

Marine Licence with introductory note

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

Licence Holder: **Associated British Ports
Holdings Limited**

Company Number: **01612178**

**25 Bedford Street
London
United Kingdom
WC2E 9ES**

**Port Talbot Marine Ground Investigation
Works**

Licence Number: **RML2420**

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Port Talbot Marine Ground Investigation Works

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Introductory note

This introductory note does not form a part of the marine licence.

The main features of the marine licence are as follows.

Marine Ground Investigations (GI) at Port Talbot comprising boreholes, Van Veen grabs, and vibrocores. Works take place in the harbour, within the inner dock and at the dock entrance in the Afon Afan.

The status log of the marine licence sets out the marine licence history, including any subsequent marine licence variation(s)

Status log of this marine licence		
Description	Date	Comments
Application	04 April 2024	Application received and considered to be duly made
Date licence determined	10 September 2024	Determination date

Related marine licences or applications under determination

"Not applicable"

End of introductory note.

Licence Number: RML2420

MARINE LICENCE, NUMBER RML2420

1 LICENCE DETAILS

1.1 Marine Licence

This is a licence granted by the Licensing Authority in respect of an application numbered **RML2420** and duly made on **04 April 2024** and authorises the Licence Holder to carry out activities for which a licence is required under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, (2009 Act). This licence should be interpreted in accordance with **Section 4**.

1.2 Licence Holder

The Licence Holder is the company set out below:

Company name: Associated British Ports Holdings Limited

Company number: 01612178

Address: 25 Bedford Street, London, United Kingdom, WC2E 9ES

1.3 Licence Validity

Licence Start Date	10 September 2024
Licence End Date	01 July 2027
Licence Issue Date	10 September 2024

1.4 Conditions

This licence is subject to the conditions set out in **Section 3**.

Signed:



Dr. Emmer Litt – Marine Licensing Team Leader

For and on behalf of the Licensing Authority

2 LICENSED ACTIVITIES

2.1 Project

Port Talbot Marine Investigation Works

The following Licensed Activities can be conducted within the Licence Period, within the Licensed Area and in accordance with the Approved Application and the Approved Supporting Documents:

Table 1 Licensed Activities

Activity 1 Ground Investigation Works	
Type of Licensed Activity	Removal
Description	• A maximum of 16 Cable Percussive/Sonic Core (CP/SC) boreholes taken to a maximum depth of 25.0 m. The use of either CP or SC drilling will be determined by the appointed Contractor. • A maximum of 16 Cable Percussive/Sonic Core with Rotary Core follow-on (CP/SC+RC) boreholes will be taken to a maximum depth of 40.0 m. The CP/SC drilling will extend to a depth of circa 25m with rotary follow on to advance the borehole to the scheduled depth. • A maximum of 33 Vibrocores taken to a maximum depth of 5.0 m below seabed level. • A maximum of 15 Van Veen Grab (VVG) samples to a maximum depth of 1.0 m below seabed level. • A maximum of 19 Seismic Cone Penetration Tests with Piezocone taken to a maximum depth of 25.0m
Material types to be removed	Removed: Silt, Stone/Roch, Gravel & Sand
Activity 2 Removal of accidentally dropped objects pursuant to condition 3.7	
Type of Licensed Activity	Removal
Description, material types and quantities/dimensions	As approved by the Licensing Authority under condition 3.7

2.2 Licensed Area

The Licence Holder is authorised to conduct the activities described in Table 1 in the vicinity of Port Talbot bounded by the coordinates specified in Table 2 and as indicated in the plan attached at Appendix 1:

Table 2 Coordinates

Latitude	Longitude
Tidal Harbour	
51.58193	-3.80240
51.57949	-3.80000
51.57542	-3.79738
51.57025	-3.79696
51.56886	-3.79975
51.57069	-3.80993
51.57458	-3.81757
51.57935	-3.81704
51.58072	-3.81415
51.56916	-3.79788
51.57288	-3.79667
Lock and Approach Channel	
51.58321	-3.80824
51.58475	-3.79668
51.58412	-3.79649
51.58384	-3.79851
51.58337	-3.79909
51.58198	-3.80790
51.58367	-3.80437
Impounded Dock	
51.58475	-3.79668
51.58611	-3.78963
51.58642	-3.78506
51.58439	-3.77863
51.58327	-3.77934
51.58386	-3.78129
51.58436	-3.78408
51.58545	-3.78515
51.58501	-3.78878
51.58462	-3.78870
51.58343	-3.79611
Main Channel	
51.57523	-3.82541
51.57832	-3.81716
51.57394	-3.81763
51.57080	-3.82512

In the event of any discrepancy between the coordinates set out above and the plan attached at Appendix 1, the coordinates shall take precedence.

2.3 Approved Supporting Documents

Title/Description of Document	Date Submitted
RML2420 - FPT_GI_Works_Areas_Figure	29 February 2024
RML2420 - FPT_GI_Works_WFD_assessment	29 February 2024
RML2420 - FPT_GI_Works_wnmp-signposting-doc-1	29 February 2024
RML2420 - FPT_Ground_Investigations_HRA	29 February 2024
RML2420 - FPT_Ground_Investigations_Method_Statement	29 February 2024
RML2420 - FPT_GI_Works_marine-works-application-form-updated_v0.3	04 April 2024
RML2420 - FPT_GI_Works_Points_coordinates_v0.2	04 April 2024
RML2420_Technical_Note_response_to_NRW_24-07-09	09 July 2024
RML2420 - R4292 Port Talbot Marine Ecology Survey Report v1.0	09 July 2024
RML2420 - FPT_GI_Works_Biodiversity_RA_24-07-08	09 July 2024
RML2420_Technical_Note_2_140824	14 August 2024

3 CONDITIONS

Notification and Inspection

3.1 Notification of Commencement

- 3.1.1** The Licence Holder must notify the Licensing Authority no less than **10 days** before the commencement of the Licensed Activities, or an individual phase of the Licensed Activities, is expected to commence.
- 3.1.2** The Licence Holder must notify Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement Branch) no less than **10 days** before the commencement of the Licensed Activities, or an individual phase of the Licensed Activities, is expected to commence.
- 3.1.3** The Licence Holder must ensure that local mariners and fishermen's organisations are made fully aware of the Licensed Activities through local notices to mariners **10 days** prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activities.

3.2 Notification of Vessels and/or Vehicles

The Licence Holder must ensure that the details of the vessels and/or vehicles utilised to undertake the Licensed Activities are submitted to the Licensing Authority and Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement Branch) at least **24 hours** prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activities.

3.3 Notification of Agents/Contractors/Sub-contractors

The Licence Holder must ensure that details of any agent(s), contractor(s) or sub-contractor(s) utilised to undertake the Licensed Activities are submitted to the Licensing Authority at least **24 hours** prior to the commencement of Licensed Activities.

3.4 Notification of HM Coastguard

The Licence Holder must ensure that HM Coastguard is made aware of the Licensed Activities at least **24 hours** prior to commencement by contacting The National Maritime Operations Centre at **zone27@hmcg.gov.uk**.

3.5 Inspection of Licensed Activities

The Licence Holder must allow Marine Enforcement Officers, or any other person authorised by the Licensing Authority to inspect the Works at any reasonable time.

3.6 Notification of Completion

- 3.6.1** The Licence Holder must notify the Licensing Authority within **10 days** of completion of the Licensed Activities.
- 3.6.2** The Licence Holder must notify Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement Branch) within **10 days** of completion of the Licensed Activities.

3.7 Accident or Emergency

3.7.1 If, by reason of force majeure any substances or articles are deposited otherwise than as permitted as part of the Licensed Activities or in the Licensed Area full details of the circumstances shall be notified to the Licensing Authority within **48 hours** of the incident occurring.

3.7.2 If it is necessary for the Licence Holder to recover or remove any equipment, plant or machinery used to undertake the Licensed Activities that have been dropped as a result of an accident or emergency, the Licence Holder is permitted to do so provided that the methodology for such recovery or removal has been approved by the Licensing Authority.

3.8 Distribution of Copies of this Licence

The Licence Holder is required to ensure that a copy of this Licence is given to:

- All agent(s), contractor(s) and sub-contractor(s) whose names have been provided to the Licensing Authority under condition 3.3 and
- The Masters of any vessels and transport managers responsible for the vehicles employed in accordance with this Licence whose details have been submitted to the Licensing Authority under condition 3.2.

3.9 Inspection of Documents

Copies of this Licence shall be made available at the following locations:

- at the address of the Licence Holder specified in section 1.2;
- at any site office, located at or adjacent to the Licensed Area, used by the Licence Holder or its agent(s), contractor(s) or sub-contractor(s) responsible for the loading transportation or deposit of any substances or articles permitted as part of the Licensed Activities;
- on board each vessel or vehicle carrying out Licensed Activities.

The documents referred to in this Condition shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection by officers appropriately authorised by the Licensing Authority and authorised Marine Enforcement Officers at the locations stated in that paragraph.

Vessels, Plant and Equipment

3.10 Notified Contractors, Vessels and/or Vehicles only to Carry out Licensed Activities

Only those agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s), vessels and/or vehicles whose details have been notified to the Licensing Authority may operate under the terms of this Licence. Any changes must be notified to and be approved by the Licensing Authority in writing prior to any such agent, contractor, subcontractors or vehicles carrying out any Licensed Activities pursuant to or otherwise operating under this Licence.

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3.11 Refuelling of Plant and Equipment

The Licence Holder must ensure that plant, vehicles and machinery are not refuelled on the foreshore or in the sea.

3.12 Equipment, Structures and Access

The Licence Holder must ensure that all equipment, temporary structures, access tracks, waste and/or debris associated with the Licensed Activities are removed on completion of the Licensed activities.

Safety

3.13 Removal of Deposited Material

If the Licensing Authority considers it necessary or advisable for the safety of navigation, the Licence Holder must remove any deposit specified by the Licensing Authority or Marine Enforcement Officers within one month of notice being given by the Licensing Authority and shall not replace such material until the Licensing Authority has given its written approval.

Pollution control

3.14 Pollution Prevention

The Licence Holder must ensure that pollution prevention best practice is adhered to at all times. Any incidents must be reported to the Licensing Authority as soon as possible using the hotline number **0300 065 3000**.

3.15 Spillage of Pollutants

The Licence Holder must employ bunding, storage facilities and spill kits to contain and prevent the release of fuel, oils and chemicals associated with the plant, refuelling and construction equipment into the marine environment. Secondary containment must be used with a capacity of **no less than 110%** of the container's storage capacity.

3.16 Prevention of Disposal of Man-made Debris

The Licence Holder must ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the disposal of man-made debris to the marine environment. Such material must be removed immediately and be disposed of appropriately. If it is not possible to prevent manmade debris from entering the marine environment during the Licensed Activities, the Licensed Activities must cease immediately.

3.17 Cleanliness of Equipment

The Licence Holder must ensure that equipment, machinery and PPE are washed with freshwater and/or thoroughly airdried before deployment and before moving between locations.

Activity-specific Conditions

3.18 Approval of Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI)

- 3.18.1** The Licence Holder must submit a WSI to the Licensing Authority for written approval at least **6 weeks** prior to commencement of the Licensed Activities. No Works may be undertaken prior to written approval from the Licensing Authority.
- 3.18.2** The Licence Holder must ensure that any actions outlined in the documents detailed in condition 3.18.1 are implemented as approved in writing by the Licensing Authority. Any proposed changes to the actions outlined in the documents must be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Licensing Authority prior to any changes being enacted.

3.19 Biosecurity Risk Assessment

The Licence Holder must ensure that any actions outlined in Biosecurity Risk Assessment “RML2420_FPT_GI_works_Biosecurity_RA_24-07-08” submitted 9 July 2024) are implemented. The Biosecurity Risk Assessment must be available for inspection at all reasonable times at the locations detailed in condition 3.9 by the Licensing Authority and/or Marine Enforcement Officers. Any proposed changes to the actions outlined in the documents must be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Licensing Authority prior to any changes being enacted.

3.20 Reporting of Artefacts

The Licence Holder must ensure that any artefacts accidentally recovered are retained and reported through the Marine Portable Antiquities Scheme.

3.21 Additional Notification upon Completion

The Licence Holder must inform the Licensing Authority, of the location of all completed samples within **10 days** of completion of the work.

4 INTERPRETATION

In this Licence terms are as defined in section 115 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act unless otherwise stated.

- (a) **"2009 Act"** means the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009;
- (b) **"Approved Application"** means the Marine Licence Application Form together with the Approved Supporting Documents;
- (c) **"Approved Supporting Documents"** means the documents supporting, or supplementary to, the Approved Application, submitted prior to the Licence Issue Date, listed in the Table at paragraph 2.3 above;
- (d) **"Commencement"** means the first undertaking of any Licensed Activities;
- (e) **"Force majeure"** may be deemed to apply when, due to stress of weather or any other cause, the master of a vessel determines that it is necessary to deposit the substances or articles because the safety of human life and/or of the vessel is threatened;
- (f) **"Licensed Activities"** means the activities authorised by this licence as specified in 2.1;
- (g) **"Licensed Area"** means the area within which Licensed Activities are authorised by this licence as specified in section 2.2;
- (h) **"Licence Holder"** means the person(s), or organisation(s) named in section 1.2 to whom this licence is granted;
- (i) **"Licence Period"** means the period beginning with the Licence Start Date and ending on the Licence End Date;
- (j) **"Licensing Authority"** means Natural Resources Wales acting on behalf of the Welsh Ministers;
- (k) **"Marine Enforcement Officers"** means the relevant officers appointed by Welsh Ministers under section 235 of the 2009 Act, contact details for whom are provided in section 5;
- (l) **"Marine Licence Application Form"** means the application form forming part of the application referred to in paragraph 1.1;
- (m) **"Method Statement"** means the Method Statement(s) forming part of the Approved Application or Approved Supporting Documents;

- (n) **“Works”** means any construction activities comprised in the Licensed Activities and, where the context permits, includes any plant, equipment or materials used to carry out those activities or operations but excludes monitoring, minor routine maintenance or other ongoing operational activities following completion of any construction activities;
- (o) all times shall be taken to be the time in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on any given day;
- (p) all co-ordinates shall be taken to be latitude and longitude decimal degree (WGS 84)
- (q) in the event of any discrepancy between the coordinates listed in paragraph 2.2 and the plan attached at Appendix 1, the coordinates shall take precedence.

5 CONTACTS

Except where otherwise indicated, the primary point of contact with the Licensing Authority and the address for returns, correspondence and requests for variations of the licence is:

Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales
Welsh Government Offices
Cathays Park
King Edward VII Avenue
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
Tel: 0300 065 3000
Email: marinelicensing@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Welsh Government Marine Enforcement Officers may be contacted at:

Welsh Government
Suite 3
Cedar Court
Haven's Head Business Park
Milford Haven Pembrokeshire
SA73 3LS

Tel: 03000253500
Email: MarineLicencingEnforcement@gov.wales

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Appendix 1

