediment reaching the water courses and of leakage or spillage of fuel, chemicals and other potentially polluting substances would be mitigated through good site practice and management. This includes: - All treatment of the water off flow from the Site will be confirming to the Simple Index Approach in the CIRIA Report C753 following the SuDS Manual. - All material will be disposed of in the appropriate skip with secure lids and no holes in any of the skips so that there are no potential pollution incidents

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: **Dee (N. Wales)** Water body ID: *GB531106708200*			
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)
			- All refuelling will be carried out away from the SAC. At any refuelling point a spill kit will be available, an absorbent spill blanket will be laid out whilst refuelling takes place. Fuel will be contained within its own compound; at the end of each day the fuel will be secured within the compound. - A bespoke CEMP will be create prior to construction to ensure pollution prevent measures are in line with British standards - The operational silt management will be in line with treatment of TSS (Total Suspended Solids) within the Simple Index Approach of CIRIA Report C753 “The SiDS Manual” - Silt will be trapped within the Type 3 stone layer, similar to that of a large scale filter drain know as a ‘French drain Additional mitigation for ecological supporting elements include: - An experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed and attend Site at regular intervals throughout the project.

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: **Dee (N. Wales)** Water body ID: *GB531106708200*			
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)
			- A biosecurity risk assessment will be produced and followed so as not to introduce non-native species into the river.
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 – no impact pathway**		
• 1% or more of the water body's area	**N/A – no impact pathway**		
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	**N/A – no impact pathway**		
• 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below)	**N/A – no impact pathway**		
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
• changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna	Direct	If sediment were to enter the river it would smother out spawning areas and could result in all the notable fish species breeding success and there would be a decrease in their range over time as juveniles will not replace older fish. Should pollution enter the watercourse, it would kill juvenile and adults causing an immediate and long-term contraction of the population. Fish can be sensitive to acoustic and vibration disturbances that may occur during the construction phase. Increased vehicle usage	The contractor would need to adopt water pollution prevention procedures in line with good practice. The risk of sediment reaching the water courses and of leakage or spillage of fuel, chemicals and other potentially polluting substances would be mitigated through good site practice and management. This includes: - All treatment of the water off flow from the Site will be confirming to the Simple Index Approach in the CIRIA Report C753 following the SuDS Manual.
• an impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier, noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)			
• entrainment or impingement of fish			
• refuge/predation areas			
Or: is the proposal in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary; is outside			

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: **Dee (N. Wales)** Water body ID: *GB531106708200*			
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 estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it; or, could affect fish migrating through the estuary		during operation of the Project may can also be a source of noise disturbance. An increase in suspended sediments can decrease the water quality which will indirectly impact fish and could result in shifts to turbidity-tolerant fish communities. If mitigation is not in place both during the construction and operation phases, there is potential for a deterioration is fish status from indirect impacts of decreased water quality.	- All material will be disposed of in the appropriate skip with secure lids and no holes in any of the skips so that there are no potential pollution incidents - All refuelling will be carried out away from the SAC. At any refuelling point a spill kit will be available, an absorbent spill blanket will be laid out whilst refuelling takes place. Fuel will be contained within its own compound; at the end of each day the fuel will be secured within the compound. - A bespoke CEMP will be create prior to construction to ensure pollution prevent measures are in line with British standards - The operational silt management will be in line with treatment of TSS (Total Suspended Solids) within the Simple Index Approach of CIRIA Report C753 “The SiDS Manual” - Silt will be trapped within the Type 3 stone layer, similar to that of a large scale filter drain known as a ‘French drain Additional mitigation for ecological supporting elements include:

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: **Dee (N. Wales)** Water body ID: *GB531106708200*			
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)
			- An experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed and attend Site at regular intervals throughout the project. - A biosecurity risk assessment will be produced and followed so as not to introduce non-native species into the river.

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.*

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**
Dee (N. Wales) - GB531106708200	Direct	Machinery used would be a potential pathway for the introduction of INNS	A biosecurity risk assessment will be produced and followed so as not to introduce non-native species into the river.

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	A Habitat Regulations Assessment has been carried out and considered impact on: Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar River Dee and Bala Lake SAC The HRA concluded that taking into account conditions and restrictions the project would not lead to an adverse effect on any European Designated Site.

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?
• Bathing Waters	N/A	
• Shellfish Waters	N/A	
Other Protected and Priority habitats and species.		
• Nationally or locally protected areas e.g. SSSI, NNR etc	Yes	Works are within the River Dee SSSI – NRW A consulted.
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	N/A	
• Section 7 list of priority species e.g. water voles	N/A	
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?	No

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions
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? *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'**
N/A			
Scoping decision of the project cumulatively or 'in combination'		**Potential cumulative/in combination impacts conclusion**	
Q2.3 Can the risk of deterioration or prevention	**(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	

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'**
of achieving water body objectives from in combination and or cumulative effects 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?** *(choose one of the following options and delete the other)*	~~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?**	~~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.**~~

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions
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.*	~~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'

Dee (N.Wales) GB531106708200	HMWB	Reason for designation/uses – navigation, ports and harbours use -. Measures include: • Modify vessel design • Vessel management • Avoid the need to dredge • Dredging disposal strategy • Reduce impact of dredging • Reduce sediment resuspension • Retime dredging and disposal • Sediment management • Dredge disposal site selection • Manage disturbance • Modify structure • Flow manipulation • Modify channel • Remove obsolete structure It is not considered that any of these measures would be compromised by the proposed development.	N/A	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	Jack Thompson
Job title	Senior Marine Licencing Officer
Date	26 June 2026

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	31 July 2026	NRW A agree with conclusions of 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