

Tierney, Matthew

From: Dr Julian Whitewright <julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 July 2023 15:57
To: Tierney, Matthew
Subject: RE: Pre Engagement for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Marine Licence Application - Investigations for Aberystwyth Coastal Defences

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
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Dear Matthew,

Thanks for your email to our enquiries team regarding the initial engagement for Band 1 activity at Aberystwyth. I understand from your email that this is related to bore-hole, test pit and geophysical survey work on Aberystwyth North and South beach.

In general, such work should not have any undue impact on historic assets located on either beach due to the discreet nature of the sampling. Although, the map included in your email only covers historic assets afforded statutory protection administered by Cadw. It doesn't include the many examples of undesignated historic assets located below MHWS, the latter are all contained in the National Monuments Record of Wales, available here <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/>

In addition, a large number of entries relate to shipwrecks that are only known to have been lost in a general area, of which there are several off both the North and South beach. E.g. <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/515206/> in the unlikely event that bore-holes/test pits etc encounters any such archaeological material we would appreciate being informed.

There is also potential for prehistoric submerged forests to exist on both beaches, the closest recorded example is just to the south of Aberystwyth <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/421874> but you are probably also aware of notable examples to the north, at Borth. Geotechnical work always has potential to shed light on the existence of previously unknown examples, and as such we would appreciate it if any subsequent geological reports could be shared in the event of peat or other organic deposits being recorded. Looking forwards to any potential coastal defence scheme, it is likely that these reports will be useful for demonstrating that any scheme will not adversely impact on a currently unknown submerged forest.

Hopefully the above all makes sense. But if there are any queries, please let me know and I am more than happy to talk through things directly.

Yours

Julian



Comisiwn Brenhinol
Henebion Cymru
Royal Commission on the Ancient
and Historical Monuments of Wales

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Yn unol â Rheoliadau Safonau'r Gymraeg (Rhif 2) 2016, mae gennych hawl i gyfathrebu a gohebu â Chomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru yn eich dewis iaith. Er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni'r hawl, rhoch wybod i ni a ydych yn dymuno derbyn gohebiaeth a/neu alwadau ffôn oddi wrthym yn y Gymraeg. Bydd yr wybodaeth hon yn cael ei chofnodi gennym ni, a byddwn yn defnyddio'r iaith o'ch dewis ym mhob cyfathrebu yn y dyfodol. Diolch.

Under the Welsh Language Standards (No. 2) Regulations 2016, you have the right to communicate and correspond with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in your preferred language. To ensure we uphold this right, please let us know whether you wish to receive correspondence and/or telephone calls from us in Welsh. This information will be recorded by us, and we will use your preferred language in all future communication. Thank you.

From: NMR Enquiries <nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 4:20 PM

To: Dr Julian Whitewright <julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Pre Engagement for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Marine Licence Application - Investigations for Aberystwyth Coastal Defences



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us, and we will use your preferred language in all future communication. Thank you.

From: Tierney, Matthew <Matthew.Tierney@atkinsglobal.com>

Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 4:16 PM

To: NMR Enquiries <nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk>

Subject: Pre Engagement for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Marine Licence Application - Investigations for Aberystwyth Coastal Defences

Dear Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

We are consulting with you on behalf of Ceredigion County Council regarding the feasibility and investigations of coastal defences at Aberystwyth. Please see further information below.

Why we are notifying you

Ceredigion County Council are intending to apply to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for a Marine Licence, for carrying out potential licensable activities under section 66 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. As part of the application, we are obliged to consult with you in advance of making an application, as per the extract from NRW website below.

Pre-engagement with other organisations

Local Archaeological Trust and/or Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) - For a Band 1 application for boreholes, grab samples or beach management (removal activities), approval from the Local Archaeological Trust (onshore) and/or Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) (off shore) will be required.

If advice suggests archaeological features may be adversely affected, you can either resolve the issue with the above organisations prior to submission of a Band 1 application or submit a Band 2 application.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency at navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk and **Trinity House** at navigation@trinityhouse.co.uk – Contact the MCA and Trinity House to confirm if your activity is likely to have an impact on the safety of others at sea. You MUST have confirmation from BOTH bodies that your proposed works will not pose a risk to others prior to application.

Please include the following information in your correspondence with the MCA:

- Location of the works, preferably on a nautical chart graphic, or a satellite/map image if available.
- Whether the works are within a Statutory Harbour Authority jurisdiction; applicants should check with the local harbour/marina if there is one. If yes, have they been contacted?
- The duration of the works, and if these will be conducted at night when visibility is low.
- A brief description of the activities, any scaffolding or heavy equipment used, whether works will take place from land or the water, and if any vessels are used.
- Any envisaged impacts on the safety of navigation, such as closing off a waterway or reducing overhead clearance under a bridge, and what risk mitigation measures the applicant proposes to put in place.

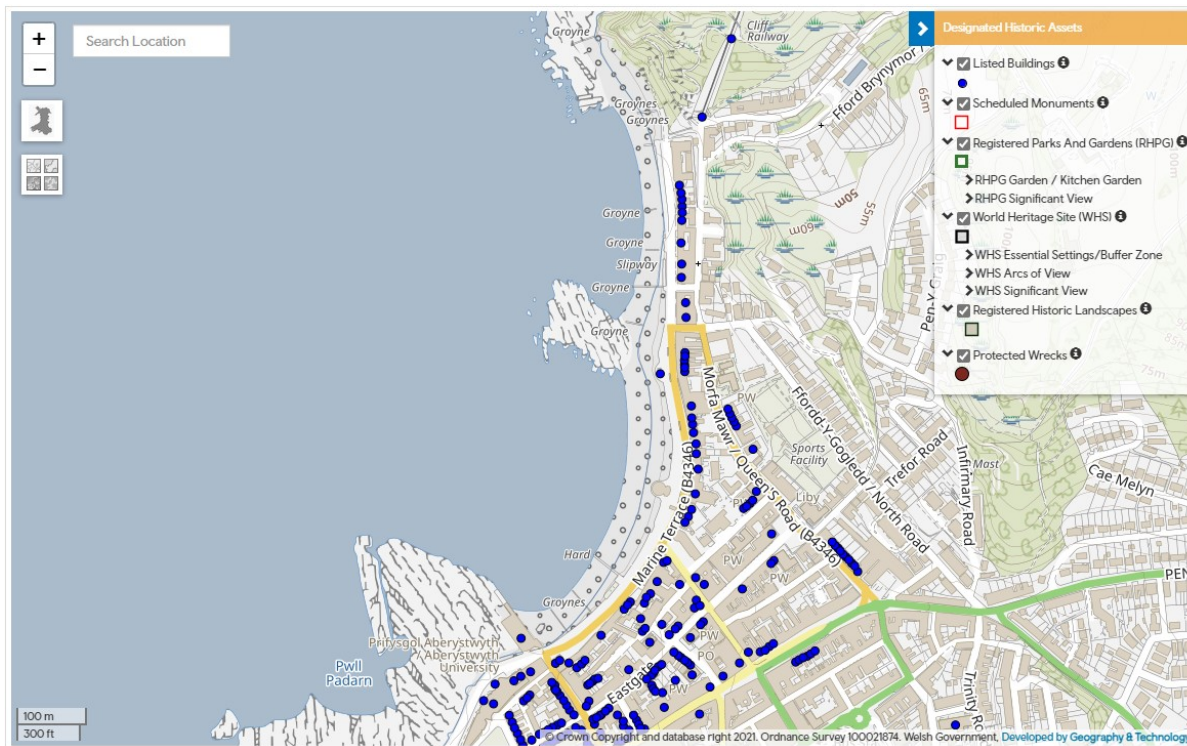
We (Atkins Ltd) are working with Ceredigion County Council to investigate the feasibility of coastal defences at Aberystwyth with the aim of reducing coastal flooding. To progress the study we need to undertake ground investigations on the promenade and on the beach. The trial pitting and boreholes on the promenade will be above high water (and are therefore

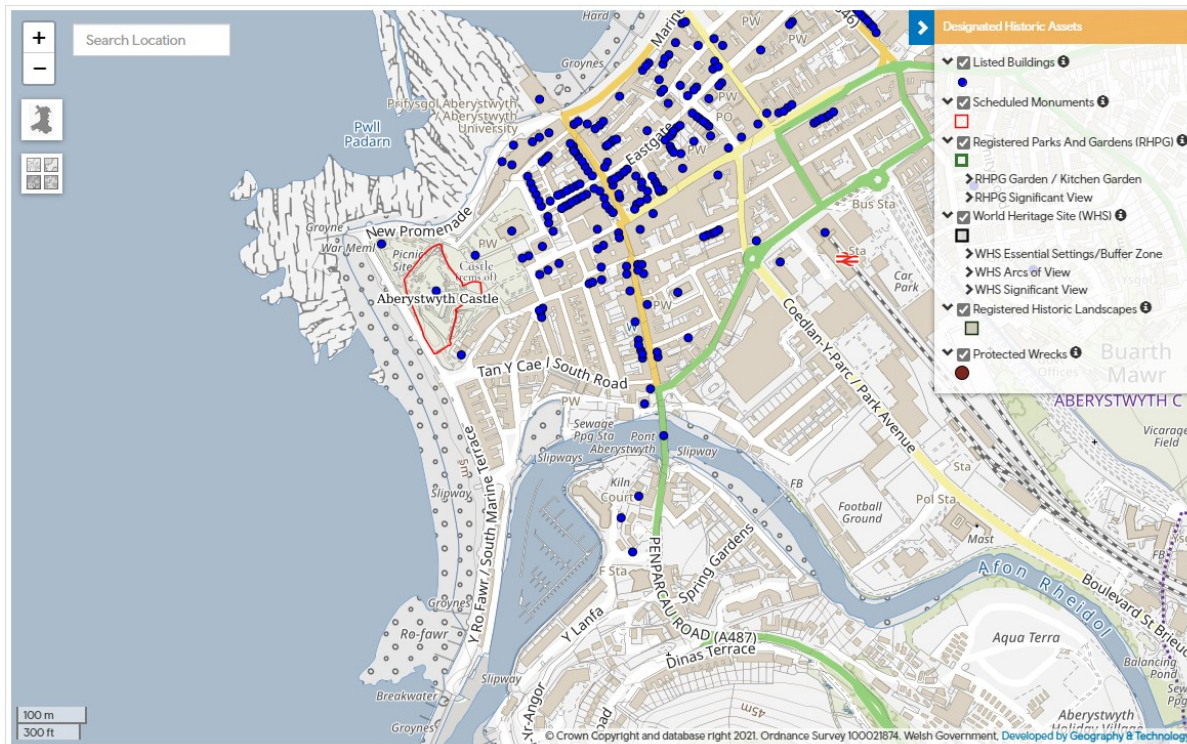
not subject to a marine licence). However, hand dug sampling on the beach and inspections of sea wall foundations will take place in the dry during low tide. The investigations will also involve non-intrusive bathymetric and geophysical surveys by boat, using sensor equipment.

The details and locations are shown on the attached drawings. The 'Phase 1' investigations on the beach will involve machine excavated trial pits to determine sea wall foundation depths - no material sampling will be undertaken at these locations, and these will be reinstated using the original material. In addition, separate material samples on the beach will be undertaken in 'Phase 2' to obtain samples of the existing sand / shingle sediment in order to determine the particle size distribution of this beach material. These samples will be undertaken by hand. The retrieval of samples is a licensable activity.

Desk study of existing records

We have undertaken a desk study to view if any historic assets and archaeological features are noted using the Cadw website [Search Cadw records | Cadw \(gov.wales\)](#). These records can be seen on the screen shots below.





The investigations that we are undertaking are away from the features identified and, in our opinion, will not have any impact on them.

When are the investigations happening

The investigations are planned to take place between September 2023 and December 2023, during daylight hours. Investigations on the beach will be at low tide i.e. undertaken in the dry.

Conclusion

We have concluded that these investigations will not affect archaeological / historic features in this area. Please can you confirm that you agree with this conclusion, or otherwise, so that we can submit your response with the marine licence application to NRW for these investigations?

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this email and reply by no later than 28/07/23. If you are not able to meet this response time, please inform us as soon as practicable.

Regards

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