

Natural Resources Wales

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Sent by e mail

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26 August 2026

Dear Mr Moore,

SCREENING OPINION UNDER THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007 (as amended)

NEWPORT NEPTUNE PROJECT

I am writing further to your request for a screening opinion, received on the 13 July 2026, made in accordance with The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) ("The Regulations").

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening procedure is to determine whether the proposed works require an Environmental Impact Assessment and submission of an Environmental Statement (ES).

In reaching our Screening Opinion we have considered the proposed works against Schedule A1 and A2 of the above regulations. We have also consulted with the bodies that we consider have an interest in the project by reason of their environmental responsibilities, or local or regional competences, as required by the above regulations, those bodies consulted are listed below.

Consultee	Responded
NRW Advisory (NRW A)	Yes
Newport County Borough Council	No
Welsh Archaeological Trust (WAT)	Yes
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)	Yes
Trinity House	No
Newport Harbour Commissioners	No
Port of Newport	No

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Yes
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Screening Opinion

It is our opinion that the works fall within the categories of project listed within Schedule A2, paragraph 63 and 89 of the above regulations, and therefore must be considered in terms of its size, nature and location having regard to the relevant criteria listed in Schedule 1 of the above regulations.

63. Construction of harbours and port installations including fishing harbours (unless included in Schedule A1).

89. Any change to or extension of development of a description listed in paragraphs 1 to 87 of this Schedule where that development is already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed.

We have carefully considered the views of the consultation bodies alongside the criteria as set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations, and have determined, based on the information provided; that the project **does not** require a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment.

We have come to this conclusion on the basis of the likely significant impacts of the project. The proposed works consist of the removal of two structures and the supporting piles within the intertidal region of the River Usk, adjacent to Alexandra Docks, Newport.

Other projects have been identified in the Screening Request due to their location and nature, however, these are not considered likely to lead to significant cumulative impacts on the environment.

The works overlap or are in close proximity to a number of designated sites namely;

- Severn Estuary SSSI
- River Usk / Afon Wysg SSSI
- River Usk / Afon Wysg SAC
- Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar

The works have potential to impact the environment such as through accidental pollution event or sediment disturbance impacting water quality, and noise and disturbance impacting upon migratory fish and/or marine birds.

In addition as highlighted by both RCAHMW and the WAT the proposal has the potential to impact upon the historic environment. However, both RCAHMW and WAT consider appropriate assessment and mitigation is likely possible including for example a protocol for archaeological discoveries (PAD), or potentially an archaeological watching brief, within an overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

Considering the scale, nature of the works, and possibility of effective mitigation we do not consider that the impacts would be of a magnitude that would require an Environmental Impact Assessment.

We welcome however the proposal to submit an Environmental Appraisal and supporting assessment with any marine licence application and would advise that you review consultation responses received from NRW A, RCAHWW, WAT and MCA in response to the screening request, and engage with relevant stakeholders as you look to conduct your assessments.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

As part of the screening exercise, we have also considered whether the proposed project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any site designated as a European site of conservation importance under the above Regulations. To assist in making this judgement of likely significant effect, we have sought advice from our statutory nature conservation advisor.

It is our initial view that the following sites could be impacted by the proposal:

- River Usk / Afon Wysg SAC
- Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar

We would encourage you to contact Natural Resources Wales Advisory and Natural England to receive further pre-application advice on this product.

This Screening Opinion will be provided to all those bodies that were consulted and will be publicised on our website and on our Public Register.

If you have any questions about your permits or licenses and/or site management, please contact our Customer Care Centre on 03000 653 000.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Treby

Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales

Approved by: Peter Morrison



Lead Specialist Officer
Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales

Cc: All Consultation Bodies