

## Section 7(i) – Assessment of Potential Impacts & Proposed Mitigation

### 1. Overview

The proposed works comprise the formation of a surface water outfall via a **375 mm concrete pipe** and **400 mm tidal flap valve** installed through the existing seawall beneath the John Muir Link Path. Works are minor, localised, and short-duration, with all activities taking place on or immediately adjacent to the existing man-made structure. The construction does not require piling, dredging, excavation below MHWS, or any intrusive works within the marine environment.

Owing to this limited scope, only minimal environmental interaction is anticipated.

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### 2. Potential Environmental Impacts

#### 2.1 Effects on the Marine Environment

##### **Temporary disturbance:**

Works occur during low-tide periods and remain entirely within the footprint of the existing seawall. No deposition of material, sediment release, or disturbance of the intertidal substrate is expected.

##### **Water quality:**

All drilling arisings will be collected and removed from site; no discharge of construction materials to the foreshore will occur. Mitigation is limited to good housekeeping — no specialist containment equipment is required.

##### **Coastal processes:**

Given the small diameter of the outfall and integration into an existing vertical wall, no measurable effect on coastal erosion, sediment transport, or wave processes is anticipated. This is supported by the minimal geometry changes shown on drawings.

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### 3. Sensitive Areas (SAC, SPA, SSSI, MPA, Ramsar)

Based on the general guidance within the Marine Licence application (which lists relevant conservation designations for consideration), there are **no designated marine protected areas directly at the outfall location**. The outfall is installed wholly within the footprint of an existing artificial structure and does not extend into or modify natural coastal habitat.

No predicted impacts on protected species or habitats.

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### 4. Impacts on Human Health & Public Access

The John Muir Link Path runs along the top of the seawall. During construction, a small work area will be cordoned off for safety, but **access along the path will remain available**. Works last 1–2 days, minimising disruption.

Surface water discharge is clean rainwater managed through the approved drainage system. No risk to public health is anticipated.

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## 5. Impacts on Navigation & Legitimate Uses of the Sea

The outfall discharges at the seawall face and **does not project into navigable water**. Dunbar Harbour, the nearest port, is a **trust port** operated by Dunbar Harbour Trust, and **not a statutory harbour authority**.

There are no interactions with vessel movements, moorings, or navigation channels.

The outfall elevation and arrangement shown on the drawings confirm its flush installation with no protrusions.

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## 6. Noise & Vibration

No piling, impact breaking, explosives, or other impulsive noise sources (10 Hz–10 kHz) will be used.

Standard plant (core drill, mini-excavator) generates only low-level construction noise.

**Marine Noise Registry registration is not required.**

This aligns with Section 9 guidance in the Marine Licence form.

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## 7. Proposed Mitigation (Practical, Proportionate & Low-Cost)

To ensure environmental protection without undue burden:

- Works planned during low tide to avoid contact with seawater.
- Collect all core-drill arisings and waste material for removal off-site.
- Keep plant and materials clear of the tidal zone where possible.
- Implement basic silt and spill prevention through good housekeeping.
- Restrict work area with temporary barriers to manage public interface.
- Reinstatement of the seawall and adjacent path areas to pre-works condition.

No need for:

- Marine mammal observers

- Passive acoustic monitoring
- Cofferdams, silt curtains, or marine plant
- Water quality sampling
- Specialist ecological surveys

These would be disproportionate for the scale and nature of the works.

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## **8. Residual Impacts**

Following the above measures, **no significant residual impacts** on the environment, public access, navigation, or coastal processes are predicted.

The proposal is a **low-impact enhancement of existing drainage infrastructure** integrated sensitively into the current seawall fabric.