WFD Compliance Assessment

OGN 72 Appendix 2 WFD Compliance Assessment template

- **In completing this template for a WFD compliance assessment, refer to OGN72 for definitions, processes and further links to useful websites.**

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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

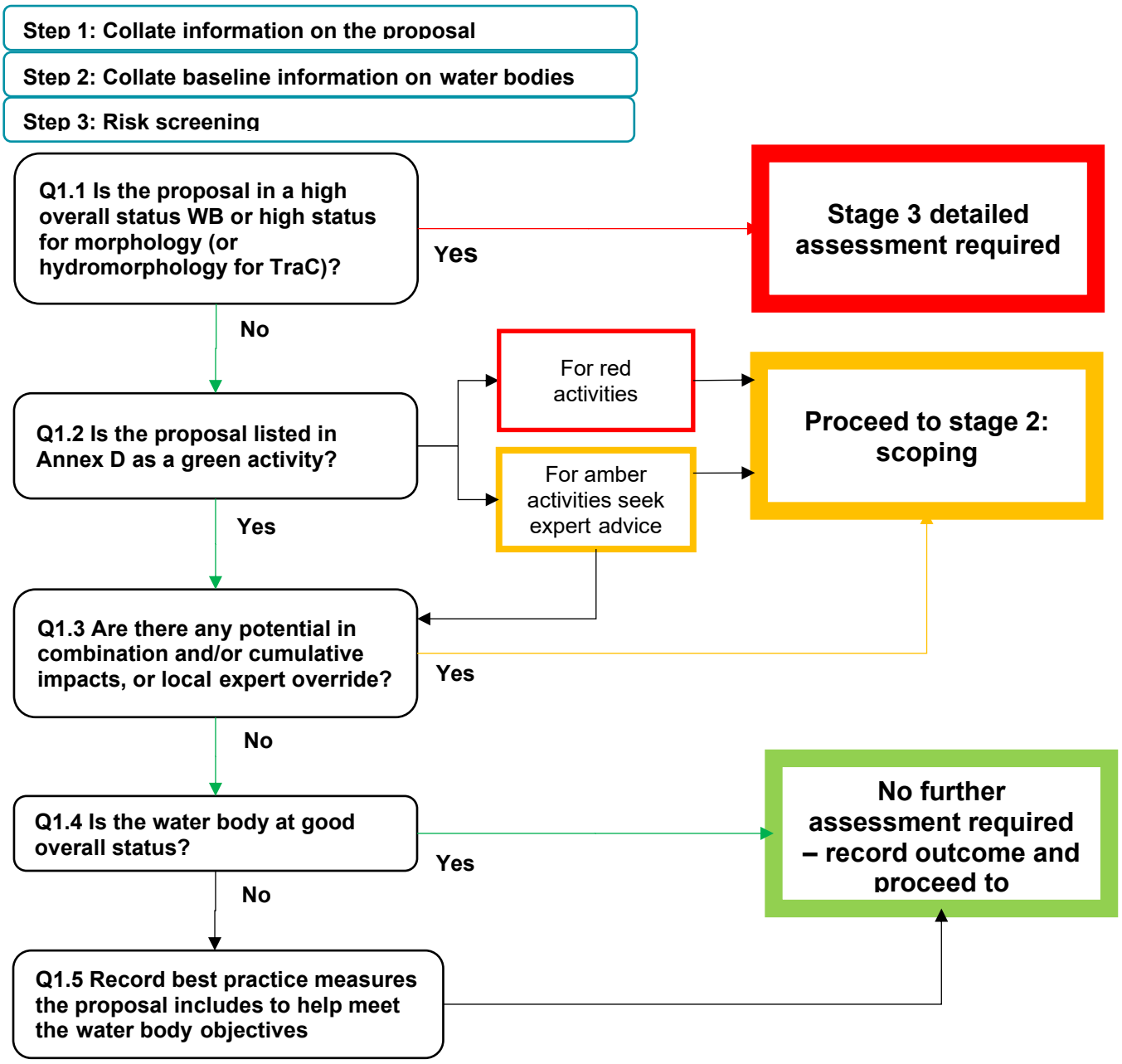
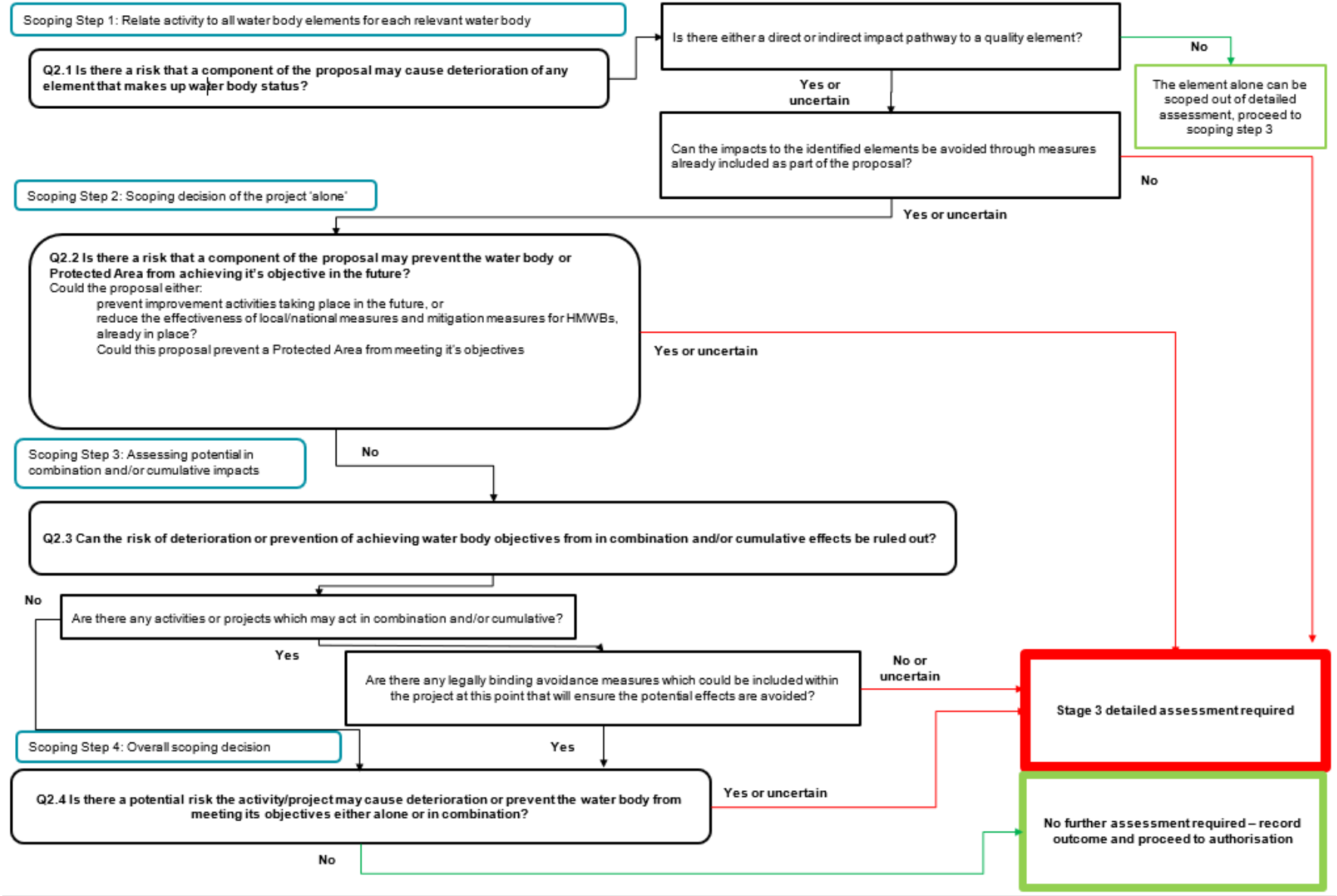


Figure 2: Stage 2 Scoping



WFD Compliance Assessment of Fishguard Replacement Linkspan
Stage 1 step 1: proposal details.

Project details where an external party has applied to NRW for any form of authorisation		
Project details	**Application reference number (if applicable)**	CML2612
	Date application received	21 April 2026
	Applicant details	Stena Line Ltd
	Activity proposed	Fishguard Replacement Linkspan Replacement of existing linkspan bridge and jack up barge with new floating linkspan pontoon to serve Stena line ferry at Fishguard Harbour to include plough dredging of 2,500m3; piled reinforced concrete bankseat; tubular steel guide piles; rock armour scour protection; and ancillary and temporary works.
	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	Harbour Revision Order
	Location (include map where appropriate)	Fishguard Ferry Port, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, South West Wales 
	Application documents *Include: Project purpose and background, site map, scaled plan, site photographs and working method statement.*	Environmental statement Vol 1 Main Chapter — Title Chapter 1 — Introduction Chapter 2 — Project Description Chapter 3 — Project Need & Alternatives Chapter 4 — EIA Process and Methodology Chapter 5 — Scoping & Consultation Chapter 6 — Policy & Legislation Chapter 7 — Population & Human Health Chapter 8 — Marine Biodiversity Chapter 9 — Terrestrial Ecology Chapter 10 — Coastal Processes Chapter 11 — Water Quality Chapter 12 — Flood Risk

		Chapter 13 Noise & Vibrations Chapter 14 Underwater Noise Chapter 15 Air Quality Chapter 16 Cultural Heritage Chapter 17 Soils, Geology & Contaminated Land Chapter 18 Land Use & Material Assets Chapter 19 Traffic & Transport Chapter 20 Seascape, Landscape & Visual Chapter 21 Waste Management Chapter 22 Climate Change Chapter 23 Risk of Major Accidents & Disasters Chapter 24 Shipping & Navigation Chapter 25 Interactions <u>Vol II Technical Appendices</u> Appendix ref Title Appendix 2.A oCEMP Appendix 2.B Contractors Methodology Appendix 4.A Cumulative Longlist Appendix 5.A EIA Screening and Scoping Opinion Appendix 5.B Crown Estate Appendix 5.C NRW Request for Further Information and Clarifications Appendix 6.A Fishguard Replacement Linkspan Pontoon WNMP Signposting Document Appendix 8.A Subtidal Benthic Survey Appendix 8.B INNSMP Biosecurity Risk Assessment Appendix 8.C Intertidal Survey Appendix 9.A Fishguard Harbour PEA Report Appendix 9.B Black Guillemot Survey Appendix 10.A Coastal Processes Modelling Appendix 11.A Water Framework Directive Assessment Appendix 13.A Baseline Noise Monitoring Appendix 13.B Noise Monitoring Results and Analysis Appendix 13.C Construction Noise Assessment Appendix 14.A Underwater Acoustics Appendix 14.B Taranis Appendix 14.C Weston Propagation Model Validation Appendix 15.A Detailed Dust Assessment <u>Vol III Design Drawings and Figures</u> Marine Licence Drawings Marine Licence Drawings POR00886-TT-ML-XX-DR-C-0250-A1-C01 Marine Licence Site Location Plan POR00886-TT-ML-XX-DR-C-0252-A1-C01 Marine Licence Proposed Layout POR00886-TT-ML-XX-DR-C-0251-A1-C01 Marine Licence Demolition Layout POR00886-TT-ML-XX-DR-C-0253-A1-C01 Marine Licence Plough Dredge Location Plan Figure 4.1 Cumulative Longlist

		Figure 9.1 Habitat Map Figure 13.1 Noise Study Area Figure 13.2 Noise Monitoring Locations Figure 13.3 Noise Sensitive Receptors Figure 16.1 Heritage Figures and Plates Figure 18.1 Water & Sewage Infrastructure Figure 18.2 Electrical Infrastructure Figures 18.3 – 18.5 Openreach Telecoms Assets Figures 18.6 – 18.8 Lighting Design Figure 20.1 Zone of Theoretical Visibility Figure 20.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Landscape and Marine CA Figure 20.3 Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Landscape Designations Figure 20.4 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations Figure 20.5 Residential Receptors with 350m Figure 20.6 Photomontages <u>Vol IV HRA</u> Chapter 1 LSE Screening Chapter 2 RIAA Non-Technical Summary <u>Other documents</u> Marine Works Application Form Dredge and Disposal Application Form Marine Licence Boundary Coordinates Marine Licence Dredge Coordinates <u>Additional documents submitted</u> CML2612 Clarification letter (specifying areas of the sediment sample analysis results included in this marine licence – as is the same as submitted for previous application CML2533 which had a larger scope) CML2612 - 03-06-25-Environmental-Statement-Vol-II-Technical Appendices – 17 CML2612 POR00886-TT-ML-EX-IE-C-1600-A1-C02 Excel-Marine Licence Boundary Coordinates (co-ordinates including the area seaward of MHWS only) CML2612 POR00886-TT-ML-XX-DR-C-0250-A1-C02 Marine Licence Site Location Plan (seaward of MHWS only)
	Environmental Statement	Appendix 11A of Vol II Technical Appendices CML2612 Public Register
	List ongoing maintenance requirements. All structures will require maintenance	N/A

	Timing of works	5 months for construction, should the licence be issued, the licence duration will be for a full year from date of issue
	Pre-application correspondence	Scoping Opinion SC2402 Public register - Customer Portal CML2533 Previous Marine Licence Application, later withdrawn by Applicant prior to submission of this Application CML2612
	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**	Emma Lowe, Marine Licensing Team
	Date of assessment	**05/06/2026**

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

Date of classification information: **Cycle 3 2024 Interim 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
GB621009580000	Cardigan Bay South	Coastal	Western Wales	No	Good	Good	High	Not High	Proposal is in the water body
GB521006110500	Gwaun Estuary	Transitional	Western Wales	No	Moderate	Moderate	High	No High	Proposal is 1.2km away

**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:

WB ID	Water body name	WB type	Management catchment	Reason
GB621008480000	Grassholm Island & The Smalls	Coastal	Western Wales	Distance and localised nature of the works
GB511006115200	Nyfer Estuary	Transitional	Western Wales	Distance and localised nature of the works
GB611008590003	Pembrokeshire South	Coastal	Western Wales	Distance and localised nature of the works

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		**No – complete scoping assessment for each water body** For amber activities then seek expert advice
~~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: **Cardigan Bay South GB621009580000, Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500**

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: Cardigan Bay South Water body ID: GB621009580000			
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:***			

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Cardigan Bay South Water body ID: GB621009580000			
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)
• morphological conditions, for example depth variation, the seabed and intertidal zone structure • tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents • freshwater flow • wave exposure	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	The proposed development within the water body has the potential to impact coastal processes, through the construction of new structures and land reclamation impacting on the supporting hydromorphological conditions in the Cardigan Bay South Coastal Water Body. The proposed development within the water body may cause localised sediment plumes to form due to the displacement of sediment.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required**
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	**No**	Waterbody is not designated as a HMWB	**Scoped 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** – risk of direct impact	There is the potential for localised sediment plumes to form due to the displacement of sediment arising from dredge activities. This has the potential to impact water clarity, increasing suspended particulate matter concentration.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required**
• thermal conditions (including shading)	**N/A – No impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
• oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	There is the potential for oxygen levels to be changed if anoxic sediment is disturbed, and from the resuspension of sediment through dredge or construction activities.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required. Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present, at 2.9-3.0 metres.**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Cardigan Bay South Water body ID: GB621009580000			
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)
• nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	There is the potential for DIN levels to change if anoxic sediment is disturbed through dredge or construction activities.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required. Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present, at 2.9-3.0 metres.**
• microbial patterns	**N/A – no impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
• salinity/conductivity	**N/A – no impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
• is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	**N/A – no impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
• is in a water body with a history of harmful algae (where there is an existing designation for the area, information should be available; however, local water quality officers will be able to help).	**N/A – no impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
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:			

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Cardigan Bay South Water body ID: GB621009580000			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
• chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list • activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	A broad range of potential pollutants, such as hydrocarbons i.e. fuels can accumulate in surfaces waters, during the construction and operation phases. These chemicals may be included on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list. This can arise from accidental spillages and in collisions between marine plant during construction. Sediment sampling in the area of the works has shown that Pyrene and Flourant concentrations exceed chemical Action level 1 (cAL1 – 0.1mg/l) (both Pyrene and Flourant concentrations were detected at 0.2mg/l) are found at depths of 2.9-3.0 metres. Disturbance of this sediment and release of these contaminants may cause a risk to the waterbody.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required. Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present, at 2.9-3.0 metres. Pollution prevention measures to be followed and a Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which will include a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP) to be produced and adhered to.**
• 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**		**Scoped out**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Cardigan Bay South
Water body ID: GB621009580000

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 • changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	Dredging, construction and removal activities will result in temporary and permanent habitat loss and/or disturbance, increased suspended sediment concentrations and associated deposition, changes in water quality (including potentially the release of sediment bound contaminants) and hydromorphological changes that can affect the biological elements of the water body.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required. Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present, at 2.9-3.0 metres.**
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**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped out**
• 1% or more of the water body's area	**N/A**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped out**
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	**N/A**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped out**
• 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below)	**N/A**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped 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**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped out**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Cardigan Bay South Water body ID: GB621009580000			
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 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**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped out**
• entrainment or impingement of fish	**N/A**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped out**
• refuge/predation areas	**N/A**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped 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**	**Coastal Waterbody**	**Scoped out**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Gwaun Estuary Water body ID: GB521006110500			
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**	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**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Gwaun Estuary Water body ID: GB521006110500			
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)
	N/A – other – include additional text to explain		
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 • tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents • freshwater flow • wave exposure	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	The proposed development within the water body has the potential to impacted coastal processes, by the construction of new structures and land reclamation impacting on the supporting hydromorphological conditions in the Gwaun Estuary Transitional Waterbody. The proposed development within the water body may cause localised sediment plumes to form due to the displacement of sediment.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required**
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	**No**	Waterbody is not designated as a HMWB	**Scoped 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** – risk of direct impact	There is the potential for localised sediment plumes to form due to the displacement of sediment arising from dredge activities. This has the potential to impact water clarity, increasing suspended particulate matter concentration.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Gwaun Estuary Water body ID: GB521006110500			
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)
• thermal conditions (including shading)	**N/A – No impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
• oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	There is the potential for oxygen levels to be changed if anoxic sediment is disturbed, and from the resuspension of sediment through dredge or construction activities.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required. Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present, at 2.9-3.0 metres.**
• nutrients - dissolved inorganic nitrogen	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	There is the potential for DIN levels to change if anoxic sediment is disturbed through dredge or construction activities.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required. Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present, at 2.9-3.0 metres.**
• microbial patterns	**N/A – no impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
• salinity/conductivity	**N/A – no impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
• is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	**N/A – no impact pathway**		**Scoped out**
• is in a water body with a history of harmful algae (where there is an existing designation for the area, information should be available; however, local water quality officers will be able to help).	**N/A – no impact pathway**		**Scoped out**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Gwaun Estuary Water body ID: GB521006110500			
Elements	**Applicable**	**Potential Impact** (include direct and indirect potential impacts)	**Avoidance measures** (briefly describe any measure included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided)
Chemicals - A detailed assessment will also be required if the activity uses or releases chemicals, for example, through sediment disturbance or building works. This is necessary when either the:			
• chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list • activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	A broad range of potential pollutants, such as hydrocarbons i.e. fuels can accumulate in surfaces waters, during the construction and operation phases. These chemicals may be included on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list. This can arise from accidental spillages and in collisions between marine plant during construction. Sediment sampling in the area of the works has shown that Pyrene and Flourant concentrations exceed chemical Action level 1 (cAL1 – 0.1mg/l) (both Pyrene and Flourant concentrations were detected at 0.2mg/l) are found at depths of 2.9-3.0 metres. Disturbance of this sediment and release of these contaminants may cause a risk to the waterbody.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required. Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present, at 2.9-3.0 metres. Pollution prevention measures to be followed and a Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which will include a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP) to be produced and adhered to.**
• 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**		**Scoped out**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Gwaun Estuary Water body ID: GB521006110500			
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 • changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	Dredging, construction and removal activities will result in temporary and permanent habitat loss and/or disturbance, increased suspended sediment concentrations and associated deposition, changes in water quality (including potentially the release of sediment bound contaminants) and hydromorphological changes that can affect the biological elements of the water body.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required.**
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**	The total area of dredging activity is 0.0016km2. This area is to be multiplied by 1.5 for dredging activities which is a total area of 0.0024km2.	**Scoped out**
• 1% or more of the water body's area	**Yes**	The Proposed Development is 1% or more of the Gwaun Estuary waterbody.	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required.**
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	**Yes**	The Proposed Development is within 500m of higher sensitivity habitats such as mussel beds and the subtidal kelp beds in Fishguard Bay	**Scoped in, detailed assessment required.**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Gwaun Estuary Water body ID: GB521006110500			
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)	No	The underlying lower sensitivity habitat is subtidal rocky reef and rocky shore. The activity is not 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat.	**Scoped out**
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
• changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	As part of the construction phase, noise sources such as dredging and dismantle/remove activities will occur, alongside piling activities, most of which will be considered non-impulsive noise-sources, such as vibro-piling and rotary boring techniques, involved in the installation of the pontoon's main piles. These works have the potential to cause auditory injury or Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS) and/or behavioural disturbance to diadromous fish species, according to the underwater noise modelling in the submitted ES. Injury and behavioural disturbance have the potential to impact the composition and abundance of local fish populations.	**Scoped in – detailed assessment required**
• an impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier, noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)	**Direct – risk of direct impact**	As part of the construction phase, noise sources such as dredging and dismantle/remove activities will occur, alongside piling activities, most of which will be considered non-impulsive noise-sources, such as vibro-piling and rotary boring techniques, involved in the installation of the pontoon's main piles. These works have the potential to cause auditory injury or Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS) and/or behavioural disturbance to diadromous fish species, according to the	**Scoped in – detailed assessment required**

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies Water body name: Gwaun Estuary Water body ID: GB521006110500			
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)
		underwater noise modelling in the submitted ES.	
• entrainment or impingement of fish	**N/A**	No impact pathway	**Scoped out**
• refuge/predation areas	**N/A**	No impact pathway	**Scoped 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	**Direct – risk of direct impact**	Works could cause avoidance behaviour in fish due to underwater noise generated from activities.	**Scoped in – detailed assessment required**

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**
Cardigan Bay South GB621009580000	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	Construction and operational phases have the potential to cause the spread of INNS through vessel movements, and installation of hard structures which could provide additional settlement opportunities for sessile species	**The Applicant has committed to the production of an Invasive Species Management Plan will be included in the oCEMP to ensure that working plant are subject to stringent biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction and/or spread of INNS, however this requires securing through Marine Licence conditions**
Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500	**Direct** – risk of direct impact	Construction and operational phases have the potential to cause the spread of INNS through vessel movements, and installation of hard structures which could provide additional settlement opportunities for sessile species	**The Applicant has committed to the production of an Invasive Species Management Plan will be included in the oCEMP to ensure that working plant are subject to stringent biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction and/or spread of INNS, however this requires securing through Marine Licence conditions**

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	West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol SAC - Please see CML2612 HRA
• Bathing Waters	No	Abermawr and Newport North Bathing Waters are located 7.6 km SW and 9km NE of the Proposed Development, respectively. There is no anticipated potential for the Proposed Development to impact upon these areas. Pathogens are unlikely to be a source of contamination as the works will be confined to the Proposed Development boundary, and Coastal Processes modelling presented by the Applicant has demonstrated that sediment plumes and subsequent deposition from dredging activities will be very localised. Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m, and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present at 2.9-3.0 metres. Therefore no significant effects are predicted upon any designated bathing water.
• Shellfish Waters	No	
Other Protected and Priority habitats and species.		
• Nationally or locally protected areas e.g. SSSI, NNR etc	No	N/A
Section 6 Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Environment (Wales) Act 2016) here - other Protected and Priority habitats and species. The S6 duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. Identify if there is a risk that the activity/project could impact on a water dependant priority habitat and or species which are either critical to the ecological health of the water body or sensitive to changes proposed on the water body.		
• Section 7 list of priority habitats e.g. wetlands	**No**	Blue mussel beds were identified within Fishguard Harbour during a 2014 NRW survey (NRW, 2025b). However, other subtidal benthic habitat data collected in more recent years did not demonstrate blue mussel beds

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?
		in the vicinity of the works, as discussed in ES Chapter 8: Marine Biodiversity. Therefore, blue mussel beds have not been considered further in the assessment.
• Section 7 list of priority species e.g. water voles	Yes	Migratory fish species and the designated sites they are associated with have been assessed in ES Chapter 8: Marine Biodiversity, and CML2612 HRA (for which they are features of SACs). In addition, species listed within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 have been included as Important Ecological Features (IEFs) of the assessment (Chapter 8, section 8.8.2.6). Impact of SSC on IEFs is considered to be not significant in EIA terms. Impact from noise on EIFs resulting in auditory injury or behavioural disturbance is considered to be not significant on EIA terms, however, this conclusion considers noise mitigation measures which will be secured through a CMS, CEMP and consideration of fish mitigation in the Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan, which will be secured within the Marine Licence.
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.		The Proposed Development does not provide opportunities to create new terrestrial habitat within the operational harbour. Maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem resilience is addressed through the design of the temporary compounds which would lie adjacent to offsite terrestrial habitats.

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?	**Detailed assessment is required**
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?	**Detailed assessment is required**

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	N/A	N/A	YES

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'**
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	

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?**	~~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	~~There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives however the following~~

Scoping assessment	Scoping decisions
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.*	~~**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'
GB621009580000 Cardigan Bay South Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500	Hydromorphology	The proposed development within the water body has the potential to impact coastal processes, through the construction of new structures and land reclamation impacting on the supporting hydromorphological conditions in the Cardigan Bay South Coastal Water Body. The proposed development within the water body may cause localised sediment plumes to form due to the displacement of sediment. Coastal processes modelling outlined in Chapter 9 of the ES provides an assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on coastal processes and includes sediment plume and deposition modelling undertaken for dredging during the construction phase. The modelling and studies have shown the project will have no significant impact on coastal processes away from the immediate area around the site. In Area A increased suspended sediment concentration will arise from dredging activities, there will be a negligible effect on coastal processes as increases in suspended solids are very localised within the harbour area and do not extend into the wider Cardigan Bay South coastal water body. Sediment dispersion is greatest during a spring tide, producing a plume that can extend about 300 m to the south and about 180 m to the northeast of the dredge area on the flood tide; plume suspended sediment concentrations (SSCs) generally remain below 100 mg/L and do not exceed 2.1 g/L. The highest suspended sediment concentration	Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths where it is known to be present (at 2.9-3.0 metres). To reduce cement and concrete use, remedial works to the existing bankseat rather than replacement is the preferred option. If replacement is required, there will be use of pre-cast concrete for the new bankseat. All construction work will be undertaken in accordance with good environmental practice based on legal responsibilities and guidance in accordance with the general overarching guidance on good environmental management in accordance with NetRegs Guidelines for Pollution Prevention.	**NO**	**YES**

		measured was about 2.8 g/L at low water during a neap tide, directly at the source of dredging. Average SSCs in the immediate vicinity of the works are approximately 1.4 g/L on a spring tide and 1.75 g/L on a neap tide, and SSCs decrease to background levels (~5 mg/L) at roughly 300 m from the dredge during spring tides and about 200 m during neap tides. The greatest deposition occurs within the targeted scour pit up to roughly 0.65 m on a spring tide and 0.70 m on a neap tide while total deposition in the vicinity of the dredge can reach about 0.3 m but is typically less than 0.2 m; beyond about 5 m from the dredge paths deposition falls to under 5 cm and sedimentation declines rapidly with distance to below 1mm by around 200m.	An Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) will be deployed for the duration of the Proposed Development. The requirement for the submission and approval of a CEMP will be secured through a Marine Licence condition.		
GB621009580000 Cardigan Bay South Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500	Water quality – Water clarity, oxygen levels, DIN	There is the potential for localised sediment plumes to form due to the displacement of sediment arising from dredge activities. This has the potential to impact water clarity, increasing suspended particulate matter concentration. However as demonstrated in Chapter 9 of the ES, Coastal Processes, changes to water clarity due to temporary increases in suspended sediments will be localised and will not extend far beyond the immediate works. The modelling and studies for coastal processes have shown the proposed development will have no significant impact on coastal processes away from the immediate area around the site. In Area A increased suspended sediment concentration will arise from dredging activities, there will be a negligible effect on coastal processes were increased in suspended solids are very localised within the harbour area and do not extend into the wider water bodies. There is the potential for oxygen levels to be changed if anoxic sediment is disturbed, and from the resuspension of sediment through dredge or construction activities. There will be no significant change in the coastal processes that could impact on the supporting physio-chemical conditions such as	An Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) will be deployed for the duration of the Proposed Development. This will include a Construction Surface Water Drainage Management Plan, toolbox talks, refuelling guidance in accordance with GPP8, Emergency spill kit and oil spill equipment, planning and guidance to support the Port Authority's Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The requirement for the submission and approval of a CEMP will be secured through a Marine Licence condition. The pontoon footprint area will only be dredged	**NO**	**YES**

		temperature or dissolved oxygen levels. There is the potential for DIN levels to change if anoxic sediment is disturbed through dredge or construction activities.	to depth of 1.5m to allow installation of scour protection for the new pontoon. Material will then be transferred to the scour pocket. Pyrene and Flourant held within sediments (both PAH concentrations detected at 0.2mg/l) will be avoided as these are found at depths of 2.9-3.0 metres. Coastal processes modelling as outlined in EIA Chapter 9 demonstrates that the potential impact of suspended sediment will be confined to the Proposed Development boundary area and will not be transported outside this area. Measures will be set in place to minimise the potential for pollution from sediment deposition in the water body and from works vehicles. All construction work will be undertaken in accordance with good environmental practice based on legal responsibilities and guidance in accordance with the general overarching guidance on good environmental management in		

			accordance with NetRegs Guidelines for Pollution Prevention. The oCEMP and management plans will ensure that the Proposed Development will not result in a deterioration in the status of biological supporting elements using 2024 interim status as the baseline status.		
GB621009580000 Cardigan Bay South Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500	Chemical	A broad range of potential pollutants, such as hydrocarbons i.e. fuels can accumulate in surfaces waters, during the construction and operation phases. These chemicals may be included on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list. This can arise from accidental spillages and in collisions between marine plant during construction. Sediment sampling in the area of the works has shown that Pyrene and Flourant concentrations exceed chemical Action level 1 (cAL1 – 0.1mg/l) (both Pyrene and Flourant concentrations were detected at 0.2mg/l) are found at depths of 2.9-3.0 metres. Disturbance of this sediment and release of these contaminants may cause a risk to the waterbody. There is also potential for such substances to contribute to surface runoff and may enter the marine environment. Oils and petroleum spills in particular from construction machinery used during the preparation of the Proposed Development could impact on the chemical status of waterbody. Suspended sediment levels can hold potentially hazardous contaminants such as heavy metals which in higher concentrations can be toxic to the biological elements. As outlined in the Chapter 10 of	The construction compounds, welfare facilities and office accommodation will be located away from water courses. All potential locations for temporary construction compounds will avoid direct impact on water courses by providing adequate drainage and effluent storage. An Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) will be deployed for the duration of the Proposed Development. This will include a Construction Surface Water Drainage Management Plan, toolbox talks, refuelling guidance in accordance with GPP8, Emergency	**NO**	**YES**

		the ES, sediment analysis results identified contamination exceeding cAL1 limit of 0.1 mg/l at depths of 2.9-3.0 metres (both Pyrene and Flourant concentrations were detected at 0.2mg/l). However, the proposed plough dredging will only mobilise material at a depth of 1.5m for the installation of scour protection for the new pontoon. Therefore, there will be no dredging of sediments at depths where these contaminants have been detected.	spill kit and oil spill equipment and planning and guidance to support the Port Authority's Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The requirement for the submission and approval of a CEMP will be secured through a Marine Licence condition. A protocol for regular communication between the appointed contractor, the engineer's representatives, statutory agencies, such as Natural Resources Wales and Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council, and other third parties shall be established. Standard pollution prevention measures will also be secured as a condition within the Marine Licence. Capital dredging activities in will be subject to the following measures: • A documented Accident Prevention Procedure will be put in place prior to commencement. • A documented Emergency Response Procedure will be put in place prior to commencement.		

			• Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths were known to be present at 2.9-3.0 metres.		
GB621009580000 Cardigan Bay South Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500	Ecology – aquatic flora and benthic invertebrate fauna	Dredging, construction and removal activities will result in temporary and permanent habitat loss and/or disturbance, increased suspended sediment concentrations and associated deposition, changes in water quality (including potentially the release of sediment bound contaminants) and hydromorphological changes that can affect the biological elements of the water body. During construction works, there is potential for accidental spillages of oils, fuels and chemicals from plant and equipment adjacent to water bodies. There is potential for such substances to contribute to surface runoff and impact upon biological supporting elements of water bodies.	An Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) will be deployed for the duration of the Proposed Development. This will include a Construction Surface Water Drainage Management Plan, toolbox talks, refuelling guidance in accordance with GPP8, Emergency spill kit and oil spill equipment and planning and guidance to support the Port Authority's Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The requirement for the submission and approval of a CEMP will be secured through a Marine Licence condition. Capital dredging activities in will be subject to the following measures: • A documented Accident Prevention Procedure will be put in place prior to commencement.	**NO**	**YES**

			• A documented Emergency Response Procedure will be put in place prior to commencement. • Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths were known to be present at 2.9-3.0 metres. A protocol for regular communication between the appointed contractor, the engineer's representatives, statutory agencies, such as Natural Resources Wales and Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council, and other third parties shall be established.		
Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500	Biology – higher sensitive habitat	The Proposed Development is within 500m of higher sensitivity habitats such as mussel beds and the subtidal kelp beds in Fishguard Bay. The underlying lower sensitivity habitat is subtidal rocky reef and rocky shore. The activity is not 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat. Suspended sediment plumes may interact with these sensitive habitats. This cannot be discounted and has been assessed further in the Environmental Statement Chapter 11 Water Quality that accompanies this assessment. Sediment samples have identified contamination within marine sediments in Fishguard Bay. The contaminants of concern are Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs); Pyrene and Flourant. These contaminants were detected at depths of 2.9-3.0 meters with a concentration of 0.2mg/l which exceeds chemical	Dredging activities will avoid areas where contaminants are known to be present in sediments, therefore there will be no significant effects upon protected species or habitats. Capital dredging activities in will be subject to the following measures: • A documented Accident Prevention Procedure will be put in place prior to commencement.	**NO**	**YES**

		action level (cAL1) limit (0.1mg/l) as defined by CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and AquacultureScience).	• A documented Emergency Response Procedure will be put in place prior to commencement. • Plough dredging will be limited to depths of 1.5m and will avoid contamination at depths were known to be present at 2.9-3.0 metres		
Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500	Biology - changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna, an impact on normal fish behaviour, could affect fish in the estuary	As part of the construction phase, noise sources such as dredging and dismantle/remove activities will occur, alongside piling activities, most of which will be considered non-impulsive noise-sources, such as vibro-piling and rotary boring techniques, involved in the installation of the pontoon's main piles. These works have the potential to cause auditory injury or Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS) and/or behavioural disturbance to diadromous fish species, according to the underwater noise modelling in the submitted ES. There may be some low level of disturbance to fish within the vicinity of the Proposed Development construction activities, resulting in potential highly localised avoidance behaviour. However, Fishguard Harbour is not anticipated to be a key habitat for any of the diadromous fish due, in part, to high levels of anthropogenic activity, and so no significant reduction in their natural range is predicted due to noise contours causing barrier effects. The risk of auditory injury to diadromous fish is limited (to within 700 m) from the piling activity so it is highly unlikely fish populations will be significantly affected given the localised nature of the impact. Behavioural disturbance to diadromous fish may also occur within 4.9 km of piling activities predicted over the short term. However, protected sites are a minimum of 15.8km from the Proposed Development Site Boundary, therefore it is unlikely that there will	There are a range of mitigation measures associated with underwater noise during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, which will include a 20-minute soft start and adoption of the JNCC guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from piling (JNCC, 2010). This will involve a 30-minute pre-piling visual watch for absence of marine mammals with a mitigation zone by a qualified Marine Mammal Observer. Although soft starts are more appropriate mitigation for marine mammals compared to fish, the 20-minute soft start may also act as a deterrent for qualifying fish features.	**NO**	**YES**

		be overlap between the fish features and the area of behavioural disturbance due to piling and so is unlikely to cause significant disturbance to diadromous fish.			
GB621009580000 Cardigan Bay South Gwaun Estuary GB521006110500	Risks of introducing or spreading INNS	Construction and operational phases have the potential to cause the spread of INNS through vessel movements, and installation of hard structures which could provide additional settlement opportunities for sessile species	An Invasive Species Management Plan will be included in the oCEMP to ensure that working plant are subject to stringent biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction and/or spread of INNS. The requirement for submission and approval of a biosecurity management plan will be secured within a condition on the Marine Licence.	**NO**	**YES**

* Where there is uncertainty if the proposed activity may prevent a water body or PA from meeting its objectives or may cause deterioration then we must follow a precautionary approach, contact the Integrated Water Planning team for further advice.

Conclusion of WFD Compliance Assessment & Authorisation

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.	
Completed by	Emma Lowe
Job title	**Lead Specialist Officer, Marine Licensing**

Date	*05/06/2026*

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	**Written advice from NRW Advisory provided 10 July 2026**	**NRW (A) agree with the screening and scoping assessment of the WFD to include risk of chemicals, water clarity, oxygen levels and DIN. NRW (A) agree with the mitigation measures, including a CEMP among other measures.**

*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