

Rhodri Thomas

From: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 November 2023 15:04
To: Rhodri Thomas
Cc: George Batt
Subject: Q23094 Newbridge, Port Talbot - Ground investigation - Marine licence band query

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Good afternoon Rhodri,

As you've stated, these activities would be classified as Band 1 removal activities and therefore, a Band 1 licence will be required. If the methodology were to change, and the trial pits were dug using machinery, then this would require a Band 2 licence.

For guidance on what to submit as part of your Band 1 application, please see the following page: [Natural Resources Wales / Marine licensing low risk activities \(band 1\)](#).

I've assigned your query a reference number, Q23094, please state this in any future correspondence related to this query.

Kind regards,

Jack

Swyddog Trwyddedu Morol / Marine Licensing Officer

Cyfarwyddiaeth Tystiolaeth, Polisi a Thrwyddedu | Evidence, Policy and Permitting Directorate

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.



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From: Rhodri Thomas <Rhodri.Thomas@arup.com>
Sent: 07 November 2023 14:00
To: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Cc: George Batt <George.Batt@arup.com>
Subject: Newbridge, Port Talbot - Ground investigation - Marine licence band query

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni nac atodiadau agored oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hello,

I am looking for confirmation of the marine licence banding before we submit an application. Arup are designing a fish passage improvement scheme for Natural Resources Wales 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 (photo attached). The NRW project contacts are:

Project Executive: Melissa Mahavar-Snow
Project Manager: Elinor Meloy
Internal Client (Fisheries): Dave Charlesworth

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 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.

I have attached a plan showing the proposed locations of the sampling locations above. From reviewing the marine licencing guidance we believe that the investigations would fall under Band 1 (low risk) removal activities. I was hoping to be able to confirm this as we will shortly be ready to submit a licence application.

Please let me know if there is any other information that would help determine if this is a Band 1 activity.

Thanks,

Rhodri Thomas
Senior Geomorphologist | Climate and Sustainability Services
MESci, PhD

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