

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	<i>Milford Haven Port Authority (MHPA)</i>
Application reference number (where applicable)	<i>Marine Licence Application (reference to be advised)</i>
Name of activity	<i>Milford Dock – Flap valve replacement, localised bed protection and dock wall repairs.</i>
Brief description of activity	<i>The existing flap valve located in the dock wall at the northern end of Milford Dock (the section of wall is referred to as the 'Car Park Wall') is to be replaced with a new flap valve and a scour mattress installed in front of the discharge point. Whilst these works are being undertaken, there will also be repairs undertaken to a vertical crack in the dock wall at the same location.</i>
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	<i>Approximate location coordinates are: X = 189931mE, Y = 206068mN / SM 89931 06068 /Latitude 51.713905, Longitude -5.0422787</i>
Footprint of activity (ha)	<i>Less than 0.01ha</i>
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	<i>The works are expected to have a duration of no more than 6 weeks, including mobilisation and demobilisation to/from site. The works may be undertaken at a date between the 17th August 2020 and 31st December 2021.</i>

Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	<i>The works activity is expected to be small scale and undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the existing culvert outfall at the 'Car Park Wall' at the northern end of Milford Dock.</i> <i>During the construction activity, the fluvial water flows in the culvert will be controlled by over pumping from an upstream manhole with temporary hoses laid across the quayside to the existing discharge location. The works to replace the flap valve, install the new scour mattress and make repairs to the quay wall will be contained within a temporary coffer-dam. This enables the work to be carried out in dry conditions and prevents dock bed materials being released into the Dock and any construction materials entering the water body.</i>
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	<i>None anticipated.</i> <i>All refuelling of plant and equipment to be undertaken on land within the site compound away from the water's edge, using suitable plant nappies & drip trays. No re-fuelling to be undertaken in the work site in the dock/cofferdam area. Spill kits to be in positioned at work site in case of an emergency spillage. Only plant utilising Biodiesel and Bio-oil will be used in the marine environment. All static plant to be located away from the dock wall edge above water level, away from surface water drains and provided with drip-trays and where appropriate, spill-kits.</i> <i>All works to be undertaken within Milford Dock will be contained within a temporary cofferdam to prevent risk of release into the Dock. Should a release of chemicals occur in the Dock, the water within Milford Dock is controlled by the lock gates preventing release of water into Milford Haven Waterway.</i> <i>All plant and equipment will be in good condition, operated and maintained in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions. Service records to be available and maintained. Prior to the commencement of each working shift, a daily inspection to be completed and recorded, checking for faults and leaks. In the unlikely event of a spill, releasing fuel / oil into the marine environment, spill kits and booms will be available to contain the spill</i>

	<i>A limited amount of concrete repair mortar will be required to be placed on site during the construction activity. To mitigate the risk of releasing contaminated water/grout fines into the environment, all grout used is to be premixed off site, transported to site, discharged into propriety vessels above MHWS level for onward transport to the activity location, and all works will be undertaken within a temporary cofferdam.</i>
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Water body¹	Description, notes or more information
WFD water body name	<i>Hubberston Pill – headwaters to tidal limit</i>
Water body ID	<i>GB110061031240</i>
River basin district name	<i>Western Wales (10.00)</i>
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	<i>River</i>
Water body total area (ha)	<i>The total area data is not available. The stated water body length = 2.89km</i>
Overall water body status (2015)	<i>Moderate</i>
Ecological status	<i>Moderate</i>
Chemical status	<i>Good</i>
Target water body status and deadline	<i>No data available/found</i>
Hydromorphology status of water body	<i>Supports good</i>
Heavily modified water body and for what use	<i>No</i>
Higher sensitivity habitats present	<i>None indicated</i>
Lower sensitivity habitats present	<i>None indicated</i>
Phytoplankton status	<i>High (MacPhyCombined)</i>
History of harmful algae	<i>No data available/found</i>

WFD protected areas within 2km	WFD Coastal Water Bodies Cycle 2 Unique Waterbody ID: GB641008220000 Waterbody Name: MILFORD HAVEN OUTER Special Area of Conservation -(Marine Components GB) UK Site Code: UK0013116 Site Name: Pembrokeshire Marine Site Status: SAC Sites of Special Scientific interest (Wales) Name: MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY Eastings: 199276; Northings: 209220
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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	<i>No</i>
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>No</i>
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>No</i>

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
1% or more of the water body's area			No
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat			No – the activity site is located at the north end of Milford Dock and no higher sensitivity habitats are indicated to be present within the dock basin. The closest designated habitat is the Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol Special Area of Conservation which is 530m away.

1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			<i>No – the activity is located at the north end of Milford Dock and no lower sensitivity habitats are indicated to be present within the dock basin.</i>
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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	<i>No – the activity is located at the northernmost point of Milford Dock.</i>
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	<i>No – the activity is located at the northern end of Milford Dock. The limited scope, size & location of the activity is not considered to be a risk. All construction activity will take place within a temporary cofferdam and is therefore considered will have no effect on fish.</i> No risk issues anticipated, and no impact assessment is therefore considered necessary.
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No

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	<i>No. No effects to water quality are anticipated during either the construction activity or during the normal operation of the new flap valve. The new flap valve is being installed to replace an existing flap valve and the current frequency & expected volumes of discharges are not anticipated to increase as a result of the activity.</i> <i>During the construction activity there will still be the same volume of discharge from the watercourse and there will be no additional discharges as a result of the construction works.</i>
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 (no date available/found)

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	<i>No, none anticipated. All construction works below MHWS / in the intertidal zone / on foreshore will be undertaken within a temporary cofferdam and no release of chemicals from the construction works is anticipated. Any disturbance of sediment to the harbour bed will be contained within the cofferdam with no release of sediments into the waterbody.</i>
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	<i>No, none anticipated (see above comment)</i>
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	<i>No, none anticipated (see above comment). The outfall point will not change and the flows from the refurbished outfall will not increase and there will be no change to the mixing zone as a result of the activity. In addition to this the dock bed/foreshore area beneath the discharge point will be protected by a new rock mattresses to prevent erosion of harbour bed and reduce the release of sediment. The temporary discharge from over pumping the watercourse will be close to the existing outfall discharge point.</i>

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	<i>Although the construction activity is located within 2km of 2 protected areas (see below), due to the limited scope, size & location of the activity, the risk to these protected areas is considered to be very low. The construction activity will take place within a temporary cofferdam and the water flows from Milford Dock are controlled by the Port Authority using the lock gates at the southern (seaward) end of the Dock. The Applicant is aware of the risk areas and the construction methodology will provide proposed mitigation to the potential impacts of the construction activity.</i> No risk issues anticipated, and no impact assessment is therefore considered necessary. <i>Special Areas of Conservation (Marine Components GB)</i> <i>UK Site Code: UK0013116</i> <i>Site Name: Pembrokeshire Marine</i> <i>Site Status: SAC</i> <i>Sites of Special Scientific interest (Wales)</i> <i>Name: MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY</i> <i>Eastings: 199276; Northings: 209220</i>

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	<i>None. The construction activity will not introduce or spread INNS.</i>

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	None anticipated.
Biology: habitats	No	None anticipated.
Biology: fish	No	None anticipated.
Water quality	No	None anticipated.
Protected areas	<i>Yes (but see adjacent statement)</i>	<i>Although the construction activity is located within 2km of 2 protected areas (see below), due to the limited scope, size & location of the activity, the risk to these protected areas is considered to be very low. The construction activity will take place within a temporary cofferdam and the water flows from Milford Dock are controlled by the Port Authority using the lock gates at the southern (seaward) end of the Dock. The Applicant is aware of the risk areas and the construction methodology will provide proposed mitigation to the potential impacts of the construction activity.</i> No risk issues anticipated, and no impact assessment is therefore considered necessary.
Invasive non-native species	No	None. The activity will not introduce or spread INNS.

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.