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	Aqua Parks Ltd
Application reference number (where applicable)	
Name of activity	Aqua Parks Cardiff
Brief description of activity	Installation of concrete anchors for temporary pontoon and inflatables for water park
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	ST 18500 73499
Footprint of activity (ha)	0.8 ha
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	07/05/2019 – 20/09/2019
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	8,000 m^2 area of inflatables and a temporary pontoon, with 120 anchors on the sea bed covering an area of approximately 110 m^2.
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	Not applicable

Water body[1]	Description, notes or more information
WFD water body name	Severn Lower
Water body ID	GB530905415401
River basin district name	Severn
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	Transitional
Water body total area (ha)	46,592,100
Overall water body status (2015)	Moderate
Ecological status	Moderate
Chemical status	Good
Target water body status and deadline	Good, 2021
Hydromorphology status of water body	Not applicable
Heavily modified water body and for what use	Yes, flood protection
Higher sensitivity habitats present	Mussel beds, Polychaete reef, Saltmarsh, Intertidal seagrass beds
Lower sensitivity habitats present	Gravel & Cobbles, Intertidal Soft Sediment, Subtidal Soft Sediment, Rocky shore, Subtidal Rocky Reef
Phytoplankton status	Good
History of harmful algae	Not monitored
WFD protected areas within 2km	Severn Estuary SAC, SPA, Ramsar, SSSI (all are approximately 350 m away on the other side of the barrage)

[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.
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No.
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No.

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. Site is approximately 0.008 km^2.
1% or more of the water body's area			No.
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat			No. Nearest higher sensitivity habitat is saltmarsh which is approximately 560 m away.
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			No. Site outside of the nearby subtidal soft sediment.

[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. There will not be any effects on fish.
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. There will not be any effects on fish.
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No. There will not be any effects on 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)	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No. The water park will not affect water quality.
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No. Phytoplankton status is good.
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No. Not monitored.

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	No. No chemicals will be released.
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No. Sediments are not expected to be disturbed.

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	No. No chemicals will be released.

[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	The Severn Estuary SAC, SPA, Ramsar, SSSI are approximately 350 m away. However, these protected areas are on the other side of the Cardiff barrage and the proposed water park will not have any impact on the protected areas.

[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. Materials for the water park are new and sourced from terrestrial sources.

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.	
Biology: habitats	No.	
Biology: fish	No.	
Water quality	No.	
Protected areas	Yes.	The Severn Estuary SAC, SPA, Ramsar, SSSI are approximately 350 m away. However, these protected areas are on the other side of the Cardiff barrage and the proposed water park will not have any impact on the protected areas. The water park is a

		temporary project that will not be discharging into the water body. As the project will have a small, temporary footprint and there is a physical separation between the project and the designated sites, it is considered that a full assessment is not required.
Invasive non-native species	No.	

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.