

# Application for a Band 1 Marine Licence

## Project description

Project name

Newbridge, Port Talbot - Ground Investigation

Please provide a brief description of the proposed project, including location.

Natural Resources Wales are developing a fish passage improvement scheme on the tidal section of the River Afan in Port Talbot. The project is looking to improve passage over a weir structure, located at NGR SS 75522 89195 that is impassable to fish at mid-low tide.

As part of the design of the project, we need to undertake some ground investigation. This application is to cover the investigation works, which includes:

- 2no. cable percussive boreholes located on the riverbanks to confirm the stratigraphy. These are located outside of the river channel and MHWS and therefore do not trigger the licencing process.
- 2no. window samples located along the proposed fish pass alignment to confirm the stratigraphy. These are located in the channel (below MHWS) and are the assumed trigger for marine licencing. From reviewing the guidance they align most closet with the low risk removal activities. The samples will be taken using a small window-sampling rig that will be pushed by hand to the sampling points at low-tide.
- 4no. hand-dug trial pits; 2no. upstream of the weir and 2no. downstream of the weir, to obtain soil samples for geo-environmental testing and check for the presence of obstructions.
- 1no. seismic refraction survey (non-intrusive) across the river profile upstream of the weir, to confirm the stratigraphical profile across the river.
- 4no. surface water samples; 1no. upstream of the proposed works, 1no. downstream of the proposed works, 1no. at the western outfall and 1no. at the eastern outfall for geo-environmental testing.

Does the activity have an estimated project cost for marine works over £1 million? If yes, the activity is no longer eligible for a band 1 application and a band 3 application will be required.

No

## Applicant details

To whom the licence will be issued. This must be a legal entity such as an individual, registered company/ charity or public body.

<b>Title</b>	N/a
<b>Full name</b>	Natural Resources Wales
<b>Company or trading name</b>	N/a
<b>Company Registration Number (if applicable)</b>	N/a
<b>Name of contact or individual (if different)</b>	Elinor Meloy
<b>Position in company</b>	Project Manager
<b>Address (provide registered company address if applicable)</b>	Ty Cambria  29 Newport Road  Cardiff
<b>Postcode</b>	CF24 0TP
<b>Telephone number</b>	07817026477
<b>Email address</b>	elinor.meloy@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

## Details of agent, contractor, vehicles and/or vessels used to carry out works

### Agent details

This is who we will correspond with unless otherwise informed. If no agent is identified we will contact the applicant.

<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>Full name</b>	Nicholas Bool
<b>Company or trading name</b>	Tetra Tech
<b>Company Registration Number (if applicable)</b>	1959704
<b>Name of contact or individual (if different)</b>	See above
<b>Position in company</b>	Associate
<b>Address (provide registered company address if applicable)</b>	Atlantic House Greenwood Close, Gate Business Park  Pontprennau  Cardiff
<b>Postcode</b>	CF23 8RD
<b>Telephone number</b>	+44 7917 735 669
<b>Email address</b>	Nicholas.Bool@tetrattech.com>

Does the applicant wish to be included in all correspondence?

Yes

Will the works require the use of vessels?

No

Will the works require the use of any vehicles?

No

## Proposed project details

Licensable period

Determination of applications will be based on the works taking place during these dates. Please ensure you have included an adequate contingency period. If works are not completed by the requested licence expiry date you may be required to submit a new application. Including a contingency period within your original application does not impact on the licence fee.

Start date (DD/MM/YYYY) 22/01/2024

Requested licence expiry date (DD/MM/YYYY) 31/07/2024

Please detail the location of the proposed project.

This should be either Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (i.e. SN 12345 67890) or Latitude and Longitude in decimal degrees to 4 decimal places (i.e. Lat 52.1234 Long -4.1234), defining the extent of the project. Please specify which coordinate system has been used and if using GIS co-ordinates, specify which projection has been used.

NGR SS 75522 89195

## Method statement

Are the works within a sensitive area or one of the following activities: boreholes, replacement piles or beach management?

Yes

## Band 1 method statement template

You can upload your method statement here or fill in the questions below.

- File: TT RAMS.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: Atlas Geophysical Survey RAMS.pdf - [Download](#)

Please provide a brief summary of the application including location of the works (coordinates - lat/long, decimal degrees). For activities that cover a large area please provide coordinates of the approximate extent of works.

The project is looking to improve passage over a weir structure, located at NGR SS 75522 89195 that is impassable to fish at mid-low tide (photo attached).

As part of the design of the project, we need to undertake some ground investigation. The investigation includes:

2no. cable percussive boreholes located on the riverbanks to confirm the stratigraphy. These are located outside of the river channel and MHWS and therefore do not trigger the licencing process.  
2no. window samples located along the proposed fish pass alignment to confirm the stratigraphy. These are located in the channel (below MHWS) and are the assumed trigger for marine licencing. From reviewing the guidance they align most closet with the low risk removal activities. The samples will be taken using a small window-sampling rig that will be pushed by hand to the sampling points at low-tide.

4no. hand-dug trial pits; 2no upstream of the weir and 2no. downstream of the weir, to obtain soil samples for geo-environmental testing and check for the presence of obstructions.

1no. seismic refraction survey (non-intrusive) across the river profile upstream of the weir, to confirm the stratigraphy across the river.

4no. surface water samples; 1no. upstream of the proposed works, 1no. downstream of the proposed works, 1no. at the western outfall and 1no. at the eastern outfall for geo-environmental testing.

## Scope of works

Please provide a full description of all proposed works including: Sequence of works (mobilisation, marine works, site remediation (if required)) Estimated timing of works (duration, working hours, day/night, plus contingency) Plant, machinery or vessel required Estimated quantities (removals, deposits, construction materials)

The works will take place in daylight hours (8am-5pm) and at low tide and low fluvial flows. They are anticipated to be completed in one week. The start and finish dates are to be confirmed once the required consents have been obtained.

A site welfare container will be located in a small set down outside the ABP Main Gate off Riverside Road.

Access to the location of BH01 is along the South Wales Coastal Path from Darwin Road. Removable bollards will be unlocked and removed and boulders currently in place will be removed using a JCB 3CX which allow the cable percussive rig to be towed on the back of a 4x4 to the location of BH01. The cable percussive rig will be driven to the location at walking pace with the Tetra Tech Supervisor (a qualified banksman) in attendance.

Access to BH02 is via Riverside Road. The rig will be towed via a 4x4 and reversed onto the location of BH02 which is a raised concrete set down area used to moor boats.

WS01 and WS02 will be accessed from Riverside Road. The cut down windowless sampler rig will be wheeled down the small set of steps from road level down on the concrete mooring area before being wheeled onto the river bed at low tide. River channel to only be accessed at low tide and under low flow conditions where water is below knee height. Operatives to wear lifejackets when working in or near the river channel.

HTP01 to HTP04 will be accessed via Riverside Road and the steps from road level onto the concrete mooring area before accessing the riverbed. As HTP03 is in the water column this will be sampled via Van Veen Grab rather than using hand tools.

SW01 and SW02 will be accessed via Riverside Road and the steps from road level onto the concrete mooring area before accessing the riverbed on foot.

SW03 will be accessed from the South Wales Coastal Path off Darwin Road on foot.

The seismic refraction survey line will be accessed via Riverside Road. The survey line will be run out from the eastern bank across the channel to the western bank at low tide and under low flow conditions.

A small quantity of material will be removed for the investigation samples as part of the borehole and window sampling.

### Access and working areas

Please provide details of access to the site and working areas. This should include:  
Attached map of the access/egress route and working areas (annotated aerial image and/or OS map)  
Predicted plant/vehicle movements  
Storage areas for plant, equipment and materials (if required)  
Risks to navigation

Access will be gained from the left (eastern) bank of the River Afan from the private highway. A set of concrete steps leads down to a concrete platform used by the Afan Boat Club. The hand pushed rig will be taken down these steps and pushed by hand into the channel at low tide. All plant/vehicle movements other than the hand pushed rig will take place outside of the channel.

Site storage and welfare is limited as the works are anticipated to be completed in one week. The welfare cabin and storage area will be located outside of the ABP gate on Riverside Road.

As works will take place at low tide and not result in any permanent change, the risk to navigation are limited. This has been confirmed with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and ABP (as the Harbour Authority for the area).

An annotated plan showing the access routes is provided in the supporting documents.

### Environmental mitigation

Please list appropriate mitigation measures to minimise impacts on the marine environment these may include: Pollution prevention and control procedure (guidance available on the NetRegs website) Spill response kits Minimise plant traffic Designated access and egress routes Storage of materials (fuel, chemicals, construction waste) Biosecurity (guidance available at <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1294630.pdf>)

Note: To assist you, the following mitigation statements will be used as conditions within the licence. By signing this method statement you will be agreeing to adhere to these restrictions. If you are unable to do this, the application will not qualify as Band 1. All equipment, temporary structures, access tracks, waste and/or debris associated with the works will be removed on completion of the works. Bunding, storage facilities and spill kits will be employed to contain and prevent the release of fuel, oils and chemicals associated with the plant, refuelling and construction equipment into the marine environment. Plant, vehicles and machinery will not be refuelled on the foreshore. Coatings and treatments will be suitable for use in the marine environment and are used in accordance with best environmental practice. All equipment, materials, machinery and PPE used will be in a clean condition prior to their arrival on site, and upon removal from site, to minimise risk of introducing non-native species into the marine environment. In the event of removal of any sensitive species or habitat designated by NRW under Schedule 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, no further removals will occur at that location or within 20m of that location.

Please list your bespoke mitigations here:

Set out in the attached RAMS and described here:

The generator which powers the window sampling rig will be left at road level on a drip tray (outside of the river channel).

The works will be carried out in line with GPP5: Working in (or near) water.

### Additional information

Please list any additional information that may help with the application:  
Consents/permissions required  
List of plans or drawings attached to method statement  
Emergency procedures  
Contact details

Temporary Flood Risk Activity Permit has also been applied for by the Contractor (Tetra Tech).

## Materials of the project

Description of materials to be deposited seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)  
(Please tick all that apply)

Other (please provide a description of materials):  
No materials to be deposited.

Delivery method of materials to site

If sea delivery, details of vessels to be used with a chart of proposed route and transshipment area is required. If delivery is by vehicle, the details about the proposed access route are required. Please indicate if you are providing details in a separate file.

Material delivery is not required. The plant required for the works will be delivered to site by vehicle via the existing highway.

Will the works involve removals seaward of MHWS?

Yes

Description of materials to be removed seaward of MHWS (Please tick all that apply)

Silt

Stone/rock

Gravel

Description of objects/materials to be removed seaward of MHWS, including quantities to be removed.

A small quantity of material will be removed as part of the ground investigation sampling. This will comprise the river bed material which is assumed to be formed of silt and gravel.

## Additional information

Please provide the following:

You must include a suitably scaled extract of an Ordnance Survey Map or Admiralty Chart with location of project complete with north arrow and scale

If applicable, any construction plans and sectional drawings showing those proposed works below/seaward of MHWS, which should give details of the materials to be used (for beach replenishment the quantity, particle size and source of material to be deposited and deposit location is also required)

You must include details of correspondence with MCA, Trinity House and The Crown Estate

You must include any pre application advice/correspondence with NRW

Correspondence with RCAHWW (B1 removals only)

Please upload these below

- File: Marine Licence Team Response.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: Email to GGAT - no response as of 17-11.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: Email to Trinity House - no response as of 17-11.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: MCA Response.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: Response from ABP.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: 270923 Updated GI Plan.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: Ground Investigation Location Plan.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: Access routes.png - [Download](#)
- File: 784-B048567\_Newbridge\_GI\_CPP\_V1.pdf - [Download](#)

**Please list below all supporting documents that have been submitted with this application.**

Location Plan

Ground Investigation Plan

Annotated plan showing access routes.

Construction Phase Plan

Correspondence:

- Pre-app email with NRW Marine Licencing Team
- Email responses from MCA and ABP (as Harbour Authority) confirming no navigation risk.
- Email to Trinity House dated 7th Nov. No reply as of 17 Nov.
- Email to Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust dated 7th Nov. No reply as of 17 Nov.

## Statutory powers

Does the applicant have statutory powers to consent any aspect of the project? e.g. coast protection authority, dredging powers, statutory undertakers

Yes

**If yes, please give details and state the relevant legislation that gives these powers.**

NRW is the applicant and consenting authority for the Marine Licence (Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009) and the Flood Risk Activity Permit (The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016).

## Public register

Is there any information contained within or provided in support of this application that you consider should NOT be included on the Public Register on the grounds that its disclosure:

	Yes	No
Would be contrary to the interest of National Security?		X
Would prejudice to an unreasonable degree you, or some other person's commercial interest or those of a third party?		X

## Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information given in this application form and supporting documentation is true.

WARNING: It is an offence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, under which this application is made, to fail to disclose information or to provide false or misleading information. This could invalidate any licence granted.

**Name** ELINOR MELOY

**Date** 27/11/23

**Position in company** NRW

If you would like a copy of your completed form, please add your preferred email address below:

elinor.meloy@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk