

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	26 th June 2026	First issue	Sherron Kitchen
Review Date: [Month & Year]			

Figure 1: Stage 1 Screening

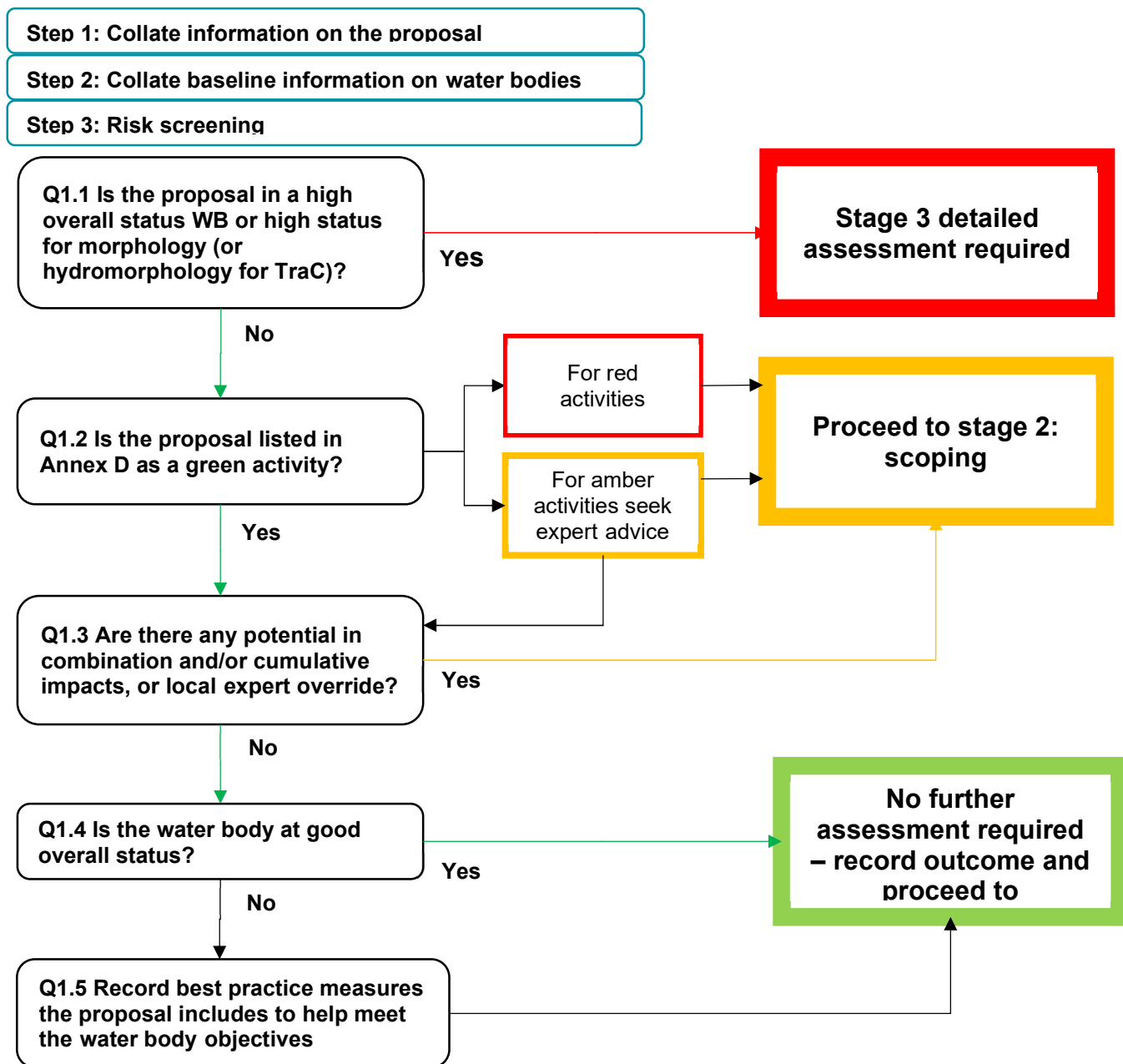
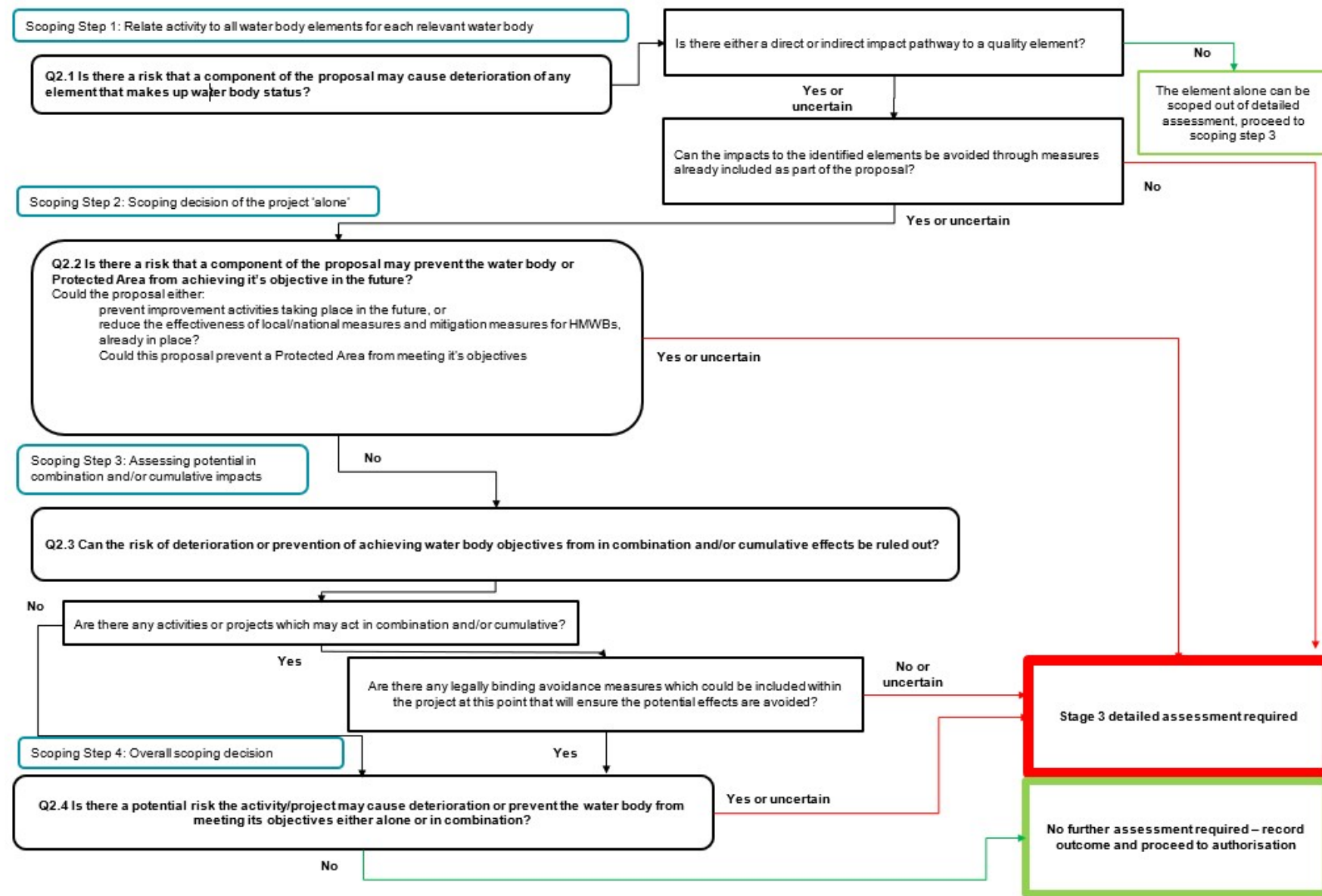


Figure 2: Stage 2 Scoping



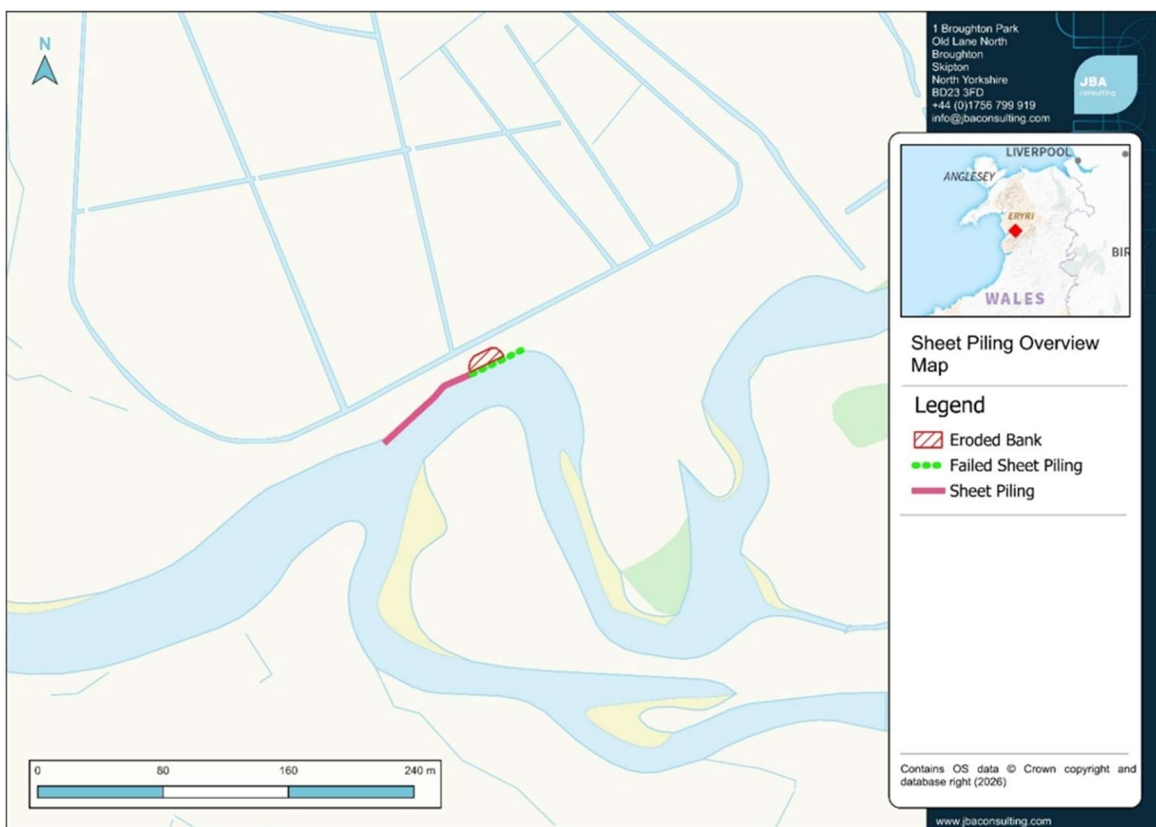
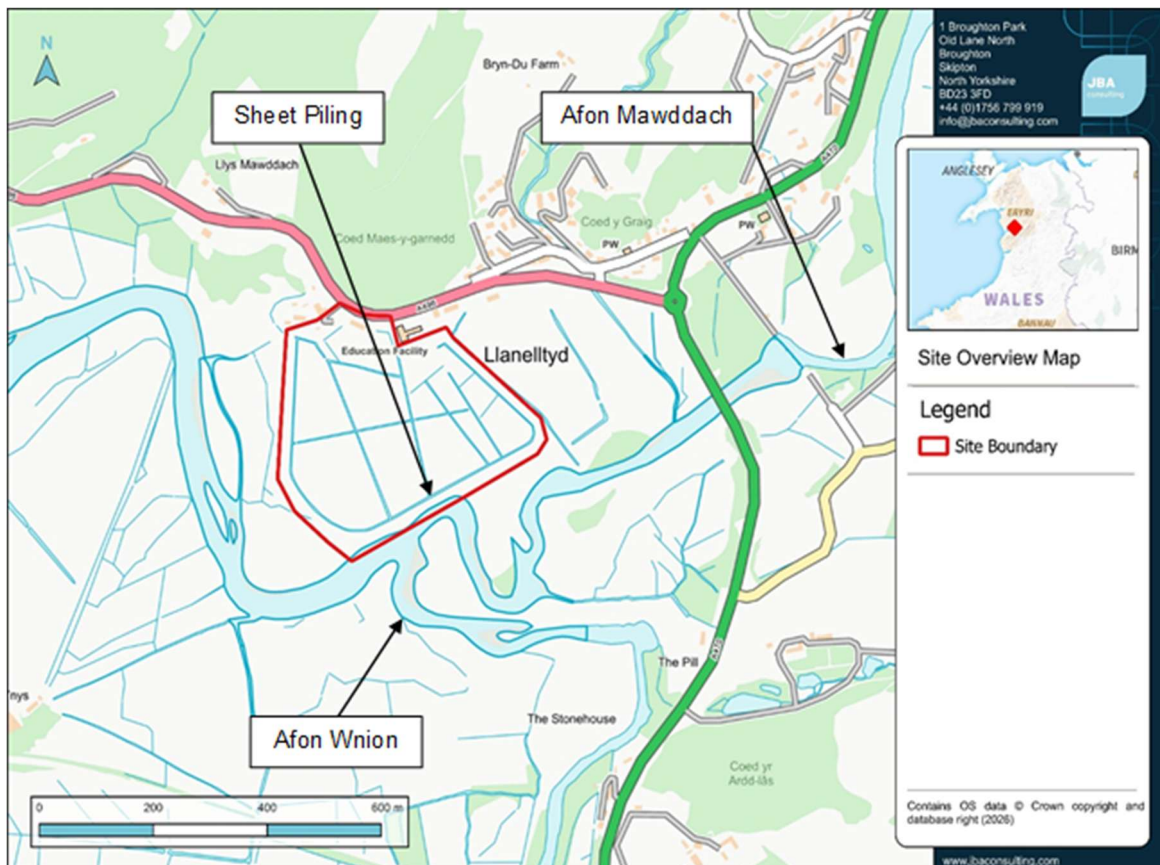
WFD Compliance Assessment of Llanelltyd Sheet Piling Removal (RML2616)

Stage 1 step 1: proposal details.

Project details where <u>NRW is the project proponent/instigator</u>		
Project details (Project manager to complete)	NRW Project reference	CE0974
	Type of scheme	Demolition and removal of a section of sheet piling along the right bank of the Afon Mawddach. 30m of the 100m section has already failed.
	What ongoing maintenance work will be required? All structures will require maintenance	Structure being removed, periodic checks of existing bank may be required to monitor for scour and lateral movement of the river after removal.
	Breakdown of physical works involved (e.g. new weir, bank reinforcement, riparian vegetation management)	1. In advance of mobilising to site, the Contractor Site Manager will carry out a comprehensive photographic survey of the site, compound, and access routes. Copies of the survey will be made available to the client. 2. Mobilise to site to establish and position advance warning signage and Contractor direction finger boards along access routes. All suppliers and deliveries will be briefed on the Contractor traffic management plan. 3. Receive delivery of plant and equipment – 21t long reach excavator, 6t tracked dumper, site welfare provisions and timber bog mats. 4. Install overhead cable protection measures along the access route. 5. Carry out service location survey of proposed access track, including CAT scan. Contractor Site Agent to issue permit to break ground for any excavation or material movement activities. Permit to be received and signed by the Working Foreman. 6. Form access route to working area by installing timber bog mats through agricultural land / wet ground. Position with excavator and fork attachment. 7. Establish and mark out full length of sheet piles to be removed. 8. Construct working level platform to position the long reach excavator on the embankment to carry out the works. Level existing ground and position additional timber bog mats.

	9. Excavator to clear material from the front and rear of the failed sheet piles to allow safe access for dive team, removed material to be retained on site. 10. Divers to carry out initial underwater inspection of failed sheet pile section, confirm depth, condition, and extent of failure, Identify any obstructions or hazards. 11. Divers descend to riverbed and locate sheet piles, using oxy-propane/oxy-arc cutting equipment, cut sheet piles at or just below riverbed level. 12. Sheet piles to be retained / supported by excavator while cutting is carried out. Utilise chains or mechanical grab attachment. 13. On the completion of cutting the divers will exit the watercourse prior to any lifting / moving of the sheet piles 14. The excavator will then carefully apply tension and extract the cut sections vertically. Lift sections clear of the water and place in a designated laydown area. 15. The activity will then be repeated for the next section of sheet piles. 16. If possible, once assessed on site, sheet piling will be fully removed from the river bed to leave no remnants. 17. Upon completion all removed sheet piles will be loaded onto the tracked dumper and removed from the site for loading onto a road going HGV for off-site disposal. 18. Carry out reinstatement of riverbed, ensuring that no cut edges of sheet pile are left visible and are covered by the riverbed. 19. Landscape works to embankment and commences removal of work platform / bog mats. 20. Remove all fencing and signage, including overhead cable protection measures. 21. Carry out full demobilisation of the site compound, including fencing and signage along access routes. 22. Carry out post-completion photographic survey of works, compound area, and access routes.
Location of activity	Proposed site - SH 71182 19079 Upstream end of works - SH 71207 19083 Downstream end of works - SH 71123 19026
Map of site included and scaled plan	Yes (See maps & Error! Reference source not found. below)
Length / size of works (m)	100m of sheet piling removal

Estimated extent of footprint/impact of the works	With appropriate mitigation measures in place and industry standard pollution prevention measures followed the works are only anticipated to impact upon the 100m section where the works will take place.
Timing of works	The works are proposed to begin in September 2026 and last approximately 6 weeks.
Project documents	RWR-JBA-XX-XX-RP-EN-0001-S3-P02-Llan_SSP_PEA RWR-JBA-00-00-RP-EN-0003-S3-P01-Habitat Regulations Screening and Scoping Assessment
NRW team	<i>This will in all cases be the project team or another team delegated to act on their behalf in carrying out the WFD Compliance Assessment (e.g. Environmental Assessment Team).</i>
Lead officer	<i>Sherron Kitchen</i>
Date of assessment	<i>29/06/2026</i>



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

Date of classification information: C3 2021

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
GB511006407100	Mawddach	River	Meirionnydd TraC	No	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Not High	Proposal is in the water body
GB41002G203200	Meirionnydd	Groundwater	Meirionnydd TraC	No	Poor	N/A	Good	N/A	Proposal is adjacent to 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:

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	Construct working level platform	Yes – go to Q1.3
		Clear material from the front and rear of the failed sheet piles to allow safe access for	No – complete scoping assessment for each water body For amber activities then seek expert advice

Question number	Risk screening questions	Name of activity	Screening decision – delete as appropriate
		dive team, removed material to be retained on site	
		Cut/ remove sheet piles	No – complete scoping assessment for each water body For amber activities then seek expert advice
		Carry out reinstatement of riverbed, ensuring that no cut edges of sheet pile are left visible and are covered by the riverbed.	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	Yes – complete scoping assessment for each water body
Q1.4	Is the water body at Good overall status?	No	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 Standard construction industry practices and associated measures for the management of pollution prevention will be implemented throughout the duration of the proposed works. These will be followed and outlined as part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). Appropriate silt containment measures, such as a barrier of silt containment mats, will be put in place to reduce the chance of sediment pollution migrating downstream. Standard practise biosecurity measures will be followed, and a biosecurity plan created as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Due to the known presence of Himalayan	

Question number	Risk screening questions	Name of activity	Screening decision – delete as appropriate
		balsam on site an INNS management plan will put in place across the site.	

**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: Mawddach GB511006407100

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: Mawddach Water body ID: GB511006407100			
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. <i>Could the proposal lead to changes in:</i>			
morphological conditions, for example depth variation, the seabed and intertidal zone structure	Direct – risk of direct impact	Morphology: River width and depth Temporary Works The temporary works are anticipated to temporarily impact upon the depth and width of the river with the temporary clearance of material around sheet	<i>N/A – minimal impact</i>

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
		piling to allow for works access. Permanent Works The permanent works are not anticipated to impact upon the depth of the Mawddach with removed material being replaced. The width of the channel is likely to change post the removal of the sheet piling with a slight increase in channel width. This is due to the need for landscaping/ regrading works along the banks post removal to ensure stability in the bank profile. The widening of the channel is not anticipated to negatively impact upon the hydromorphology of the channel as more natural variation and channel width will be restored to the channel planform, with the current profile being slightly constrained.	
		Morphology: Structure of the riparian zone Temporary Works Temporary damage to the structure of the riparian zone on the right bank of the Mawddach channel. This is due to the movement of plant and machinery. However, at the time of visit, the riparian zone was relatively degraded, so only limited damage is likely to occur. Permanent Works The permanent works are anticipated to provide betterment to the structure of the riparian zone by improving connectivity between the channel and the floodplain, with the removal of sheet piling. This results in increased habitat availability and more planform variability.	<i>N/A – minimal impact</i>

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
		River Continuity Temporary Works The temporary works have the potential to temporarily impact the lateral and longitudinal connectivity of the channel with the construction of temporary working areas and demolition workings however these works are not anticipated to have any major impact. Connectivity will be restored once the works are completed. Permanent Works The permanent works are anticipated to provide betterment to river continuity, specifically lateral connectivity with the removal of the sheet piling that will allow for more interactivity between the banks and the channel.	<i>N/A – minimal impact</i>
		Hydrology: Connection to ground water bodies Temporary Works The temporary works have the potential to impact upon the connection to ground water bodies through the potential release of fine sediments during the demolition works, removal and reinstatement of bed material and the landscaping of the bank face post works. Released fine sediment can settle on the riverbed potentially filling the pores between channel bed substrate reducing the exchange of water into the hyporheic zone. Permanent Works The permanent works are not anticipated to	Further assessment for the temporary works is required due to the high likelihood that fine sediment could be released during the works. It is currently unclear if industry standard silt suppression methods are planned to be undertaken. This must be commenced during works to reduce the likelihood of downstream silt dispersion.

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
		impact upon the connection to ground water bodies, with the works anticipated to be an overall positive for the waterbody.	
		Morphology: River width and depth Temporary Works The temporary works are anticipated to temporarily impact upon the depth and width of the river with the temporary clearance of material around sheet piling to allow for works access. Permanent Works The permanent works are not anticipated to impact upon the depth of the Mawddach with removed material being replaced. The width of the channel is likely to change post the removal of the sheet piling with a slight increase in channel width. This is due to the need for landscaping/ regrading works along the banks post removal to ensure stability in the bank profile. The widening of the channel is not anticipated to negatively impact upon the hydromorphology of the channel as more natural variation and channel width will be restored to the channel planform, with the current profile being slightly constrained.	N/A

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
		Morphology: Structure and substrate of the riverbed Temporary Works The temporary works have the potential to impact upon the structure and substrate of the river bed during the construction phase. This is due to the potential increase in fine sediment loads, with excavation of the channel bed around the sheet piling. Replacement of the sediment post workings could also lead to a change in sediment size distribution. Permanent Works The permanent works are not anticipated to permanently impact upon the structure and substrate of the riverbed.	Further assessment for the temporary works is required due to the high likelihood that fine sediment could be released during the works. It is currently unclear if industry standard silt suppression methods are planned to be undertaken. This must be commenced during works to reduce the likelihood of downstream silt dispersion.
tidal patterns, for example, dominant currents	<i>Direct – risk of direct impact</i>	Hydrology: Quantity and Dynamics of flow Temporary Works The temporary works may cause minor changes to the dynamics of flow within the Mawddach channel during construction. This is due to equipment and plant needing to be temporarily operated within the channel. Permanent Works The permanent works are not anticipated to negatively impact upon the quantity and dynamics of flow within the channel, including tidal patterns. The removal of the sheet piling and reinstatement of the natural bank face is anticipated to improve hydromorphological diversity in this section of the	N/A

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
		reach by increasing roughness and reducing homogeneity of the bank face.	
• freshwater flow	<i>N/A – no impact pathway</i>		
• wave exposure	<i>N/A – no impact pathway</i>		
Is the proposal in a HMWB?	<i>N/A – no impact pathway</i>		
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)	<i>Direct</i>	The extraction of sheet piles and movement of heavy machinery will disturb the riverbed, causing temporary suspension of fine sediments and localised increases in turbidity. Accidental run-off from disrupted bankside soils could also introduce suspended particulate matter into the local waterbody.	Any increase in turbidity will be short-term, localised, and restricted to active working hours. Physical containment measures e.g. a coffer dam or bubble curtains can be used to limit sediment dispersion. Banks will be reinstated post-works to prevent ongoing erosion.
• thermal conditions (including shading)	<i>N/A</i>	The use of machinery within the water during the works may cause some minor, localised engine heat dissipation. However, this would not be expected to continue beyond the conclusion of the works.	N/A
• oxygen levels – dissolved oxygen conditions	<i>Indirect</i>	The proposed works have the potential to mobilise sediments that may impact on concentrations of dissolved oxygen (DO). There is also the potential for indirect temporary impact to DO concentrations via accidental pollution spillages.	Any impact arising from mobilisation of sediments, and subsequent changes in DO are considered temporary and restricted to periods of active works only. Industry-standard pollution measures must also be applied to minimise the risk of pollution events throughout the works.

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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	N/A	Impacts to nutrient concentrations / dissolved inorganic nitrogen are not expected.	N/A
microbial patterns	N/A	Proposed works do not involve discharges of sewage, agricultural run-off or faecal contaminants that alter microbial or bacterial baseline levels, therefore impacts are not expected.	N/A
salinity/conductivity	N/A	The works do not involve the discharge of high-salinity water etc. Therefore, impacts are not expected.	N/A
is in a water body with a phytoplankton or opportunistic macroalgae status of moderate, poor or bad	N/A	This waterbody has phytoplankton of 'Good' status.	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	This waterbody has no history of harmful algae.	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	Chemicals listed on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list are not expected to be used or released.	N/A

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
activity disturbs sediment with contaminants (for estuarine and coastal above Cefas Action Level 1).	N/A	It is not expected that the disturbed sediments will release contaminants.	Industry standard pollution measures must also be applied to minimise the risk of pollution events or the disturbance of sediments with contaminants throughout the works.
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	Chemicals listed on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list are not expected to be used or released.	N/A
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	Direct	The proposed works may adversely impact macrophytes and macroalgae in the Mawddach (Transitional) water body through the following pathways:	Standard construction industry practices and associated measures for the management of pollution prevention will be implemented throughout the duration

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
		Sediment disturbance: The disturbance of localised sediment beds, even temporarily, may cause smothering by reducing light penetration and inhibit photosynthetic activity. This disturbance also risks the mobilisation of contaminants or nutrients within the bed that may adversely impact the health of macrophytes and macroalgae. Pollution Events: The presence of plant machinery within the catchment area increases the short-term risk of accidental pollution events, such as fuel leaks, which could negatively impact local water quality and macrophyte and macroalgae health.	of the proposed works. These will be followed and outlined as part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). Further assessment for the temporary works is required due to the high likelihood that fine sediment could be released during the works. It is currently unclear if industry standard silt suppression methods are planned to be undertaken. This must be commenced during works to reduce the likelihood of downstream silt dispersion.
changes to the composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna	Direct	The proposed works has the potential to impact benthic invertebrate populations through the following pathways: Sediment disturbance: The extraction of sheet piles may disturb the riverbed resulting in localised, temporary increases in suspended sediment and re-deposition. This can cause the smothering of benthic taxa and gill-clagging for filter feeders that may be within or in close proximity to the proposed works. Habitat Disturbance and Mortality: The temporary physical disturbance of the bed during extraction involves a small-scale loss of habitat and a direct mortality risk to some slow-moving invertebrate species. Pollution Events: The presence of plant machinery within the catchment area increases the short-term	Any habitat disturbance will be temporary, small in scale and localised to the works footprint. Habitats will be reinstated following completion of the works. Standard construction industry practices and associated measures for the management of pollution prevention will be implemented throughout the duration of the proposed works. These will be followed and outlined as part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). Further assessment for the temporary works is required due to the high likelihood that fine sediment could be released during the works. It is currently unclear if industry standard silt

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
		risk of accidental pollution events, such as fuel leaks, which could negatively impact local water quality and invertebrate health.	suppression methods are planned to be undertaken. This must be commenced during works to reduce the likelihood of downstream silt dispersion.
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:			
• 1% or more of the water body's area	N/A	The proposed works are not expected to affect 1% or more of the water body's area.	N/A
• Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat (see table below)	N/A	The proposed works are not expected to take place within or in close proximity to any higher sensitivity habitat.	N/A
• 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat (see table below)	N/A	The proposed works are not expected to cause habitat loss.	The reinstatement of the bankside post-works will reduce the impacts of habitat disturbance within the working area and minimise damage to lower sensitivity habitat. Any habitat loss will be temporary, small in scale and localised to the works footprint.
Fish fauna (Transitional water bodies only): could the proposal lead to:			
• changes to the composition, abundance and age structure of fish fauna	Direct	The proposed works may adversely impact the composition, abundance and age structure of fish through the following pathways: Sediment Disturbance and Habitat Loss: Activities such as sheet pile extraction will temporarily suspend riverbed sediment. This may cause localised, short-term habitat loss and the displacement of fish from potential feeding, spawning or sheltering areas.	Any habitat disturbance will be temporary, small in scale and localised to the works footprint. Habitats will be reinstated following completion of the works. Standard construction industry practices and associated measures for the management of pollution prevention will be implemented throughout the duration of the proposed works. These will be

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
		Physical injury or Mortality: Direct physical interaction with heavy machinery, tools, or collapsing substrate during sheet pile extraction poses a risk of injury or mortality to fish, particularly at the less mobile life stages (e.g. eggs and larvae) that may be present within or near the proposed site and impact localised populations. Pollution Events: The risk of accidental fuel, oil, or chemical leaks from plant machinery can degrade water quality and harm local fish populations.	followed and outlined as part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). Further assessment for the temporary works is required due to the high likelihood that fine sediment could be released during the works. It is currently unclear if industry standard silt suppression methods are planned to be undertaken. This must be commenced during works to reduce the likelihood of downstream silt dispersion.
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	The proposed works may impact on normal fish behaviour through the following pathways: Noise and Disturbance: Noise, vibration, and visual disturbance from machinery and sheet pile extraction may alter natural fish behaviour. This may include disruption to localised spawning and feeding grounds, which is a key sensitivity if works coincide with the core fish spawning season. Physical injury or Mortality: Direct physical interaction with heavy machinery, tools, or collapsing substrate during sheet pile extraction poses a risk of injury or mortality to fish, particularly at the less mobile life stages (e.g. eggs and larvae) that may be present within or near the proposed site. Pollution Events: The risk of accidental fuel, oil, or chemical leaks from plant machinery can degrade water quality and harm local fish populations and alter fish migration and spawning behaviour.	Further assessment for the temporary works is required due to the potential to cause disturbance to spawning or migrating fish species.

Scoping table for Transitional and Coastal water bodies

Water body name: Mawddach
Water body ID: GB511006407100

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)
• entrainment or impingement of fish	<i>Direct</i>	The proposed works may cause the entrainment or impingement of fish through the following pathways: Dewatering and Cofferdam Installs: If coffer dams, pumps, or bypass channels are used to isolate the sheet pile extraction area, fish may become entrained within the enclosed working area or drawn into pumping equipment. Intake screens: Submerged pump intakes used for dewatering or silt management pose an impingement risk to smaller fish, juveniles, or larvae if they are drawn against intake screens by high-velocity suction. Substrate Collapse: Fish seeking shelter in or near the riverbed may become trapped or buried during the extraction of sheet piles and the subsequent collapse of surrounding bed material.	Further assessment for the temporary works is required due to the potential to cause entrapment or impingement of fish.
• refuge/predation areas	<i>Indirect</i>	The proposed works may impact refuge and predation areas through the following pathways: Loss of Structure: The physical removal of sheet piles will temporarily eliminate artificial structural features that fish may utilise as refuge from high flows and predators. Noise and Disturbance: The noise, vibration, visual and habitat disturbance may displace fish from refuge areas, forcing them into the more open channel areas where they may face higher water velocities.	No – Impacts on refuge and predation areas are not expected to be significant, as the area in which the proposed works are set to take place is small in scale. All impacts will be temporary, post-works bankside reinstatement will be completed immediately following the works.

Scoping Assessment for: Meirionnydd GB41002G203200

Scoping table for Groundwater bodies Water body name: Meirionnydd Water body ID: GB41002G203200			
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)
Groundwater	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
Identify if the activity/project has the potential to impact on the quality or quantity of ground water.			
Hydrological regime: Could the proposal lead to:			
a significant change to groundwater flows, for example, below ground structures which restricts or alters baseflow to dependent surface water or wetlands	N/A – no impact pathway	The works are not anticipated to have any impact on the groundwater body.	
abstraction of groundwater in large volumes or near sensitive locations	N/A – no impact pathway		
a significant change to groundwater chemistry due to inputs of pollutants to the ground over a large area	N/A – no impact pathway		
potential impact on ground water dependant terrestrial ecosystems e.g. wetlands	N/A – no impact pathway		

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
Mawddach GB511006407100	Direct	Himalayan balsam has been recorded throughout the site and Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron have been recorded in close proximity to the site, therefore the proposed works have the potential to spread terrestrial Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS).	Standard practise biosecurity measures will be followed, and a biosecurity plan created as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Due to the known presence of Himalayan balsam on site an INNS management plan will put in place across the site.

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 HRA has been completed RWR-JBA-00-00-RP-EN-0003-S3-P01-Habitat_Regulations_Screening_and_Scoping_Assessment
Bathing Waters	N/A	The site does not sit within close proximity to any bathing waters.
Shellfish Waters	N/A	The site does not sit within close proximity to any shellfish waters.
Other Protected and Priority habitats and species.		
Nationally or locally protected areas e.g. SSSI, NNR etc	Yes	A SSSI assent is being completed to assess impacts and outline mitigation.
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	Yes	RWR-JBA-XX-XX-RP-EN-0001-S3-P02-Llan_SSP_PEA
Section 7 list of priority species e.g. water voles	Yes	RWR-JBA-XX-XX-RP-EN-0001-S3-P02-Llan_SSP_PEA
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.	Yes	RWR-JBA-XX-XX-RP-EN-0001-S3-P02-Llan_SSP_PEA

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?	The scheme has the potential to cause deterioration of several elements if further mitigation measures are not undertaken during the works as outlined above.
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?	By adopting the extra industry standard mitigation measures outlined above in the avoidance measures section, the scheme will not compromise the ability of the water bodies assessed to achieve their WFD status objectives. If these measures are not implemented, then there is potential for the works to impact upon WFD objectives.

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? <i>If none, put 'N/A'</i>	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 - The Cyngor Gwynedd planning portal was searched on the 9th June 2026 for any planning applications for projects which could act in combination with the proposed works to cause likely significant effects to the relevant waterbodies. No plans were identified that could potentially act in-combination with the proposed works. All of the planning applications within 2km of the site are all small-scale works that have no direct connection to the site. There are no National Infrastructure Planning projects in the vicinity of the proposed works. No other projects or plans have been identified which could cause in combination effects with the proposed works.			
Scoping decision of the project cumulatively or 'in combination'		Potential cumulative/in combination impacts conclusion	

Are there any activities or projects which may act in combination and/or cumulative? <i>If none, put 'N/A'</i>	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'
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? <i>(choose one of the following options and delete the other)</i>	There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives and therefore a detailed compliance assessment might be required if no mitigation measures that can be included at Q2.5. If this section is selected, complete Q2.5.

Q2.5 Mitigation measures

Are there any legally binding mitigation measures which could be included within the project at this point that will ensure the potential effects are avoided?

Describe any conditions, restrictions or other measures, if any, applicable to the activity/project, which could remove the risk of deterioration or prevent of achieving water body objectives.

Include details of how such measures would be applied, and who would be responsible for applying them.

If required, further details can be provided in separate clearly referenced documents.

There is a risk the proposal may cause deterioration or prevent the water body from meeting its objectives 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 into 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.

A HRA has been completed [RWR-JBA-00-00-RP-EN-0003-S3-P01-Habitat_Regulations_Screening_and_Scoping_Assessment](#)

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.

Standard practise biosecurity measures will be followed, and a biosecurity plan created as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Due to the known presence of Himalayan balsam on site an INNS management plan will put in place across the site.

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'
Mawddach (Transitional Waterbody) GB511006407100	Morphological conditions – Connection to ground water bodies	Temporary Works The temporary works have the potential to impact upon the connection to ground water bodies through the potential release of fine sediments during the demolition works, removal and reinstatement of bed material and the landscaping of the bank face post works. Released fine sediment can settle on the riverbed potentially filling the pores between channel bed substrate reducing the exchange of water into the hyporheic zone. Assessment supported by <i>JBA Consulting. (2026). Llanelltyd Sheet Piling Geomorphological Assessment. JBA Consulting.</i>	Industry standard pollution prevention measures for the management of silt run off and dispersion from the proposed works. This includes measures such as bubble curtains and/or coffer dams. A silt management plan is also required to be undertaken and followed throughout the duration of the works.	NO (As long as the mitigation measures are followed)	YES
Mawddach (Transitional Waterbody) GB511006407100	Morphological conditions - Structure and substrate of the riverbed	Temporary Works The temporary works have the potential to impact upon the structure and substrate of the river bed during the construction phase. This is due to the potential increase in fine sediment loads, with excavation of the channel	Industry standard pollution prevention measures for the management of silt run off and dispersion from the proposed works.	NO (As long as the mitigation measures are followed)	YES

		bed around the sheet piling. Replacement of the sediment post workings could also lead to a change in sediment size distribution. Assessment supported by <i>JBA Consulting. (2026). Llanelltyd Sheet Piling Geomorphological Assessment. JBA Consulting.</i>	This includes measures such as bubble curtains and/or coffer dams. A silt management plan is also required to be undertaken and followed throughout the duration of the works.		
Mawddach (Transitional Waterbody) GB511006407100	Fish fauna	Temporary works The proposed works have the potential to adversely impact fish populations in the Mawddach (Transitional) water body through the following pathways: - Sediment Disturbance and Habitat Loss: Activities such as sheet pile extraction will temporarily suspend riverbed sediment. This may cause localised, short-term habitat loss and the displacement of fish from potential feeding, spawning or sheltering areas. - Noise and Disturbance: Noise, vibration, and visual disturbance from machinery and sheet pile extraction may alter natural fish behaviour. This may include disruption to localised spawning and feeding grounds, which is a key sensitivity if works coincide with the core fish spawning season. - Physical injury or Mortality: Direct physical interaction with heavy machinery, tools, or collapsing substrate	To prevent the deterioration of fish biological quality element status, best practice measures must be implemented throughout the works i.e. a coffer dam or bubble curtain installation to minimise sediment disturbance and dispersion. The reinstatement of the bankside post-works will also reduce the impacts of habitat disturbance within the working area. Works will be	NO (As long as the mitigation measures are followed)	YES

		during sheet pile extraction poses a risk of injury or mortality to fish, particularly at the less mobile life stages (e.g. eggs and larvae) that may be present within or near the proposed site. - Pollution Events: The risk of accidental fuel, oil, or chemical leaks from plant machinery can degrade water quality and harm local fish populations.	completed outside of the main migratory and spawning period, (mid-October to mid May, this can vary river to river and NRW should be consulted to confirm the exact dates for this site) to reduce disturbance impacts to fish species utilising the River Mawddach. A proportion of open channel should be maintained at all times during the construction works in order to maintain fish passage. Industry-standard pollution measures must also be applied to minimise the risk of pollution events throughout the works.		
Mawddach (Transitional Waterbody) GB511006407100	Macrophytes and Macroalgae	Temporary Works The proposed works have the potential to adversely impact macrophytes and macroalgae in the Mawddach	To prevent the deterioration of macrophyte and macroalgae biological quality	NO (As long as the mitigation measures are followed)	YES

		(Transitional) water body through the following pathways: - Sediment Disturbance: The disturbance of localised sediment beds, even temporarily, may cause smothering by reducing light penetration and inhibit photosynthetic activity. This disturbance also risks the mobilisation of contaminants or nutrients within the bed that may adversely impact the health of macrophytes and macroalgae. - Pollution Events: The presence of plant machinery within the catchment area increases the short-term risk of accidental pollution events, such as fuel leaks, which could negatively impact local water quality and macrophyte and macroalgae health.	element status, best practice measures must be implemented throughout the works i.e. a coffer dam or bubble curtain installation to minimise sediment disturbance and dispersion. Industry-standard pollution measures must also be applied to minimise the risk of accidental pollution events (i.e. fuel leaks) throughout the works.		
--	--	--	--	--	--

* 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 (choose one of the following and delete the rest)

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

James Nixon BSc MSc, Bridie Chapman BSc, Hannah Webster BSc MSc

Job title	Geomorphologist, Assistant Ecologist, Senior Ecologist
Date	26/06/2026
Approved by	Approved by – Sherron Kitchen”, another row to include your job title and another row to include the approved by date as well
Job Title	Specialist-Projects and Programme Delivery
Approved date	29/06/2026

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
Conclusion	05 August 2026 – Rowland Sharp, Senior Marine Advisor, Marine Area Advice and Management Team	NRW (A) agree with the conclusion of this WFD, see below written correspondence.

*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