

Ambar Villanueva-Brackley

From: Ambar Villanueva-Brackley
Sent: 16 July 2024 10:29
To: 'navigation safety'
Subject: RE: P14505 - Newport Connect Site Investigation Works

Good morning Sam,

Thank you for your response and confirming that you have no significant concerns regarding the project works.

We accept the risk mitigations stated in your previous email.

Kind regards,
Ambar

Ambar Villanueva-Brackley (She/her)
Marine Consultant

APEM Ltd, Riverview A17 Embankment Business Park,
Heaton Mersey, Stockport, SK4 3GN
Email: a.villanueva-brackley@apemltd.co.uk
<http://apemltd.co.uk/>



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From: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:41 AM
To: Ambar Villanueva-Brackley <A.Villanueva-Brackley@apemltd.co.uk>
Subject: RE: P14505 - Newport Connect Site Investigation Works

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Dear Amber,

Apologies for the late reply.

Thank you for the information regarding the proposed Marine Survey and Site Investigations for a fibre optic cable route and landfall traversing Weston Bay, and the Severn Estuary.

We note that the works are for seabed mapping techniques non-marine-licensable geophysical survey: Multibeam Echo Sounder, Side Scan Sonar, Marine Magnetometer, Sub Bottom Profiler with some selective sampling of the upper layers of the seabed geotechnical & sampling survey.

We note that some of the works fall within the jurisdiction of a Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) Newport Harbour Commissioners and therefore they are responsible for the safety of navigation within their waters.

On the understanding that the following takes place, the MCA would have no significant concerns to raise with regards to the safety of navigation and would be satisfied that the risk is relatively low on this occasion:

1. All maritime safety legislation is complied with;
2. Local notification is issued to marine users, including fishermen's organisations, relevant authorities and other local stakeholders, to ensure that they are made fully aware of the activity at least five days before commencement of the works;
3. Zone27@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities.
4. A notification must be sent to The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office (email: hdr@ukho.gov.uk) of commencement of the licensed activities, at least 10 days before commencement of the works. The information supplied must include the start date and end date, a description of the works, positions of the work area (WGS84), and details of any marking arrangements.
5. Some of the site is within port limits and the applicant should gain the approval/agreement of the responsible local navigation authority or the Harbour Authority/Commissioners/Council. They may wish to issue local warnings to alert those navigating in the vicinity to the presence of the works, as deemed necessary.

Please can you confirm that you accept the above risk mitigations?

Kind Regards

Sam Chudley

Marine Licence Advisor +44 (0) 7553 637057
Marine Licensing and Consenting
UK Technical Services Navigation Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Maritime & Coastguard Agency

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Southampton SO15 1EG



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www.gov.uk/mca

From: Ambar Villanueva-Brackley <A.Villanueva-Brackley@apemltd.co.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 12:42 PM

To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>

Cc: Nick O'Brien <N.O'Brien@apemltd.co.uk>; Jack Whittle <J.Whittle@apemltd.co.uk>; Louise Bridges <L.Bridges@apemltd.co.uk>

Subject: RE: P14505 - Newport Connect Site Investigation Works

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Good morning,

This is a follow-up email to request the progress of your review of the information we provided regarding the Newport Connect Site Investigation works.

Please would you verify whether you have enough information to consider any impact to the safety of others at sea?

Kind regards,
Ambar

[Ambar Villanueva-Brackley \(She/her\)](#)
Marine Consultant

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From: Ambar Villanueva-Brackley
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 10:01 AM
To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>; Louise Bridges <L.Bridges@apemltd.co.uk>
Cc: Nick O'Brien <N.O'Brien@apemltd.co.uk>; Jack Whittle <J.Whittle@apemltd.co.uk>
Subject: RE: P14505 - Newport Connect Site Investigation Works

Good morning Jo,

Thank you for your response.

Please see attached the works methodology which includes admiralty charts (Figures 1 to 3) and the survey area coordinates (Page 8). The timeframes provided in Louise's initial email have changed to 4 weeks over a 3-month period instead of a 6-month period. Working hours inshore will be over 12-hour periods and offshore will be continuous 24-hour periods for up to 14 days between port calls. The survey period is likely to be between July and October 2024.

Let us know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,
Ambar

[Ambar Villanueva-Brackley \(She/her\)](#)

Marine Consultant

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From: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 4:14 PM
To: Louise Bridges <L.Bridges@apemltd.co.uk>
Cc: Nick O'Brien <N.O'Brien@apemltd.co.uk>; Ambar Villanueva-Brackley <A.Villanueva-Brackley@apemltd.co.uk>; Jack Whittle <J.Whittle@apemltd.co.uk>
Subject: RE: P14505 - Newport Connect Site Investigation Works

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Good afternoon,

Thank you for the information provided as part of your NRW Band 1 marine licence application for the Newport Connect Site Investigation Works.

To enable the team to fully review your request can you please supply the co-ordinates for the intended surveys, marked on an admiralty chart preferably and the methodology?
As part of the methodology please advise what 4 weeks over a 6 month period looks like.

With this information, we will be in a position to advise you for your marine license application.
Many thanks and kind regards,

Jo Cooke
Policy Advisor
Marine Licensing and Consenting
UK Technical Services Navigation NavigationSafety@mcga.gov.uk



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From: Louise Bridges <L.Bridges@apemltd.co.uk>

Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 3:44 PM

To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>

Cc: Nick O'Brien <N.O'Brien@apemltd.co.uk>; Ambar Villanueva-Brackley <A.Villanueva-Brackley@apemltd.co.uk>; Jack Whittle <J.Whittle@apemltd.co.uk>

Subject: P14505 - Newport Connect Site Investigation Works

Importance: High

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Good afternoon,

We are in the process of applying for marine licences with National Resources Wales (NRW) and the MMO, and we are required to consult with you prior to submission of our applications to ensure no impact on the safety of others at sea.

The marine licence application is to enable pre-construction survey works to support the proposed installation of a new subsea fibre optic cable system, Newport Connect, which will cross the Bristol Channel from a landfall near Westin-Super-Mare, England to a landfall near Newport, Wales.

Works carried out in Welsh waters are being considered in the marine license application to NRW and works carried out in English waters will be covered by the MMO through a second application.

The Band 1 licence activities include:

- Seabed CPT's to 3m (offshore);
- Grab samples (2 per location) (offshore); and
- Vibrocore/gravity core (120mm diameter) to 3m (offshore).

The exact locations of the works are not yet known (they will be informed by a preceding geophysical survey), however the survey route is shown in the attached figure.

The duration of the proposed works is expected to take less than 4 weeks in total and should be completed over a 6-month period, with all works due to be completed during daylight hours.

Please would you verify whether you have enough information to consider any impact to the safety of others at sea?

Many thanks,
Louise

Louise Bridges BSc (Hons), MSc, Mem.MBA (She/They)
Technical Specialist Marine Consultant

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