

Rhodri Thomas

From: Rhodri Thomas
Sent: 07 November 2023 14:24
To: 'navigation@trinityhouse.co.uk'
Subject: Confirmation prior to Marine Licence submission
Attachments: 270923 Updated GI Plan.pdf; 20210712_115305446_iOS.jpg

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).

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. The in-channel sampling locations are within ABP's Port Talbot jurisdiction. We are in discussions with ABP regarding the works.

The works are anticipated to take less than a day and will be conducted at low-tide and accessed on foot. Navigation along the section of channel in question would not be possible at low-tide so there are no envisaged impacts to the safety of navigation.

Please let me know if there is any other information that would help confirm that the activity would not pose a risk.

Thanks,

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