

Rhodri Thomas

From: Rhodri Thomas
Sent: 07 November 2023 14:34
To: 'enquiries@ggat.org.uk'
Subject: Archaeological impact - Marine Licence application - Newbridge, Port Talbot
Attachments: 20210712_115305446_iOS.jpg; 270923 Updated GI Plan.pdf

Hello,

Following the guidance on NRW's website, it suggests that I contact you prior to submission of a Marine Licence 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). I believe NRW have been in touch with you previously (May 2021) regarding the scheme but we haven't been able to locate any response from GGAT.

The weir is 100m downstream of the Grade 2 listed Plate Girder bridge. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the vicinity of the work locations. The work is not within a Conservation Zone or Historic Landscape Area. There are no Registered Historic Parks or Gardens located within 200m of the proposed work.

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.
- 2no. window samples located along the proposed fish pass alignment to confirm the stratigraphy. 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. The works are anticipated to take less than a day and will be conducted at low-tide and accessed on foot.

Please let me know if there is any other information that would help confirm approval of these activities.

Thanks,

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