Neath Port Authority

Welsh National Marine Plan Signposting Document

Port of Neath Entrance Channel Maintenance Dredging



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Acronyms

Term	Definition
INNS	Invasive Non-native Species
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NPA	Neath Port Authority
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WNMP	Welsh National Marine Plan

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Neath Port Authority (NPA) is preparing a Band 2 marine licence application for maintenance dredging within the entrance channel to the River Neath, which provides navigable access to the Port of Neath. The Proposed Works are required to remove accumulated sediment and restore and maintain safe navigable access over the proposed five-year licence period.

1.1.2 The Proposed Works comprise maintenance dredging within two defined areas, the Inner Dredge Area and the Outer Dredge Area, and the transport and placement of dredged material within the Outer Low Water Disposal Area.

1.1.3 NPA is seeking a five-year marine licence authorising the dredging and placement of up to a combined maximum of 90,000 m³ during the first 12-month period following commencement of the licence (Licence Year 1). During each of the four subsequent 12-month periods (Licence Years 2-5), up to a combined maximum of 25,000 m³ may be dredged and placed where required. The actual volume removed during each campaign will depend on navigational need and the extent of sediment accumulation.

1.1.4 The works are to be undertaken during low-water periods using land-based excavators and dump trucks. Dredged material would be transported to the Outer Low Water Disposal Area identified within the marine licence application. The final dredging extents, Outer Low Water Disposal Area, quantities and working methodology are described in the application plans and accompanying Maintenance Dredging Method Statement.

1.1.5 The proposed works are referred to throughout this document as the “Proposed Works”.

1.2 Purpose of This Document

1.2.1 This Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) Signposting Document has been prepared by APEM on behalf of NPA in support of the revised marine licence application.

1.2.2 The WNMP (Welsh Government, 2019) provides the policy framework for the sustainable development and use of the Welsh marine area. The purpose of this document is to demonstrate how the Proposed Works have considered, and are consistent with, the relevant objectives and policies of the WNMP.

1.3 Assessment Approach

1.3.1 The assessment has been completed using Natural Resources Wales’ (NRW’s) Welsh National Marine Plan Signposting Document template.

1.3.2 Each WNMP policy has been reviewed to determine its relevance to the Proposed Works. Where a policy is considered relevant, the assessment identifies how the project complies with or supports the policy, together with any relevant design measures, mitigation and supporting evidence. Where a policy is not considered applicable, a proportionate justification has been provided.

1.3.3 The completed WNMP signposting assessment is provided in Table 2.1.

2 Summary

2.1.1 The assessment presented in Table 2.1 concludes that the Proposed Works are consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the WNMP, subject to the implementation of the project design measures and mitigation identified within the marine licence application and supporting documents.

2.1.2 No significant conflict with the relevant WNMP policies has been identified.

Table 2.1 Welsh National Marine Plan Policy Signposting Assessment

WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed project comply with the Policy?
GEN_01	Planning policy	There is a presumption in favour of the sustainable development of the plan area in order to contribute to Wales' well-being goals.	Yes	The Proposed Works support the sustainable operation of the Port of Neath by restoring and maintaining safe navigational access through the entrance channel. The Proposed Works support the port's continued economic function while using a defined maintenance dredging footprint and proportionate environmental controls. Any potential environmental effects are considered through the Maintenance Dredging Method Statement, Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment, Marine Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan, and sediment analysis.
GEN_02	Planning policy	Relevant public authorities should take a proportionate, risk-based approach to application of relevant marine planning policies in decision making.	Yes	The application has been prepared to enable Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to undertake a proportionate, risk-based review. It is supported by a Maintenance Dredging Method Statement, Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment, Marine Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan, project plans, and sediment sampling and laboratory analysis undertaken in accordance with the NRW sample plan.
ECON_01	Sustainable economic growth	Proposals for economically sustainable activities are encouraged, particularly where they contribute to: • the sustainable management of natural resources thereby supporting ecosystem resilience; • a more resilient economy; • employment opportunities particularly for coastal communities; • protecting and creating employment at all skill levels; • maintaining communities with a high-density of Welsh speakers; and/or • tackling poverty by supporting deprived coastal communities.	Yes	The Proposed Works will support the continued safe and efficient operation of the Port of Neath by maintaining navigable access for commercial vessels. This will safeguard existing port activity and the associated economic benefits for businesses that use or rely on the port. The works are maintenance in nature, temporary and confined to the defined dredging and disposal areas. They will therefore support established economic activity without introducing new permanent infrastructure or materially constraining other marine users.
ECON_02	Coexistence	Proposals should demonstrate how they have considered opportunities for coexistence with other compatible sectors in order to optimise the value and use of the marine area and marine natural resources.	Yes	The Proposed Works are located within an existing port and navigation channel and have been designed to coexist with commercial navigation, recreational activity and other marine users. Low-water working, coordination by the Harbour Master and communication of temporary restrictions will minimise disruption. Maintaining safe navigational access will support the continued shared use and value of the channel.
SOC_01	Access to the marine environment	Proposals that maintain or enhance access to the marine environment are encouraged.	Yes	The Proposed Works will maintain access to the marine environment by restoring safe navigational access through the entrance channel. Any temporary restrictions around active working areas will be limited to those required for safety and communicated by the Harbour Master. No permanent restriction on marine access is proposed.

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SOC_02	Well-being of coastal communities	Proposals that contribute to the well-being of coastal communities are encouraged.	Yes	The continued safe operation of the Port of Neath contributes to the well-being and resilience of the surrounding coastal community by supporting local employment, businesses and supply chains. Maintaining navigable access will safeguard these benefits, while temporary effects during the works will be minimised through the controls set out in the Maintenance Dredging Method Statement.
SOC_03	Marine pollution incidents	Proposals should demonstrate how they minimise their risk of causing or contributing to marine pollution incidents.	Yes	The risk of marine pollution will be minimised through the controls set out in the Maintenance Dredging Method Statement. No uncontrolled discharge of fuel, oil, waste or contaminated water will be permitted.
SOC_04	Welsh language and culture	Proposals that contribute to the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language and culture are encouraged.	Yes	The Proposed Works will not adversely affect the use of the Welsh language or Welsh cultural activities. Maintaining the operation of the port will support the wider resilience of the local community, including its Welsh-speaking members. Project communications will follow applicable Welsh-language requirements.
SOC_05	Historic assets	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on historic assets and their settings have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on historic assets and their settings; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance historic assets are encouraged.	Yes	The Proposed Works are limited to maintenance dredging within a previously disturbed navigation channel and are not expected to affect known historic assets or their settings.
SOC_06	Designated landscapes	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on the purposes and special qualities for which National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been designated have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on designated landscapes; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance designated landscapes are encouraged.	No	The Proposed Works are not located within a National Park or National Landscape. The works will be temporary, undertaken within an established port environment and will not introduce permanent above-ground infrastructure. No adverse effects on the purposes or special qualities of a designated landscape are anticipated.

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SOC_07	Seascapes	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on seascapes have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on seascapes; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance seascapes are encouraged.	Yes	Potential seascape effects will be limited to the temporary presence of excavators, dump trucks and associated activity within an established port environment. The Proposed Works will not introduce permanent structures, and all plant and equipment will be removed following completion. No significant or lasting effects on seascape character are anticipated.
SOC_08	Resilience to coastal change and flooding	Proposals should demonstrate how they are resilient to coastal change and flooding over their lifetime.	Yes	The Proposed Works are temporary and have been designed for an intertidal environment. Works will be undertaken within defined low-water windows, with tidal and weather monitoring, safe-access arrangements and procedures for removing plant if conditions deteriorate. No permanent infrastructure vulnerable to coastal change or flooding is proposed.
SOC_09	Effects on coastal change and flooding	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid significant adverse impacts upon coastal processes; and minimise the risk of coastal change and flooding; Proposals that align with the relevant Shoreline Management Plan(s) and its policies are encouraged.	Yes	The Proposed Works comprise maintenance dredging and the local placement of dredged material within defined areas. They will not introduce permanent structures or works to the shoreline. The works are intended to maintain the existing navigable channel rather than create a new channel or permanently change the established coastal form. Potential effects on the hydromorphology and sediment regime of the relevant water bodies have been considered in the WFD Assessment. On this basis, the Proposed Works are not expected to increase coastal flood or erosion risk or prejudice the implementation of relevant Shoreline Management Plan policies.
SOC_10	Minimising climate change	Proposals should demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a) avoid the emission of greenhouse gases; and/or b) minimise them where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate them where they cannot be minimised. Where significant emission of greenhouse gases cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals for regulated activities must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	Yes	The use of excavators, dump trucks and supporting vehicles is necessary to undertake the Proposed Works, and associated greenhouse-gas emissions cannot therefore be completely avoided. Emissions will be minimised through the efficient sequencing of activities within the available tidal working windows, using only the plant required for each activity, avoiding unnecessary vehicle movements and idling, and maintaining plant in accordance with manufacturers' requirements. Placement of suitable dredged material within the adjacent Outer Low Water Disposal Area will minimise haul distances and avoid the emissions associated with transporting material to a more distant disposal facility. The works are temporary and will not introduce any permanent operational energy demand or ongoing greenhouse-gas emissions.
SOC_11	Resilience to climate change	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered the impacts of climate change and have incorporated appropriate adaptation measures, taking into account Climate Change Risk Assessments for Wales. Proposals that contribute to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation are encouraged.	Yes	The Proposed Works will maintain navigational access in an area affected by ongoing sediment accumulation. The works are temporary, do not introduce permanent infrastructure exposed to future climate risks and will be undertaken using working arrangements responsive to tidal, weather and flood conditions.

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ENV_01	Resilient marine ecosystems	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on marine ecosystems have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Proposals that contribute to the protection, restoration and/or enhancement of marine ecosystems are encouraged.	Yes	Potential effects from sediment removal and placement and associated vehicle movements have been considered through the WFD Assessment, sediment sampling and laboratory analysis undertaken in accordance with SP2609 and Marine INNS Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan. The works will be confined to defined dredging, access and Outer Low Water Disposal Area, with appropriate controls implemented to avoid or minimise adverse effects on marine ecosystems.
ENV_02	Marine Protected Areas	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid adverse impacts on individual Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the coherence of the network as a whole; have regard to the measures to manage MPAs; and avoid adverse impacts on designated sites that are not part of the MPA network.	Yes	The Site and Work Area does not overlap any MPA. The Proposed Works will therefore not result in the direct loss or disturbance of habitat within an MPA. Potential indirect effects associated with sediment disturbance and deposition, water quality, underwater noise and the movement and placement of dredged material have been considered through the WFD Assessment and supporting application documents. The works are temporary, confined to the defined maintenance-dredging and disposal areas, and will be undertaken in accordance with the controls set out in the Method Statement and Marine INNS Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan. On this basis, no adverse effects on an individual MPA or the coherence of the MPA network are anticipated.
ENV_03	Invasive non-native species	Proposals should demonstrate how they avoid or minimise the risk of introducing and spreading invasive non-native species. Where appropriate, proposals should include biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading of invasive non-native species.	Yes	A project-specific Marine INNS Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan has been prepared and accompanies the application. It identifies the potential pathways associated with the use of excavators, dump trucks and supporting equipment within the intertidal environment and sets out proportionate inspection, cleaning and biosecurity measures that will be implemented during the works.
ENV_04	Marine litter	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid the deliberate introduction of litter into the marine plan area; and minimise the risk of accidental release of litter.	Yes	No deliberate introduction of litter is proposed. Waste and loose materials will be secured, managed and removed from the working areas, and no mobile plant, waste or unsecured equipment will be left within the intertidal area between working windows. The Method Statement includes waste-management controls to minimise the risk of accidental releases.
ENV_05	Underwater noise	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered man-made noise impacts on the marine environment and, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	Yes	Potential underwater-noise effects have been considered. The works will be temporary and undertaken at low water using land-based excavators and dump trucks. No piling, blasting or dredging vessel is proposed. Noise will therefore be localised and short term, and maintained plant and controlled working periods will minimise disturbance.

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ENV_06	Air and water quality	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered their potential air and water quality impacts and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	Yes	Air emissions from the plant will be temporary and localised. Potential water-quality effects associated with sediment disturbance and accidental spills have been considered through the WFD Assessment, sediment sampling and laboratory analysis undertaken in accordance with SP2609 and Method Statement. Controls include maintained plant, refuelling away from the intertidal area, spill-response measures and avoiding unnecessary sediment disturbance.
ENV_07	Fish species and habitats	Proposals potentially affecting important feeding, breeding (including spawning & nursery) and migration areas or habitats for key fish and shellfish species of commercial or ecological importance should demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on those areas; and/or b) minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	Yes	Potential effects on fish and shellfish species and habitats, including temporary disturbance and suspended sediment, have been considered through the WFD Assessment and supporting information. The works comprise maintenance of the existing channel and will be undertaken within defined areas during controlled low-water working periods. No significant adverse effects on important fish habitats or migration are anticipated.
GOV_01	Cumulative effects	Proposals should demonstrate that they have assessed potential cumulative effects and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse effects; and/or b) minimise effects where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate effects where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Proposals that contribute to positive cumulative effects are encouraged.	Yes	Potential cumulative effects with other existing and reasonably foreseeable activities have been considered through the supporting assessments. The Proposed Works are temporary, confined to the existing navigation channel and defined Outer Low Water Disposal Area, and do not involve capital deepening or permanent infrastructure. No significant adverse cumulative effects have been identified.
GOV_02	Cross-border and plan compatibility	Relevant public authorities, in making their decisions, should have regard to: any applicable policy in a relevant marine plan; any applicable policy in relevant terrestrial development plans or related documents; the Natural Resources Policy; any relevant local well-being plan(s) (including the local well-being assessment); and evidence in any relevant Area Statement(s) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).	Yes	The Proposed Works are wholly within Wales and no cross-border effects on neighbouring marine plan areas are anticipated.
SCI_01	Using sound science responsibly	Relevant public authorities should make decisions using sound evidence and a risk-based, proportionate approach. Where appropriate they should apply the precautionary principle and consider opportunities to apply adaptive management.	Yes	The application is supported by a Method Statement, WFD Assessment, sediment sampling and laboratory analysis undertaken in accordance with SP2609, WNMP Signposting Document and Marine INNS Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan. These documents use the available project information and current evidence to support a proportionate, risk-based assessment by NRW.

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AGG_01a	Aggregates (supporting)	Proposals for new aggregate extraction will be supported, within any tonnage limits, where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A
AGG_01b	Aggregates (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities: for the sustainable use of wider marine aggregate natural resources; to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for aggregates in order to support the sustainable development of the aggregate sector through marine planning.	No	N/A
AQU_01a	Aquaculture (supporting)	Proposals for new aquaculture developments will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A
AQU_01b	Aquaculture (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of aquaculture resources including the identification of: natural resources that provide aquaculture potential opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for aquaculture in order to support the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector through marine planning.	No	N/A
D&D_01	Dredging and disposal (supporting)	Proposals that maintain navigable channels and long term access to open at-sea disposal sites for appropriate material will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	Yes	The Proposed Works comprise maintenance dredging of the existing River Neath entrance channel within the defined Inner and Outer Dredge Areas, thereby maintaining safe and effective navigable access to the Port of Neath. Material demonstrated to be suitable through sediment sampling and laboratory analysis undertaken in accordance with SP2609 will be transported to and placed within the defined Outer Low Water Disposal Area. The proposal therefore supports continued navigation and port operations while retaining suitable dredged material locally within the existing coastal sedimentary environment. The works will be undertaken in accordance with the Method Statement and the relevant general and safeguarding policies of the WNMP.

WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed project comply with the Policy?
ELC_01a	Low carbon energy (supporting) wind	Proposals for offshore wind energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations. Proposals for wind >350MW will be considered by UK Government in accordance with relevant national policy. In determining an NSIP for a wind proposal, the decision maker will have regard to this plan. Any determination in relation to energy developments of any scale will be taken in accordance with this plan alongside any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A
ELC_01b	Low carbon energy (supporting) wind	In order to understand future opportunities for offshore wind development, including floating technologies, this plan supports strategic planning for the sector. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wind energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for offshore wind energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	No	N/A
ELC_02a	Low carbon energy (supporting) wave	Proposals for wave energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A

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ELC_02b	Low carbon energy (supporting) wave	In order to understand future opportunities for wave energy development, relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wave energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for wave energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	No	N/A
ELC_03a	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream	Proposals for tidal stream energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A
ELC_03b	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream	In order to understand future opportunities for tidal stream energy development, relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of tidal stream energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for tidal stream energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	No	N/A

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ELC_04	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal range	In order to understand future opportunities for tidal range development, strategic planning for the sector is encouraged. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to: • collect evidence to support understanding of environmental constraints and opportunities for the sustainable use of the tidal range resource; • support understanding of the optimal siting of tidal lagoon developments across Wales as part of a wider, UK perspective; and • identify opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for tidal lagoon safeguarding purposes. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	No	N/A
O&G_01a	Oil and gas (supporting)	Proposals that maximise the economic recovery of oil and gas sustainably will be supported where they comply with the objectives of this plan, and fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within the statutory processes of awarding production licences and subsequent activity-specific approvals. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A
O&G_01b	Oil and gas (supporting)	Welsh Government policy is to avoid the continued extraction of fossil fuels in intertidal areas and estuaries and coastal inlet waters that fall within the Welsh onshore licence area. Applications for new petroleum licenses in these areas should not be supported, unless required for mine safety or scientific purposes. Proposals for the development and extraction of oil and gas in these areas with land based elements must provide robust and credible evidence to demonstrate how they conform to the Planning Policy Wales Energy Hierarchy for Planning, including how they make a necessary contribution towards decarbonising the energy system.	No	N/A
O&G_02	Oil and gas (supporting)	Proposals that support the long-term development of carbon capture and storage technology will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A

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FIS_01a	Fisheries (supporting)	Proposals that support and enhance sustainable fishing activities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A
FIS_01b	Fisheries (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities to develop a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of opportunities for the sustainable development of fisheries in order to support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector through marine planning.	No	N/A
P&S_01a	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Proposals for ports, harbours and shipping activities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	Yes	The Proposed Works will maintain navigable access to the Port of Neath and support the continued safe and effective operation of existing port and shipping activities. The works have been designed as maintenance dredging and are supported by the relevant environmental assessments and controls.
P&S_01b	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities to support the sustainable development of the ports and shipping sector through marine planning.	Yes	NPA has engaged with NRW through the previous application and the SP2609 sediment-sampling process. The Proposed Works support the sustainable operation and resilience of the Port of Neath by maintaining access for commercial vessels, workboats, port service craft and other port users.
P&S_02	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Proposals that provide for the maintenance, repair, development and diversification of port and harbour facilities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	Yes	The Proposed Works comprise maintenance dredging of the existing River Neath entrance channel to reinstate and maintain navigable access. They will support the continued operation and resilience of the Port of Neath without capital deepening, widening or permanent expansion of the navigation channel.
CAB_01	Subsea cabling (supporting)	Proposals that facilitate the growth of digital communications networks and/or the optimal distribution of electricity will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	N/A
T&R_01a	Tourism and recreation (supporting)	Proposals that demonstrate a positive contribution to tourism and recreation opportunities and policy objectives (for the sector) around the Welsh coast will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	Yes	Maintaining navigable access to the Port of Neath will support continued use of the entrance channel by recreational vessels. The works will be temporary and coordinated by the Harbour Master, with appropriate notifications and controls used to minimise disruption to recreational users during the dredging campaign.

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T&R_01b	Tourism and recreation (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreation around the Welsh coast, including: a) developing a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of current and potential tourism and recreation activities, including eco-tourism and other low impact activities; and b) opportunities to define areas of future opportunity for tourism and recreation; in order to support the sustainable development of the tourism and recreation sector through marine planning.	No	N/A
SAF_01	Safeguarding existing activity	a: Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity covered by a formal application or authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for the proposal to progress under exceptional circumstances. b: Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity not subject to a formal authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Under SAF 01 a and b, compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: a. Avoiding significant adverse impacts on those activities, and/or b. Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or c. Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised.	Yes	The Proposed Works will safeguard the existing operation of the Port of Neath by maintaining navigable access. Potential interactions with commercial and recreational navigation and other established users will be temporary and managed through the Harbour Master, appropriate notifications and controlled low-water working arrangements. No significant adverse effects on existing authorised activities are anticipated.
SAF_02	Safeguarding strategic resources **Strategic Resource Area for Tidal Stream Energy in force January 2025**	Proposals which may have significant adverse impacts upon the prospects of any sector covered by this plan to engage in sustainable future strategic resource use (of resources identified by an SRA) must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that potential resource use. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: a. Avoiding significant adverse impacts on this potential strategic resource use, and/or b. Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or c. Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised.	No	N/A

WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed project comply with the Policy?
DEF_01	Defence (safeguarding)	Proposals that: • potentially affect Ministry of Defence (MOD) Danger Areas, Exercise Areas or strategic defence interests; and/or • potentially interfere with communication, surveillance and navigation facilities necessary for defence and national security; should only be authorised with the agreement of MOD.	No	N/A

3 References

Welsh Government (2019). Welsh National Marine Plan. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan (accessed 1 September 2026)

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