

Note

Haskoning UK Ltd.
Water & Maritime

To: Jack Thompson (NRW)
From: Haskoning
Date: 9 June 2025
Copy: Arndt Hermann (MHPA)
Our reference: PC1477-RHD-ZZ-ZZ-FN-EV-0004
Classification: Project related
Checked by: JL, SM

Subject: Milford Haven Port Authority Jetty Improvements (Application Number: CML2484): Further Information Request Response

Dear Jack,

Please find below our response to the Further Information Request issued by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on 2nd May 2025 regarding the marine licence application for Milford Haven Port Authority Jetty Improvements (application number: CLM2482). Further information is required on the following topics:

- Water quality (accidental pollution),
- Benthic ecology (sensitive habitats), and
- Fish (underwater noise).

Further information to address NRW's outstanding comments is provided below.

Importantly for this response, we have been provided with updated information from MHPA which confirms the number of piles required for this project has decreased from 32No 600m diameter piles to **6No 600mm diameter piles**. The design of the works has changed so that the full-length pontoon adjacent to the West-East leg of the jetty and access brow can be fixed via vertical fender piles that are affixed to the jetty itself and do not require installation into the seabed. The 6No piles would be required for the finger pontoon which extends perpendicular from the North-South jetty head at its northern extent.

1 Water Quality

1.1 Accidental pollution

NRW comment

We acknowledge that as the port authority, MHPA maintain and exercise an Oil Spill Contingency Plan however, we want to ensure that the Oil Spill Contingency plan been updated to reflect the increased fuel storage capacity (30,000 - 40,000 litres).

The mitigation measures and methods provided in sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4 of the further information response are welcomed, however, to ensure the best practice measures are secured, NRW Advisory have requested the provision of a CEMP prior to the commencement of the works. As such, the following condition will be added to the licence:

- a. *The Licence Holder must submit a construction environment management plan 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.*
- b. *The Licence Holder must ensure that any actions outlined in the documents detailed 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.*

As well as outlining the best practice measures in mitigating potential impacts, details of the Oil Spill Contingency plan and emergency NRW contact in the event of a pollution event should be included.

Applicant response

For clarification, MHPA's Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) does not apply to the fuel storage facility as this is located on land. The fuel storage facility is therefore required to comply with the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 and currently is and will continue to be managed as such. We therefore request that the requirement to update the OSCP is removed from the condition as it is not relevant.

In line with standard operations required by MHPA, a CEMP will be produced by the contractor, once appointed, prior to construction commencing therefore, the advised condition in this respect is accepted.

2 Benthic Ecology

2.1 Benthic ecology and potential effects

NRW comment

We advise that a limited amount of drop-down video (DDV) transects directly under the footprint of the proposed works (including a suitable buffer zone) to discount the presence of potentially sensitive habitats e.g. maerl, seagrass beds.

Applicant response

Further information and an assessment of potential impacts to subfeatures of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, seagrass and maerl, was provided as part of our previous response (document reference: PC1477-RHD-ZZ-ZZ-FN-EV-0003).

As part of our previous response, it was noted that the boundary of the sensitive habitat zone for seagrass and maerl, as outlined by the Recreational Users Voluntary Agreement for the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC¹, is located 300m west of the jetty. **Figure 1** below, from the Voluntary Agreement, shows no overlap of the sensitive habitat zones with the proposed works. From the data available on DataMapWales, the closest maerl habitat is located 1.1km from the proposed. Therefore, for maerl, our position remains that there is no potential for direct impacts such as loss or damage.

More recent survey data from NRW surveys undertaken in 2018² shows an extension of seagrass habitats to within the vicinity of the proposed area of works, see **Figure 2**. However, none of the

¹ [Jun-2014-Final-Annex-to-Vol-Agreement.pdf](#)

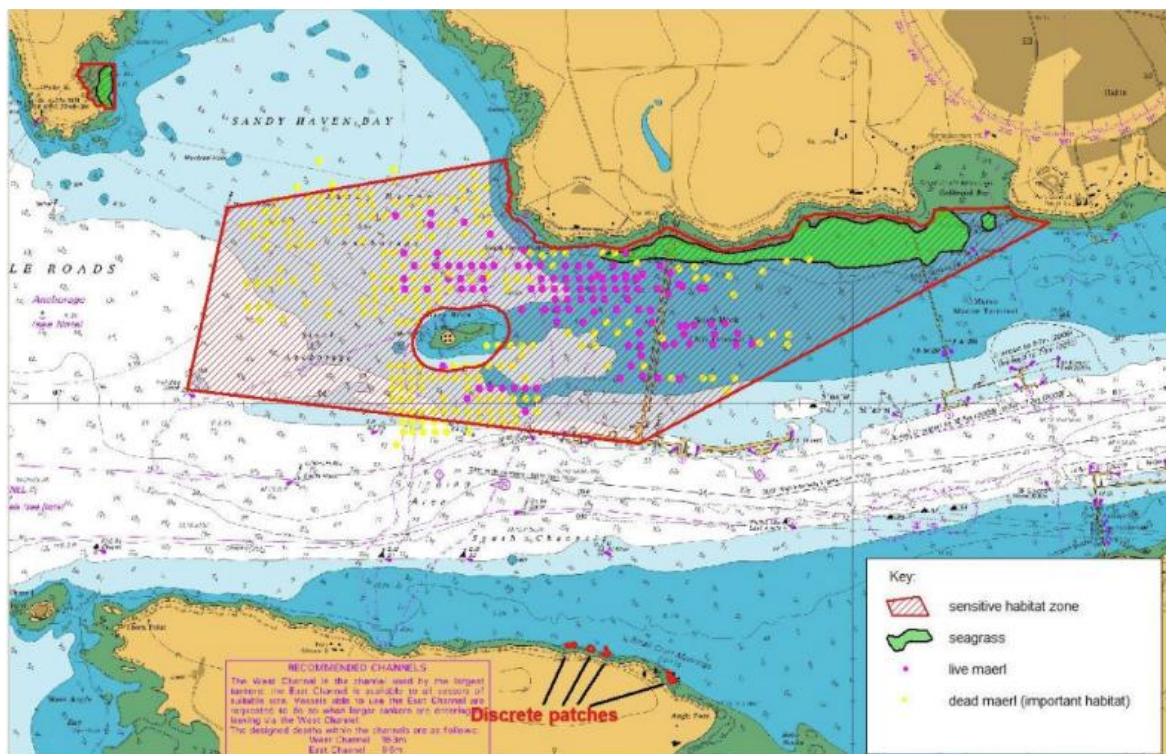
² Environment (Wales) Act Section 7 and OSPAR: Marine Habitats: [DataMapWales](#)

proposed piles will be installed within the identified seagrass habitat area so, based on the available data (see **Figure 2**), there is also no potential for direct impacts to this habitat.

Given the nature of the jetty, regular vessel movements occur as part of existing operations. Therefore, the propeller wash from vessels using the jetty is likely to make seabed conditions within the vicinity of the jetty unsuitable for seagrass and maerl habitats which is reflected in the spatial data presented below. It is considered highly unlikely that seagrass or maerl habitats would be present in the area where the piles are proposed to be installed.

The installation of the 6No piles will cause a permanent loss of up to 6m² of subtidal habitat. Should seagrass be present throughout the area, this loss would represent 0.003% of the approximate area of seagrass shown in **Figure 2** (22ha) which is not considered to be significant. It is also acknowledged that direct effects on any seagrass present would occur beneath the spud legs of a jack-up barge, however once the works are complete this habitat would be able to recover, so this impact is also not considered to be significant.

We do not consider that a drop-down video survey of the area is required to further understand the potential effects on these sensitive habitats as the additional information provided above concludes a significant adverse effect on these habitats would not occur if they were present.



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Figure 1 Sensitive Habitat Zones as outlined by the Recreational Users Voluntary Agreement for the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, 2014³

³ [Jun-2014-Final-Annex-to-Vol-Agreement.pdf](#)

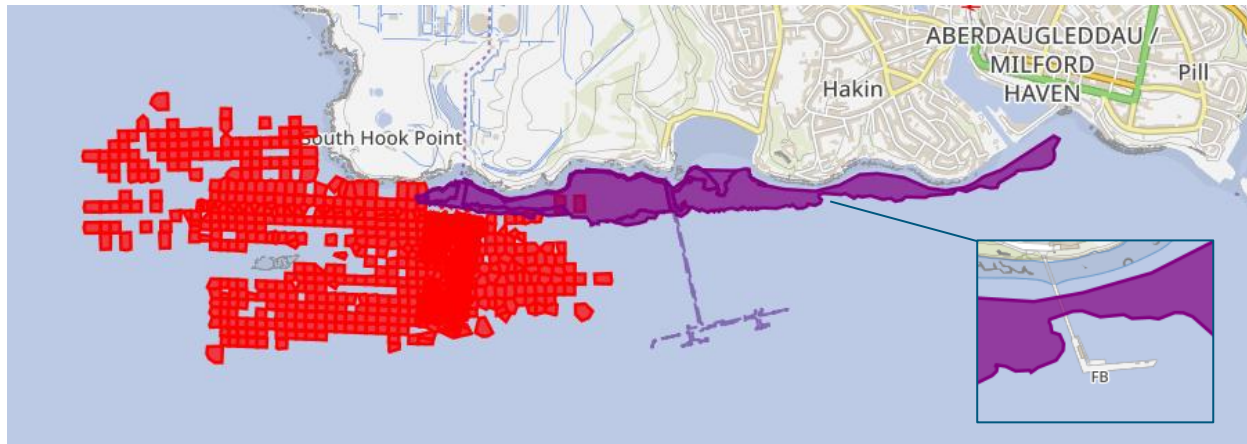


Figure 2 Seagrass (purple) and maerl habitat, dead and live (red) within the proximity of the proposed works (shown in insert)
(Source: [DataMapWales](#))

3 Fish

3.1 Piling noise impacts

NRW comment

Percussive piling has the potential to generate noise levels from single strikes which would cause mortality of fish in the vicinity. It is therefore advised that percussive piling is not conducted during October-May inclusive as this is a key migration period for adult lampreys.

As such, the following condition will be included on the licence:

The Licence Holder must ensure that no works take place between October to May inclusive, without prior written approval from the Licensing Authority.

Furthermore, standard piling conditions will be added to the licence to ensure best practice, and these align with the methods you have detailed:

- The Licence Holder must ensure that vibro-piling is used when inserting piles where operationally possible. Where this isn't possible, percussive piling may be used.
- The Licence Holder must ensure that if percussive piling is used, soft-start procedures are used to ensure incremental increase in pile power over a set time period until full operational power is achieved. The soft-start duration should be a period of no less than 20 minutes. Should piling cease for a period greater than 10 minutes, then the soft start procedure must be repeated.
- The Licence Holder must ensure there is a 12 consecutive hour break in piling activities in any 24-hour period.
- The Licence Holder must ensure all precautionary recommendations outlined in the JNCC Statutory nature conservation agency protocol for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from piling noise August 2010 are implemented. Any proposed changes to the actions outlined in this document must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Licensing Authority prior to any changes being enacted.

Applicant response

Alongside the mitigation measures outlined within the methodology, the additional seasonal restriction for percussive piling is accepted. We have requested and agreed with the case officer that the wording in the first sentence of the condition should be updated [in bold] to read:

*“The Licence Holder must ensure that no **percussive piling** takes place between October to May inclusive, without prior written approval from the Licensing Authority”.*