

Marine Licence with introductory note

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

Licence Holder:
Stena Line Ports Limited

Company Number:
01593558

First Floor,
6 Arlington Street
London,
SW1A 1RE

**Further Ground Investigations for
Fishguard Linkspan Replacement**

Licence Number:
RML2564

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Further Ground Investigations for Fishguard Linkspan Replacement

Marine Licence number: RML2564

Introductory note

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

The main features of the marine licence are as follows:

Site investigation works including boreholes, vibrocores and grab samples which will inform the design of the proposed replacement linkspan structure, dredging and associated civil works at Fishguard Harbour.

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	03 November 2025	Application received and considered to be duly made
Date licence determined	28 November 2025	Determination date

Related Marine licences or applications under determination

Marine Licence or Application Number	Date	Comments
RML2487	08 January 2025	Boreholes, grab samples and vibrocores within a different area of Fishguard Harbour, to inform dredging and pile design for the new linkspan and supporting civil works.

End of introductory note.

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BAND 1 MARINE LICENCE NUMBER RML2564

1 LICENCE DETAILS

1.1 Band 1 Licence

This is a licence granted by the Licensing Authority in respect of an application numbered **RML2564** and duly made on **03 November 2025** and authorises the Licence Holder to carry out activities for which a licence is required under Part 4 of the 2009 Act and falling within Band 1 of Schedule 1 of the Marine Licensing (Fees) (Wales) Regulations 2017/280. 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: **Stena Line Ports Limited**
Company number: **01593558**
Address: **First Floor, 6 Arlington Street, London, SW1A 1RE**

1.3 Licence Validity

Licence Start Date	28 November 2025
Licence End Date	27 November 2026
Licence Issue Date	28 November 2025

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

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2 LICENSED ACTIVITIES

2.1 Project

This licence is granted in respect of:

Further Ground Investigations for Fishguard Linkspan Replacement

The Licensed Activities permitted by this licence, as set out in 2.2 below, comprise activities of the following general type:

- the removal of a substance or object from the sea bed

2.2 Licensed Activities

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

Removal Activities

- 13 x Boreholes
- 11 x Vibrocores
- 60 x Grab Samples - The total sample volume across all samples is no more than 4 cubic metres. The density of grab samples should not exceed 50 samples within any one hectare.

2.3 Licensed Area

The Licence Holder is authorised to conduct the activities described in paragraph 2.2 in the vicinity of Fishguard Harbour bounded by the following coordinates and as indicated in the plan attached at Appendix 1:

Latitude	Longitude
52.00871	-4.98745
52.00913	-4.98690
52.01005	-4.98608
52.01222	-4.98478
52.01402	-4.98294
52.01398	-4.98219
52.01099	-4.98488
52.00897	-4.98542
52.00864	-4.98576
52.00855	-4.98678
52.00856	-4.98694

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

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2.4 Approved Supporting Documents

Title/Description of Document	Date Submitted
RML2564 - Application Form.pdf	27 October 2025
RML2564 - POR00886-RPS-ML-ZZ-DR-C-0221-A1-C01 Proposed Site Investigation Location.pdf	27 October 2025
RML2564 - POR00886-RPS-ML-ZZ-DR-C-0222-A1-C01 Proposed Access Route.pdf	27 October 2025
RML2564 - POR00886-RPS-ML-ZZ-DR-C-0223-A1-C01 Sampling Area Layout.pdf	27 October 2025
RML2564 - FGLR - SI MS RevA.pdf	24 November 2025
RML2564 - Polygon Coords for ML Further SI.xlsx	27 October 2025
RML2564 - heneb.pdf	27 October 2025
RML2564 - MCA.pdf	27 October 2025
RML2564 - RCAHMW.pdf	27 October 2025
RML2564 - Trinity House.pdf	27 October 2025
RML2564 - Signed Declaration.pdf	03 November 2025

3 CONDITIONS

Notification and Inspection

3.1 Notification of Commencement

- 3.1.1** The Licence Holder must notify the Licensing Authority no less than **5 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 **5 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 **5 days** prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activities.

3.2 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.

3.3 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 **zone28@hmcg.gov.uk**.

3.4 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.

3.5 Inspection of Licensed Activities

The Licence Holder must allow Marine Enforcement Officers or any other person authorised by the Licensing Authority to inspect the Licensed activities 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 the authorised Welsh Government Marine & Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement Branch) within **10 days** of completion of the Licensed Activities.

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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 and any special conditions thereto is given to:

- All agent(s), contractor(s) and sub-contractor(s) whose names have been provided to the Licensing Authority pursuant to condition 3.2; and
- The Masters of any vessels and transport managers responsible for the vehicles employed in the pursuance of this Licence whose details have been submitted to the Licensing Authority pursuant to condition 3.4.

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(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s) vessels

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or vehicles carrying out any Licensed Activities pursuant to or otherwise operating under this Licence.

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 not 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 Coatings

The Licence Holder must ensure that any coatings/treatments used in carrying out the Licensed Activities are suitable for use in the marine environment and are used in accordance with best environmental practice.

3.17 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.

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3.18 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

3.19 Boreholes - Additional Notification of Commencement

The Licence Holder must ensure that the locations and timings of any borehole works are reported to the Licensing Authority at least **5 days** prior to carrying out the Licensed Activities.

3.20 Boreholes or Grab Samples - 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.

3.21 Grab Samples - Sensitive Species

The Licence Holder must ensure that in the event of removal of any sensitive species designated by NRW under Schedule 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, no further removals occur at that location, or within **20 metres** of that location.

3.22 Removal Activity – Artefacts

The Licence Holder must ensure that any artefacts found during the Licensed Activities are reported through the Marine Portable Antiquities Scheme.

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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 Band 1 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 2.4 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 2.2;
- (g) “**Licensed Area**” means the area within which Licensed Activities are authorised by this Licence as specified in section 2.3;
- (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 paragraph 5;
- (l) “**Marine Licence Application Form**” means the application form forming part of the application referred to in paragraph 1.1;
- (m) “**MCZ**” means Marine Conservation Zone;
- (n) “**Ramsar site**” means a wetland site designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention;
- (o) “**SAC**” means Special Area of Conservation;
- (p) “**Sensitive Area**” means any designated or proposed protected area (SPA, SAC, MCZ, SSSI or Ramsar site), or any other habitat identified by Natural Resources Wales as sensitive as at the date of this Licence;

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(q) “**Sensitive Area Method Statement**” means the Method Statement(s) forming part of the Approved Application or Approved Supporting Documents;

(r) “**SPA**” means Special Protection Area;

(s) “**SSSI**” means Site of Special Scientific Interest;

(t) “**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;

(u) all times shall be taken to be the time in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on any given day;

(v) all co-ordinates shall be taken to be latitude and longitude decimal degree (WGS 84)

(w) in the event of any discrepancy between the coordinates listed in paragraph 2.4 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 is:

Natural Resources Wales Marine Licensing Team,
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: 03000 253500
Email: MarineLicencingEnforcement@gov.wales

