

Irwell & Mersey Packet Co Ltd (Manchester River Cruises)

River Irwell, South of Albert Bridge

Supporting Statement, WaFD and WFD
Assessments for Pontoon Installation

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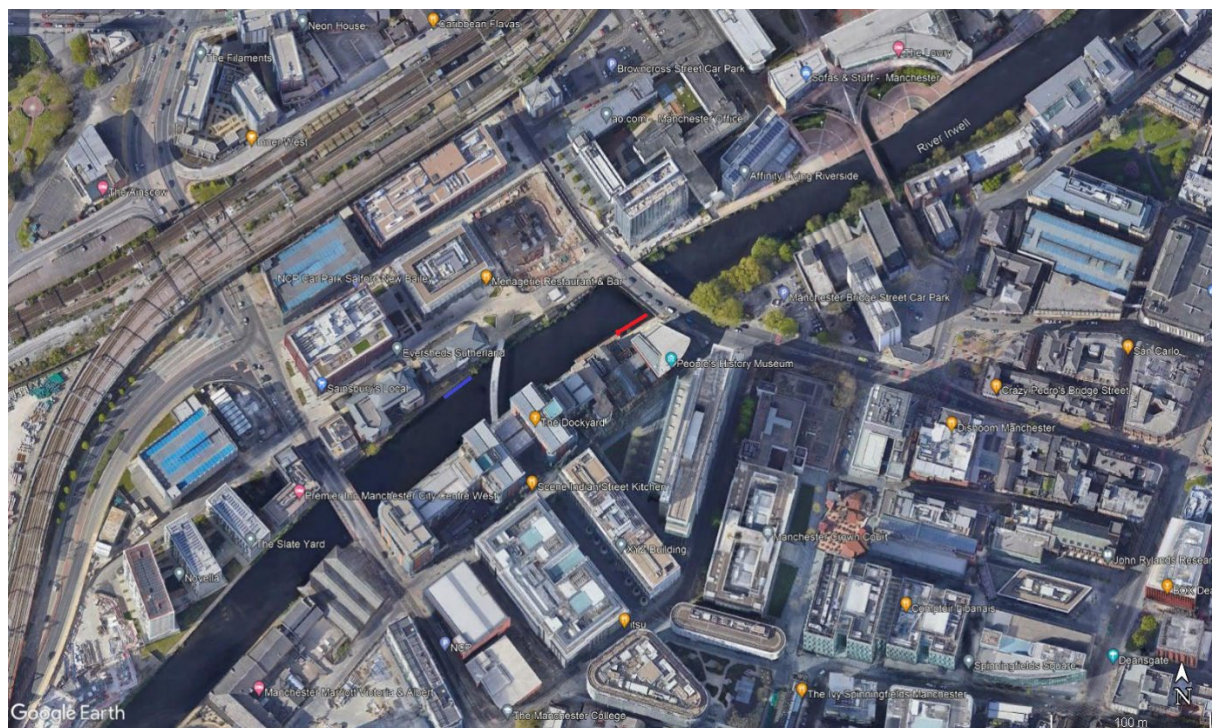
1. Introduction

This document relates to the installation of a pontoon to provide a replacement landing/boarding location for Manchester River Cruises on the River Irwell. Manchester River Cruises operate a range of river tours and cruises on the Manchester Ship Canal. The proposed pontoon is to replace the existing access on the opposite side of the river (Ralli Quay site) which is being redeveloped so future use is not possible.

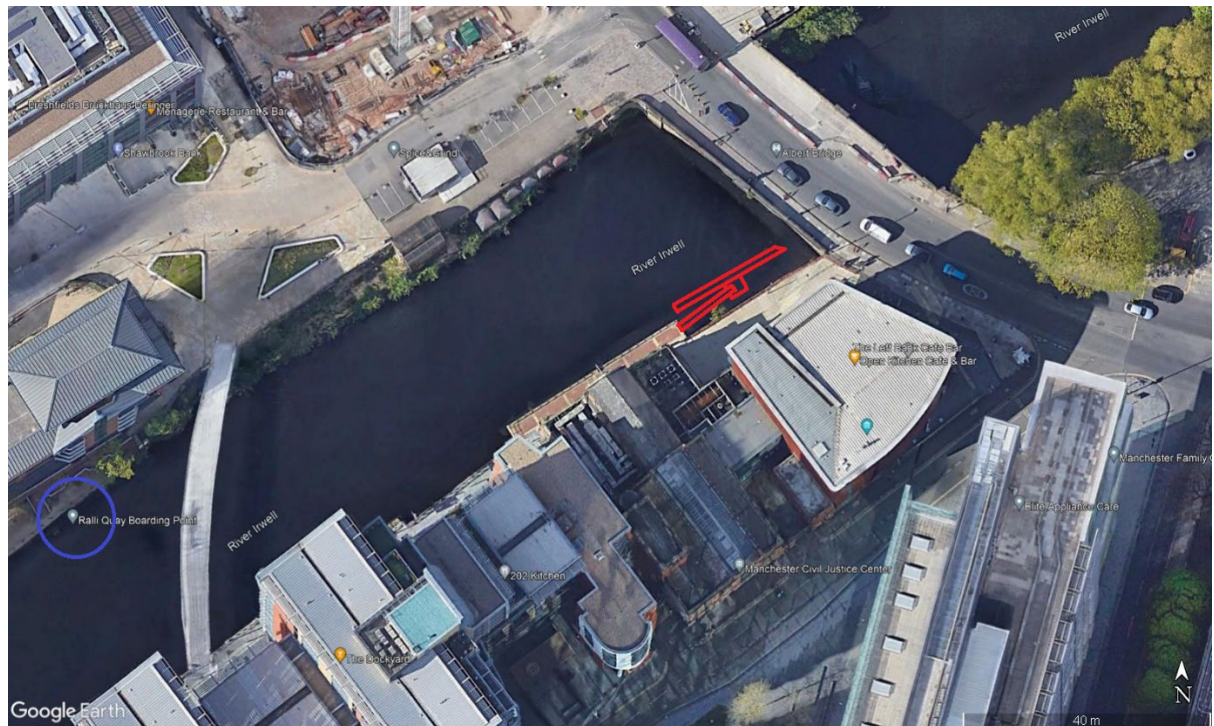
2. Site Location

The site is on the south bank of the River Irwell, just downstream of Albert Bridge.

The image below shows the proposed location in red. The existing Ralli Quay boarding location is further downstream on the opposite side and shown in blue.



The following image shows more detail. The Ralli Quay location is shown by a blue circle.



Drawing 10908/1 shows further detail.

3. Proposed works

The works involve the installation of 25m long, 2.4m wide pontoon, three tubular steel piles and an access brow (gangway).

The upstream end of the pontoon has been angled to deflect floating debris.

The pontoon will be used for passenger access to the existing cruise vessels operated by the applicant.

Drawing 10908/1 shows the proposed works.

4. Pontoons

The pontoons consist of a metal frame with timber decking, supported on fibre reinforced concrete cased floats. This is all a standard arrangement used widely in these applications and marinas.

The piles are tubular steel length 12m, diameter 408mm and pre coated with a marine friendly paint.

5. Method Statement

A spud-legged crane barge will be employed for the works. The barge will arrive with the piles and pontoons on board.

The piles will be driven using vibro-piling methods. The pontoon sections will then be floated into position and the pile guides attached.

The access brow will then be craned into position. The brow is fixed to the existing quay wall using a purpose made connecting bracket (hinge) which will be installed first.

Timing of the works is dependent upon marine plant availability. It is anticipated that the works should be completed within 2 weeks, with daylight and weekday working only.

6. Flood Risk Assessment

The proposed works are a fully water compatible minor development.

The actual works cannot be affected by flooding. Nor will the works themselves increase the risk of flooding.

As this is a water compatible minor development the following should be considered:

- i. *Would the works have an adverse effect on the watercourse, floodplain or its flood defences?* The impact on the river flow is insignificant. There is no impact on the floodplain nor any flood defences.
- ii. *Would the works impede access to flood defence and management facilities?* There are no such facilities in the locality and full access to the area remains.
- iii. *Would the cumulative impact of the development have a significant effect on local flood storage capacity or flood flows?* No, the impact of the works is insignificant.

7. Waste Framework Directive

This section follows the guidance contained in the Guidelines on the interpretation of key provisions of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste.

The waste hierarchy sets out 5 methods of dealing with waste – Prevention, Preparing for re-use, Recycling, Other recovery and Disposal.

7.1 Prevention

Article 3(12) WaFD defines ‘prevention’ as:

‘Measures taken before a substance, material or product has become waste that reduce:

- the quantity of waste, including through the re-use of products or the extension of the life span of products;
- the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health; or
- the content of harmful substances in materials and products.

Whilst prevention is not technically a waste management operation it does trigger whether the material becomes waste.

The works are necessary improvements so there is no prevention option.

The works are all new and there is no waste produced.

The works therefore comply with the WaFD.

8. Protected Areas

The MAGIC Defra site shows no protected areas and there are no WFD areas. The Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer confirms this.

9. Background to Water Framework Directive Assessment

The purpose of a Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment is to determine whether the proposed works will compromise the attainment of a WFD objective or result in the deterioration of the current ecological status of the relevant waterbodies.

The process consists of 3 stages –

Stage 1 – The Screening Stage

This stage is used to identify activities which need to be considered further (i.e. excludes those which do not require further assessment). Activities conducted between 2009-2014 are excluded as they would have been covered by the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) evidence collection process. This typically applies to maintenance activities including dredging.

Stage 2 – The Scoping Stage

This stage identifies the potential risks to the following receptors:

- Hydromorphology
- Biology – habitats
- Biology – fish
- Water quality
- Protected areas

Stage 3 – Impact Assessment

This stage examines whether the activity will have a significant non-temporary effect on each receptor.

10. WFD Assessment

The assessment uses the online EA tables which are reproduced in the following pages.

The Catchment Data Explorer provides data updated 01:02:22.

10.1 Screening & Scoping Stage - WFD Tables for activities in estuarine and coastal waters

Works take place in or affect more than one water body, complete a template for each water body – *single water body*

Works 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 – *single activity*

Activity	Description, notes or more information
Applicant name	<i>Irwell & Mersey Packet Co Ltd</i>
Application reference number (where applicable)	<i>n/a</i>
Name of activity	<i>Pontoon installation with access brow and three piles</i>
Brief description of activity	<i>Pontoon installation with access brow and three piles for replacement access facilities</i>
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	<i>383294,398350</i>
Footprint of activity (ha)	<i>0.008 ha</i>
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	<i>Dependent upon Marine Licence and plant availability.</i>
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	<i>Anticipated to take 2 weeks.</i>
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	<i>No</i>

Water body ¹	Description, notes or more information
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WFD water body name	<i>Irwell / Manchester Ship Canal (Irk to confluence with Upper Mersey)</i>
Water body ID	<i>GB112069061452</i>
River basin district name	<i>North West</i>
Water body type	<i>River</i>
Water body total area (ha)	<i>6193.892</i>
Ecological status (2019)	<i>Moderate</i>
Chemical status (2019)	<i>Fail</i>
Target water body status and deadline	<i>Ecological moderate by 2015, Chemical good by 2015</i>
Hydromorphology status of water body (2015)	<i>Supports good</i>
Heavily modified water body	<i>Yes</i>
Higher sensitivity habitats present	<i>No</i>
Lower sensitivity habitats present	<i>No</i>
WFD protected areas within 2km	<i>No</i>

Specific risk to receptors -

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>Assumed Yes</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
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			No

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
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
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	No.
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	No

It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No
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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

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	No

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

Summary

Receptor	Potential risk to receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	Yes	HMWB for same use
Biology: habitats	No	
Biology: fish	No	
Water quality	No	
Protected areas	No	
Invasive non-native species	No	

11. WFD Impact Assessment & Mitigation

The assessment has identified potential risks to the following:

Hydromorphology –

The works are a necessary replacement for an existing operation. The structure is floating and can have no negative impact.

Summary

By following EA guidance, it is concluded that the proposal will not have a negative impact on the water body.