

Apply for a Band 1 marine licence

Project description

Project name

Baglan Bay Pip Crossing - Ground Investigation

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

The proposed ground investigation works are required to assist with the detailed design of a new utility pipeline across the Afon Nedd (Neath River) for Wales & West Utilities.

The ground investigation works will involve cable percussive borehole drilling works that will be located at Baglan Bay, adjacent to the River Neath, South Wales. Machine excavated trial pits are proposed to investigate near surface soils and cable percussive boring methods will be used to progress three boreholes for recovering samples of the underlying bedrock. A total of three boreholes and will be drilled in separate locations near the river Neath, with one trial pit excavated at each borehole location. One of the proposed boreholes (B3) is located below the Mean High Water line and is within the River Neath Transitional Water body, therefore, falls within the marine licensable area.

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.

Title	Mr
Full name	Steven Davies
Company or trading name	Wales and West Utilities
Company Registration Number (if applicable)	-
Name of contact or individual (if different)	-
Position in company	Project Coordinator
Address (provide registered company address if applicable)	Unit 6.2, Heol y Gamlas, Parc Nantgarw
	-
	-
Postcode	CF15 7QU
Telephone number	07976170298
Email address	Steven.Davies@wwutilities.co.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.	
Title	Miss
Full name	Ambar Villanueva-Brackley
Company or trading name	Apem Ltd.
Company Registration Number (if applicable)	02530851
Name of contact or individual (if different)	Ambar Villanueva-Brackley
Position in company	Apem Ltd.
Address (provide registered company address if applicable)	Riverview - -
Postcode	SK4 3GN
Telephone number	0161 442 8938
Email address	a.villanueva-brackley@apemltd.co.uk

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?
Yes

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)	08/10/2024
Requested licence expiry date (DD/MM/YYYY)	31/01/2024

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.

Borehole coordinates:

Borehole Grid ref Easting Northing Latitude Longitude

B1 SS 72888 92968 272888 192968 51.621136 -3.837535

B2 SS 72323 93081 272323 193081 51.622023 -3.8457331

B3 SS 72356 92962 272356 192962 51.620961 -3.8452133

Coordinate system: WGS 84

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: Q1556 - RA-MS (Baglan Bay Pipe Crossing) AJ compressed.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 proposed cable percussive borehole drilling works will be located at Baglan Bay, adjacent to the River Neath, South Wales. Machine excavated trial pits are proposed to investigate near surface soils and cable percussive boring methods will be used to progress three boreholes for recovering samples of the underlying bedrock (see below coordinated for locations). A total of three boreholes will be drilled in separate locations accessed via two access points near the river Neath, with one trial pit excavated at each borehole location. Borehole B01 is located on the southern side of the river Neath accessed via Brunel Way, and boreholes B02 and B03 will be accessed off Fabian Way, Swansea via an existing trackway to the proposed borehole locations. One of the proposed boreholes (B3) is located below the Mean High Water line and is within the River Neath Transitional Water body, therefore, falls within the marine licensable area.

Borehole coordinates:

Borehole Grid ref Easting Northing Latitude Longitude

B01 SS 72888 92968 272888 192968 51.621136 -3.837535

B02 SS 72323 93081 272323 193081 51.622023 -3.8457331

B03 SS 72356 92962 272356 192962 51.620961 -3.8452133

Coordinate system: WGS 84

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)

Activity 1: Trial pits

Prior to undertaking the borehole drilling activities, all borehole areas will be subject to a GPR Utility Clearance to identify any underground services in the area. One hand excavated trial pits will be excavated at each borehole location to a maximum depth of 1.2 m BGL to inspect the near surface soils, with each pit scanned using a Genny and eCAT+.

Activity 2: Boreholes

Three boreholes are proposed through soils and into bedrock to a maximum depth of 30m. All Borehole locations will be subject to a GPR Utility Clearance (PAS 128 Type B survey) to confirm there are no underground services in the area.

The drill rig, Commachio MC 450/600, has a diesel engine and is powered through hydraulic or clutch gearing to swivel the drill head that will be used undertake the rotary work of the borehole activities. The rig will be set up prior to drilling which will include stabilising the rig by extending outriggers. The drill rig will also include a cage located around the drilling zone which is closed as the drilling action is occurring. Following this, three boreholes will be drilled through the superficial deposits, and into the underlying bedrock to recover samples of this material and undertake in-situ testing. Borehole 3 (B3) will be located below MHWS and therefore is considered within the marine licensable area.

In-Situ testing will be carried out as specified by the client, Standard Penetration Tests will be undertaken at 1m intervals throughout the superficial deposits commencing at 1.2mbgl and will be followed by a 1m length Dynamic Sample.

The Dynamic Sampling, using 87-102mm sample barrel, will provide a 1.0m long soil sample and be progressed using a percussive action. Throughout the superficial deposits an EOD Engineer will scan the base of the borehole after each 1.5m run using a magnetometer to check for the presence of UXO and allow the borehole to be progressed.

For all boreholes, upon encountering rockhead, coring of the underlying rock will involve the removal of the drill bit, from the borehole which is replaced by a core barrel. The core barrel is lowered to the base of the borehole through the addition of drill rods and progresses through the rock through rotary action. The cores are recovered in 1.5m lengths (nominally 78mm diameter), which once drilled is recovered from the borehole by the removal of the drill rods. This process is repeated to progress the borehole.

The core

recovered is placed immediately in sound wooden core boxes in a specific manner, to enable examination and for safe storage. All associated rotary drilling plant and materials shall be kept on-site including a 400cfm compressor and drill string equipment.

Water flush will be used during drilling rates to rescue the risk of blowing sand within the drill string.

The water will be circulated through a built-in pump fixed to the back of the drilling rig and will pump the water from IBC tanks. The return water from the borehole will be collected in a low-level tank with baffles to aid settlement of sedimentation, and once full this water will be recirculated through the pump. Any water left in the low-level tank on completion of the works will be pumped into IBC tanks and removed from site for safe disposal. The required working area is approximately 7m x 4m.

The rotary drill rigs will be transported to and from site on a lorry. The drill rig will be tracked on and off via ramps. The driller's assistant will act as a banksman preventing plant or pedestrians from entering an exclusion zone adjacent to the lorry / trailer. The rig will be operated and tracked using the remote control, with the lead extended to its full reach, by the lead driller who will be stood outside the exclusion zone.

The works duration is provisionally determined to be approximately 12 days on site (dependent on ground conditions). Working hours typically Monday to Friday 07:30am to 17:00pm

List of equipment/plant:

- 1 No. Tracked Small Telehandler (Norcar)
- 1 No. Comacchio MC450/ MC600 Multi-functional Drill rig
- 2 No. 4x4 vehicle and Trailer
- 1 No. Small Van
- 1 No. 400cfm compressor
- Water bowser
- Various hand digging tools
- Spill kits, Fire extinguishers, First Aid kits to be held in each Quantum Vehicle
- Various PPE and Safety Equipment as listed in Table 18

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

The plant and equipment will access the area via the A483 onto a pre-existing stone track, and then travel 54m and 16.4 m off track to Borehole 2 and Borehole 3, respectively (see attached aerial map 'P14643 Baglan Bay – Boreholes & Access route.jpg'). All general site plant and welfare facilities will be mobilised to site on the morning of day one and will be removed upon completion of all activities.

Any risks to navigation are assumed unlikely as the works will be undertaken away from any main roads and no in-water works are required. Working areas will be cordoned off using barriers, Heras fencing and suitably signed, ensuring that no plant or materials are left unattended at any time. Certain areas will require additional measures to restrict or temporarily prevent any site users from accessing but this will be confirmed in the site pre-start walkover.

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:

Spill kits and absorbent granules will be available on site and used at all times when refueling and in the event of any oil and hydraulic leaks and fuel spills. To be stored in secure storage container and disposed correctly. No refueling will be permitted within 20m of a watercourse.

Sandbags and plastic sheeting will be available to prevent any surface migration of silt and surface water run off to water courses and drains. Water re-circulation tanks to contain and re-use water flush.

No fuel will be stored onsite. There will be minimal fuel to be used during these works and will be brought to site as and when needed.

All waste will be disposed of offsite.

If contamination is suspected or encountered within any Made Ground, a bentonite plug shall be formed within the Made Ground above natural strata creating a seal. Reduced diameter casing will then be used to drill through the bentonite seal and continue the borehole to scheduled depth. Clean water will be used within any drilling flush used.

During the event of encountering a source of contamination, all work must be stopped until additional safety checks have been carried out and appropriate safety measures put in place. The investigation supervisor must be kept informed in case any changes to the specification are needed. For any subsequent encounter or development of contamination, including Asbestos, these procedures are to be repeated.

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

Consents/permissions:
SSSI Assent

List of attached plans/figures:
P14643 Baglan Bay – Boreholes & Access route.jpg
P14643 Baglan Bay - Boreholes & High Water line.jpg

Methods Statement and Risk assessment:
Q1556 - RA-MS (Baglan Bay Pipe Crossing) AJ compressed.pdf

Materials of the project

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

Plastic/synthetics

Other (please provide a description of materials):
Sandbags, silt trap nappies/mattresses

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.

Materials will be delivery by land via a 4x4 vehicle. The plant and equipment will access the area via the A483 onto a pre-existing stone track, and then travel 16.4 m off track over vegetated dunes to the Borehole 3 site, located seaward of MHWS.

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

Sand

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

One trial pit and one cable percussive borehole will take place at borehole 3 located seaward of MHWS. The Trial pit will be excavated by hand and dug up to 1.2m BGL.

Cable percussive boring methods will be used to progress one borehole to a maximum depth of 30m. The excavated core spoil will be placed immediately in sound wooden core boxes in a specific manner, to enable examination, safe storage and to prevent undue damage to the surrounding vegetation. The cores will be recovered in 1.5m lengths (nominally 78mm diameter), which once drilled is recovered from the borehole

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: P14643 Baglan Bay - Boreholes & Access route.jpeg - [Download](#)
- File: P14643 Baglan Bay - Boreholes & High Water line.jpeg - [Download](#)
- File: P14643 Baglan Bay - Nearby protected sites2.jpeg - [Download](#)
- File: MCA response - P14643 - Baglan Bay project.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: RCAHWW- P14643 - Baglan Bay project.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: Trinity House Correspondence.pdf - [Download](#)
- File: NRW and Crown Estate Correspondence.docx - [Download](#)

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

P14643 - Baglan Boreholes & Access route

P14643 - Baglan Boreholes & High Water line

P14643 - Baglan Bay - Nearby protected sites2

Correspondence details with MCA, RCAHWW, Trinity House, NRW and Crown Estate.

Statutory powers

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

No

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

Application fee

Please provide the method of payment

BACS

Reference number (not BACS remittance no.)

PRCAPPAPEML105

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 Steven Davies

Date 09/08/2024

Position in company First Line Manager

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

A.Villanueva-Brackley@apemltd.co.uk