

Our ref: RML2571

Date: 13 March
2026

Dear James Malone,

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009: PART 4 – MARINE LICENSING

LICENCE FOR National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC for geotechnical surveys along the potential route of a HVDC transmission link in the Irish Sea

LICENCE NUMBER: RML2571

I am writing to advise you that the Marine Licensing Team, on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, as Licensing Authority, has considered your application, which was duly made complete on **09 December 2025**, for a Marine Licence under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and hereby grant a Marine Licence for you to undertake the above stated works.

Accordingly, please find attached for your review and retention a copy of Marine Licence **RML2571** and its conditions.

Advisory Note

Marine Licence, **RML2571**, constitutes a statutory consent; therefore, the conditions set out herein must be complied with in full and will be binding upon any agent or contractor who undertakes any activity on the project on your behalf.

You are advised that there are records of *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef and horse mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*), which are protected under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, within the survey corridor. NRW Advisory (NRW A) requests that you have regard for these habitats of principal importance during the proposed works and refer you to the data sources outlined in NRW's [Marine ecology datasets for marine developments](#) which provide information on records of Section 7 habitats and species including: [Marine Recorder Online](#), [NBN Atlas Wales](#), [Data Map Wales](#) and [NRW Data Discovery](#) pages. NRW Advisory requests that these information sources, together with survey procedures which facilitate a commitment to micro-siting around Section 7 receptors, are considered within the final survey methods and design.

NRW A also advise you to ensure that emergency procedures are in place should an aquifer under pressure be encountered during surveys. You are encouraged to store any equipment aboard survey vessels or within close working range.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCGA) advise that any jack-up barges/vessels utilised during the works, when jacked up, should exhibit signals in accordance with the UK Standard Marking Schedule for Offshore Installations as per condition 3.18.

The MCGA also advises you that the site is within port limits and that you 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.

The MCGA also advise that a risk assessment for operating in the vicinity of the TSS should be undertaken before the works commence, with a process in place for identifying high levels of traffic to avoid.

The MCGA suggests considering whether there is sufficient available sea room for vessels to pass when your vessel is stationary to collect samples and would welcome any survey data being submitted as third-party data to the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) for the update of nautical charts and publications to improve safety. Further information can be found in MGN 654 Annex 4 supporting document titled 'Hydrographic Guidelines for Offshore Developers', available on our website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/offshore-renewable-energy-installations-impact-on-shipping>.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) notes that the survey has considerable potential to enhance the existing knowledge of maritime archaeological material across the survey area. They would be grateful if discussion could be held with yourselves post-survey, regarding the integration of knowledge into the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), for example through submission of reports, and/or seabed data relating to archaeological material.

You are urged to read the conditions of Marine Licence **RML2571** carefully, in particular the need to advise Welsh Government Marine Enforcement Officers of the commencement of works within **10 days** prior to work starting.

Marine Licence, **RML2571** is solely granted for the work to be undertaken **along the potential route of a HVDC transmission link in the Irish Sea**; however, it does not absolve you from applying for further consents or licences as necessary to enable the full completion of your project.

If the works authorised by this Licence are unlikely to be completed by the expiry date, the Licence Holder should apply for a replacement marine licence **at least 4 months** prior to the expiry date of this Licence.

Should you require clarification as to the reasons for the inclusion of any of the conditions attached to the Licence then you must request written notice within 28 days of the receipt of this letter.

Rights of appeal

You have the right of appeal to the Welsh Ministers against this decision. The Appeal must be made in accordance with the Marine Licensing (Appeals Against Licensing Decisions) (Wales) Regulations 2011.

A notice of appeal must be received by the Welsh Ministers within six months beginning with the date of the decision to which the appeal relates.

You must send written notice of appeal including the documents listed below to the Welsh Ministers at the following address:

Welsh Ministers c/o Marine Licensing Branch, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff.
CF10 3NQ.

At the same time, you must send a copy of the notice of appeal to the Natural Resources Body for Wales at the following address:

Permitting Service Manager, Permitting Service(Cardiff), Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government Offices, Cathays Park, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

The notice of appeal must include:

- a) the name, address (including any email address) and telephone number of the appellant and any agent acting for the appellant;
- b) a statement of the grounds of appeal;
- c) a statement as to whether the appellant wishes to have the appeal dealt with by way of written representations, a hearing or an inquiry;
- d) a copy of the decision to which the appeal relates;
- e) a copy of all documents upon which the appellant wishes to rely; and
- f) a list of all the documents, including dates (where any document is dated), specified in bullet points d and e above. :

You may withdraw an appeal by notifying the Welsh Ministers in writing and sending a copy of that notification to the NRW at the address specified above.

Please be aware that you will be charged for any post licensing work associated with your licence. If you have any queries regarding the fees, please email the Marine Licensing Team via marinelicensing@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

If you have any questions about your permits or licenses and/or site management, please contact our Customer Care Centre on 03000 653 000.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Treby
Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales