

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	The Port of Mostyn Limited	
Application reference number (where applicable)		
Name of activity	Maintenance Dredging	
Brief description of activity	The Port of Mostyn currently has a Marine Licence to Plough and Water Inject Dredge (DML 1663). The Port intends to employ a Cutter Suction Hopper dredger within the Statuary Harbour Area (SHA), and deposit dredged material via floating pipeline into the area at the seaward end of the breakwater.	
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	Harbour	Central point of 53°19.58N - 3°15.63W and a radius of 100m
Footprint of activity (ha)	0.7ha	
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	As required to maintain Harbour approaches and berthing pocket depths.	
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	The current licenced volumes of 99,900 tonnes will not increase. Frequency will be as necessary to maintain Statuary Harbour Area (SHA) channel & berth depths.	
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	N/A	

Water body ¹	Description, notes or more information
WFD water body name	Dee River Basin – data captured from WFD Water Body Summary Table
Water body ID	GB531106708200
River basin district name	Dee Estuary / Aber Dyfrdwy
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	Estuarine
Water body total area (ha)	10927.60
Overall water body status (2015)	Moderate
Ecological status	Moderate
Chemical status	Fail
Target water body status and deadline	Good overall by 2021
Hydromorphology status of water body	Supports Good – Used for Navigation, Port & Harbours.
Heavily modified water body and for what use	Yes – Canalisation of the upper Dee dating back to the 1700s
Higher sensitivity habitats present	Mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel – 36.77ha Polychaete reef – 1.29ha Saltmarsh - 2647.83ha Cockle Beds – Area not recorded in Water Framework Directive
Lower sensitivity habitats present	Cobbles, gravel and shingle – 4.29ha Intertidal soft sediment - 8239.71ha Subtidal rocky reef – 0.86ha Subtidal soft sediments – 679.37ha
Phytoplankton status	Moderated
History of harmful algae	Yes - Seasonal
WFD protected areas within 2km	Dee estuary is designated as Special Protection Areas (SPA), RAMSAR, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) & Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

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		✓	Please see attached ABPmer Evaluation of Sediment Disposal at Appendix 3
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body		✓	
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity		✓	

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		✓	
1% or more of the water body's area		✓	
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat	✓		There are cockle beds in the locality.
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat		✓	

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		✓	
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)		✓	
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish		✓	

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)		✓	
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	✓		WFD Water Body Status has classified phytoplankton as Moderate.
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	✓		WFD Water Body Status indicated a seasonal history of algae.

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	✓		A condition of existing licence to dredge is that we conduct sediment sampling post dredging. The most recent sediment sample results are attached at Appendix 4 It can be noted that the samples analysed provide evidence that those chemicals listed are below the thresholds of CEFAS action level 1. Appendix 5 provides the coordinates of the sample locations, points 2 and 3 of which are in the immediate harbour area.
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above CEFAS Action Level 1		✓	

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		✓	There is a Consent to Discharge (CG0393401) surface water through an interceptor outlet at OS Grid reference SJ1570081300 this is 500m from the deposit location. Please see location plan attached.

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	✓		Within the Dee estuary there are SPA, SAC, SSSI & Wetlands that appear on the Ramsar list. There is a well-established Monitoring Protocol in place to monitor any impacts to protected areas from our dredging and disposal operations.

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		✓	There are no known INNS in the vicinity of the proposed dredging location. We have a robust Bio Security Plan in place to monitor potential INNS.

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	Please refer to ABPmer evaluation at Appendix 3
Biology: habitats	No	
Biology: fish	No	
Water quality	No	Please refer to ABPmer evaluation at Appendix 3
Protected areas	No	
Invasive non-native species	No	Monitored through the Bio Security Plan (Appendix 9).

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.