

Water Framework Directive assessment: scoping template for activities in estuarine and coastal waters

Use this template to record the findings of the scoping stage of your Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment for an activity in an estuary or coastal water.

If your activity will:

- take place in or affect more than one water body, complete a template for each water body
- include several different activities or stages as part of a larger project, complete a template for each activity as part of your overall WFD assessment

The [WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters](#) will help you complete the table.

Your activity	Description, notes or more information
Applicant name	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Application reference number (where applicable)	
Name of activity	National Grid Visual Impact Provision (VIP) – Snowdonia Project – Proposed Marine Works (Pylon Removal)
Brief description of activity	National Grid is proposing to mitigate the visual impact of existing 4ZC Overhead Lines (OHL) within Snowdonia National Park near Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd, and replace a section of the route with underground cables beneath the Dwyryd estuary. Two pylons and their foundations located in the marine environment (4ZC030R and 4ZC031) will be dismantled and removed and the foundations of a previous pylon (4ZC030) now located in the Dwyryd Estuary channel, will be removed as much as is safe and practicable to do so. Access to the pylons will involve the placement of temporary tracks, watercourse crossings and working areas.
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	Please refer to the Pylon Removal Method Statement (P2048_BN5005_Rev0_Pylon Method) which contains a list of all the coordinates of the Proposed Marine Works (Pylon Removal) site boundary.
Footprint of activity (ha)	The footprint of the Proposed Marine Works (Pylon Removal) is 3.7 hectares. This footprint includes the access routes, laydown areas, working areas and watercourse crossings.

Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	The current indicative programme for the Proposed Project is that, assuming planning consent, on site works would commence in 2021 and take approximately 5-6 years to complete. First site access will be taken at the western tunnel drive site near Garth, this is currently expected to take place in early 2021 and is subject to gaining all necessary approvals. All tunnel, tunnel head house and sealing end compound construction work is expected to be complete by the end of 2025. OHL removal work (including the Proposed Marine Works) is expected to take place in 2026. The Proposed Marine Works will take place between 01 April and 30 September.
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	The main activities associated with the Proposed Marine Works (Pylon removal) are as follows: NB Excavated volumes are indicative and based on the worst-case assessment depths of excavation as indicated in brackets. For pylon 4ZC030R: - 3,600m² working area - 1,024m² excavation area - Approximately 38m³ of excavated concrete/metal to be removed from site if full removal achieved For pylon 4ZC031: - 3,600m² working area - 1,024m² excavation area - Approximately 110m³ of excavated concrete/metal to be removed from site (for 3.75m depth foundation removal) For foundations 4ZC030: - 1024m² working area (stone platform) - Excavation area unknown but likely to be minimal due to extent of scouring around the foundations

	Approximately 207m ³ of excavated material to be removed from site (for 3.75m depth foundation removal)
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	There will be no release of chemicals.

Water body ¹	Description, notes or more information
WFD water body name	<i>Glaslyn (Transitional WB)</i>
Water body ID	<i>GB511006507300</i>
River basin district name	<i>Western Wales</i>
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	<i>Estuarine (River)</i>
Water body total area (ha)	<i>1566.9 ha (15.669km²)</i>
Overall water body status (2015)	<i>Good</i>
Ecological status	<i>Good</i>
Chemical status	<i>Good</i>
Target water body status and deadline	<i>N/A – currently achieving good status</i>
Hydromorphology status of water body	<i>Good</i>
Heavily modified water body and for what use	<i>N/A - It is not a heavily modified water body</i>
Higher sensitivity habitats present	<i>Yes</i>
Lower sensitivity habitats present	<i>Yes</i>
Phytoplankton status	<i>No</i>
History of harmful algae	<i>No</i>
WFD protected areas within 2km	<i>Pen Llyn a 'r Sarcau SAC</i>

¹ Water body information can be found in the Environment Agency's catchment data explorer and the water body summary table. Magic maps provide additional information on habitats and protected areas. Links to these information sources can be found in the WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters.

Specific risk information

Consider the potential risks of your activity to each of these receptors: hydromorphology, biology (habitats and fish), water quality and protected areas. Also consider invasive non-native species (INNS).

Section 1: Hydromorphology

Consider if hydromorphology is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find out the hydromorphology status of the water body, if it is classed as heavily modified and for what use.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Hydromorphology risk issue(s)
Could impact on the hydromorphology (for example morphology or tidal patterns) of a water body at high status	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No - this has been assessed within the Environmental Appraisal - Chapter 15 Marine Physical Environment and screened out in the Marine HRA (ref P2048_R4881_Rev4), because it was concluded there was no pressure-receptor pathway between the Proposed Marine Works and the hydromorphology of the estuary.
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No – see above
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	N/A (waterbody is not heavily modified)

Record the findings for hydromorphology and go to section 2: biology.

Section 2: Biology

Habitats

Consider if habitats are at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table and Magic maps, or other sources of information if available, to find the location and size of these habitats.

Higher sensitivity habitats ²	Lower sensitivity habitats ³
chalk reef	cobbles, gravel and shingle
clam, cockle and oyster beds	intertidal soft sediments like sand and mud
intertidal seagrass	rocky shore
maerl	subtidal boulder fields
mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel	subtidal rocky reef
polychaete reef	subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud
saltmarsh	
subtidal kelp beds	
subtidal seagrass	

² Higher sensitivity habitats have a low resistance to, and recovery rate, from human pressures.

³ Lower sensitivity habitats have a medium to high resistance to, and recovery rate from, human pressures.

Consider if the footprint ⁴ of your activity is:	Yes	No	Biology habitats risk issue(s)
0.5km ² or larger	Yes, to one or more – requires impact assessment	No to all – impact assessment not required	No – footprint of works is 0.037km ² (3.7ha)
1% or more of the water body's area			No
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat			Yes – the Proposed Marine Works are within 500m of saltmarsh habitat.
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			According to the Magic map application, the footprint of the Proposed Marine Works covers less than 1% of the lower sensitivity habitat "intertidal soft sediments" found within the waterbody.

⁴ Note that a footprint may also be a temperature or sediment plume. For dredging activity, a footprint is 1.5 times the dredge area.

Fish

Consider if fish are at risk from your activity, but only if your activity is in an estuary or could affect fish in or entering an estuary.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Biology fish risk issue(s)
Is in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary, outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it or could affect fish migrating through the estuary	Continue with questions	Go to next section	No – The majority of potential effects on fish were assessed as negligible and scoped out during the scoping stage (Screening and Scoping report, National Grid. Oct 2018) of the environmental appraisal. The potential effects from noise and vibration were assessed as negligible to minor, see Appendix A of the Marine HRA (P2048_R4881_Rev4).
Could 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)	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No – see above
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No – see above

Record the findings for biology habitats and fish and go to section 3: water quality.

Section 3: Water quality

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find information on phytoplankton status and harmful algae.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
Could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No - There will be temporary short-term disturbance to sediments, however this is not expected to be detectable against background levels of disturbance, and therefore there is little potential for water quality impacts. This has been assessed in the environmental appraisal (available online at http://snow-donia.nationalgrid.co.uk/planning-application/) - Chapter 15 Marine Physical Environment.
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity through the use, release or disturbance of chemicals.

If your activity uses or releases chemicals (for example through sediment disturbance or building works) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	N/A
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	N/A

If your activity has a mixing zone (like a discharge pipeline or outfall) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals released are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Requires impact assessment ⁵	Impact assessment not required	N/A

⁵ Carry out your impact assessment using the Environment Agency's surface water pollution risk assessment guidance, part of Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.

Record the findings for water quality go on to section 4: WFD protected areas.

Section 4: WFD protected areas

Consider if WFD protected areas are at risk from your activity. These include:

- special areas of conservation (SAC)
- special protection areas (SPA)
- shellfish waters
- bathing waters
- nutrient sensitive areas

Use Magic maps to find information on the location of protected areas in your water body (and adjacent water bodies) within 2km of your activity.

Consider if your activity is:	Yes	No	Protected areas risk issue(s)
Within 2km of any WFD protected area ⁶	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	Yes – proposed development is within the boundary of Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC

⁶ Note that a regulator can extend the 2km boundary if your activity has an especially high environmental risk.

Record the findings for WFD protected areas and go to section 5: invasive non-native species.

Section 5: Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Consider if there is a risk your activity could introduce or spread INNS.

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 other water bodies

Consider if your activity could:	Yes	No	INNS risk issue(s)
Introduce or spread INNS	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No - The use of vessels is not planned for the Proposed Marine Works. As per the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (National Grid. March 2020) available online at http://snowdonia.nationalgrid.co.uk/planning-application/), contractors using plant for the Proposed Marine Works will be required to adhere to industry recommended guidelines (including NRW and Natural England Marine Biosecurity Planning Guidance (2015).

Record the findings for INNS and go to the summary section.

Summary

Summarise the results of scoping here.

Receptor	Potential risk to receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	No	Assessments in the Environmental Appraisal Chapter 15 Marine Physical Environment and in the Marine HRA (see P2048_R4881_Rev4), concluded there is no pressure-receptor pathway between the proposed project and the hydromorphology of the estuary.
Biology: habitats	Yes	Potential effects on saltmarsh habitats (a qualifying feature of the Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC) have been identified and assessed in the Marine HRA (see P2048_R4881_Rev4). With mitigation measures in place no significant effects on the conservation objectives of the Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC are expected.

Biology: fish	No	Potential effects from noise and vibration were identified and assessed as negligible to minor (see Marine HRA P2048_R4881_Rev4, Appendix A - Underwater Noise Assessment).
Water quality	No	Water quality has been assessed in Chapter 15 Marine Physical Environment. It was concluded there is little potential for water quality impacts.
Protected areas	Yes	Project is within Pen Llyn a 'r Sarnau SAC, has the possibility to effect designated habitats within the SAC.
Invasive non-native species	No	The use of vessels is not planned for the Proposed Marine Works. As per the CEMP, contractors using plant for the Proposed Marine Works will be re-quired to adhere to industry recommended guidelines (including NRW and Natural England Marine Biosecurity Planning Guidance (2015)).

If you haven't identified any receptors at risk during scoping, you don't need to continue to the impact assessment stage and your WFD assessment is complete.

If you've identified one or more receptors at risk during scoping, you should continue to the impact assessment stage.

Include your scoping results in the WFD assessment document you send to your activity's regulator as part of your application for permission to carry out the activity.