

From: [Morrison, Peter](#)
To: [Marine Operations](#)
Cc: [Freya Goodsir \(Cefas\)](#); [Briony Silburn \(Cefas\)](#); [Gary Saggars \(Cefas\)](#)
Subject: PA2606 Q26021 - DEFRA Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme
Date: 20 March 2026 09:33:52
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

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Good morning Michelle,

Thank you for the email and request for bespoke advice. I have tried to address the queries below;

1. Does the scientific sampling or trawling require a band 1 licence? What is the fee for this.

Scientific Sampling where material is being removed from the seabed using a vehicle or vessel, (such as grab sampling) is considered marine licensable. If they are able to meet the conditions of a band 1 application, a band 1 application may be applicable, this includes that works are not taking place in an area used for military defence purposes or an area hosting cables or pipelines. There is also a requirement to receive confirmation from Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House and where relevant the local Harbour Authority that the activity doesn't pose a risk to navigation, and from Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales that the activity doesn't pose a risk to the historic environment. There are also certain limits, for example the duration of the licence cannot be over 12 months, and in relation to grab sampling the total volume of samples taken cannot be more than 4 cubic meters. The cost of a Band 1 application is £600. If the activity does not meet the eligible criteria for band 1 and band 2 application would be required.

Trawling would only be considered a licensable activity if it is removing material from the seabed.

2. With regards using the online band 1 licencing portal – is there a set of questions or guidance document that we can have to ensure we prepare responses in advance?

We do not have a set of question we are able to share in relation to band 1 activities. It is possible to save and return to the portal at a later date. The information required generally follows that which would have been required when previously submitting a band 1 application. The website gives an overview of what information you should have to hand [Natural Resources Wales / Apply for a band 1 marine licence](#). If you have any specific feedback on the portal if you provide that to us I will pass on to our development team as the portal is currently being developed so any feedback would be welcome.

3. Is there further information on the addition to the exemptions which are due to come into force 1st April 2026?
So that we can assess whether our sediment sampling falls within this exemption.

At this stage we do not have any further guidance to reflect the exemption which is expected to come into force on the 1st of April 2026. As has been shared with you the legislation which was laid before the Senedd is [SL\(6\)751 - The Marine Licensing \(Exempted Activities\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Order 2026](#). We will be looking to amend our current website to reflect any changes post 1st of April. Likewise I believe that Welsh Government have the intention if publishing some guidance. However I would encourage you to review the detail of within the legislation at this stage.

4. Is there guidance on how to notify NRW of exempted activities, if the activity requires such notification?

If there is a requirement to determine that works are not likely to lead to a significant effect on a marine protected area we would advise that you contact Marine Advice and Management Team marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
In relation to any notification to the Marine Licensing Team this should be provided to marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

5. Is there a requirement for exemptions, licence or dispensation for scientific trawling surveys?

See response above, our current position is that trawling would not be considered licensable unless it would removing material from the seabed. If material is being removed we would advise that you review the exemption for samples for testing and analysis in the new amended Order [SL\(6\)751 - The Marine Licensing \(Exempted Activities\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Order 2026](#)

I hope the above helps.

If you consider that a meeting is still necessary please let me know,

Kind regards

Pete

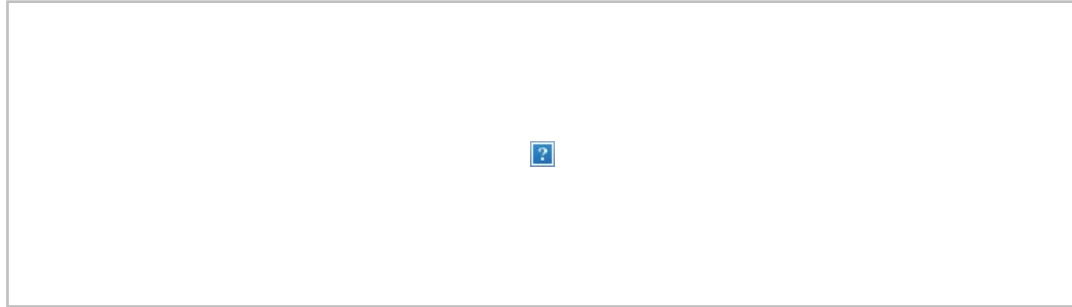
Peter Morrison MCIWEM C.WEM

Swyddog Arbenigol Arweiniol (Trwyddedu Morol) / Lead Specialist Officer (Marine Licensing)
Cyfarwyddiaeth Strategaeth, Polisi a Thystiolaeth | Strategy, Policy and Evidence Directorate
Rhif ffôn | Phone number 0300 065 3371
Rhagenwau Fe/Fo | Pronouns he/him
Yn Ardystiedig o ran Llythrennedd Carbon | Certified Carbon Literate



Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.



From: Marine Operations

Sent: 02 March 2026 16:37

To: Marine Licensing ; Marine Operations

Cc: Freya Goodsir (Cefas) ; Briony Silburn (Cefas) ; Gary Saggars (Cefas)

Subject: RE: Q26021 - DEFRA Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni, atodiadau agored nac sganio codau QR oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hello,

Thanks for your reply. Please see attached the survey method statement 2026, this provides a summary of the objective and activities. In addition, we've attached the Welsh station lists. Also attached are the licence application and licence obtained in 2024 when this survey was last conducted.

Can we suggest as an agenda:

- CSEMP survey overview (Cefas)
- NRW applicable processes and exemptions for scientific sediment sampling (NRW)
- NRW applicable processes for scientific trawling (NRW)
- Next steps for CSEMP survey

Our specific queries are:

1. Does the scientific sampling or trawling require a band 1 licence? What is the fee for this.
2. With regards using the online band 1 licencing portal – is there a set of questions or guidance document that we can have to ensure we prepare responses in advance?
3. Is there further information on the addition to the exemptions which are due to come into force 1st April 2026?
So that we can assess whether our sediment sampling falls within this exemption.
4. Is there guidance on how to notify NRW of exempted activities, if the activity requires such notification?
5. Is there a requirement for exemptions, licence or dispensation for scientific trawling surveys?

We have submitted a PO (number 20082249 attached), invoicing information is detailed within this document.

We'd appreciate a call at the earliest possibility, our team currently have some availability later this week and also next week.

Best regards,

Michelle

From: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Sent: 25 February 2026 17:00

To: Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Cc: Freya Goodsir (Cefas) <freya.goodsir@cefas.gov.uk>; Briony Silburn (Cefas) <briony.silburn@cefas.gov.uk>; Gary Saggars (Cefas) <gary.saggars@cefas.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Q26021 - DEFRA Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme

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Prynhawn da Michelle,

Thank you for your email.

A meeting to discuss your plans can be requested as part of our bespoke pre-application advice service. This service is charged at an hourly rate of £120 per hour.

We would be happy under this bespoke pre-application advice mechanism to meet (over a Microsoft Teams meeting) and introduce the process and can also discuss any queries relating to the licensing process itself.

Queries concerning technical advice on specific environmental receptors is best answered by the Marine Area Advice and Management Team, who's contact details are marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Before we can set up a meeting, we would ask that you provide a brief summary of the project, a short agenda, and any specific queries you may have toward the licensing process. This may help ensure adequate time is given and help inform the allocation of case officers as well as confirming that this is advice we are able to provide.

You will also need to provide the below invoicing details.

Customer Name:

For the Attention Of:

Purchase Order Number:

Address for invoice:

Telephone Number:

Email address:

Please note that charges would cover any potential preparation, any meetings as well as follow up work.

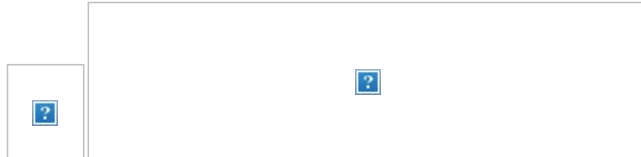
Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Tim Trwyddedu Morol / Marine Licensing Team

Cyfarwyddiaeth Strategaeth, Polisi a Thystiolaeth / Strategy, Policy and Evidence Directorate

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.



From: Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Sent: 25 February 2026 09:47

To: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Cc: Freya Goodsir (Cefas) <freya.goodsir@cefas.gov.uk>; Briony Silburn (Cefas) <briony.silburn@cefas.gov.uk>; Gary Saggars (Cefas) <gary.saggars@cefas.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Q26021 - DEFRA Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni, atodiadau agored nac sganio codau QR oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Dylan,

I wonder if we could organise a pre application call to discuss our survey and all of the applicable applications and dispensations that we need to submit to NRW.

Please let us know if this can be arranged.

Best regards,

Michelle

From: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 February 2026 16:37
To: Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>
Cc: Freya Goodsir (Cefas) <freya.goodsir@cefas.gov.uk>; Briony Silburn (Cefas) <briony.silburn@cefas.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Q26021 - DEFRA Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme

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Hi Michelle,

Your activity may be eligible under the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) (Wales) Order 2011 and may not require a Marine Licence, however it is for you to satisfy yourself that the exemption applies. Enforcement action might be taken if it is later determined that the activity, or the circumstances in which it was carried out, are not consistent with the terms of the relevant exemption. You can find more information on our website [Natural Resources Wales / Activities that may be exempt from requiring a marine licence](#).

If your exemption requires any engagement with other organisations such as the Maritime and Coastguard Agency or Trinity House, it is your responsibility to contact these organisations. Please check our website, or the Gov website [The Marine Licensing \(Exempted Activities\) \(Wales\) Order 2011](#).

If your activities are taking place within a designated site and has potential to impact on site features, we also recommend that you discuss your activity with the NRW Marine Area Advice Team (marine.area.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk).

Given the type of activities proposed, you are not required to provide notification of the exempted activities, however you would be welcome to do so if desired. If the in-progress Band 1 application was done via the new online customer platform, you may use the withdraw function. If you used the previous system, cancellation is not possible. To avoid confusion with any future submission, you may submit the form with a clear note in one of the text fields stating: "PLEASE DISREGARD – SUBMITTED IN ERROR."

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Dylan

Marine Licensing Team

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.



From: Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>
Sent: 13 February 2026 15:09
To: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>; Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>
Cc: Freya Goodsir (Cefas) <freya.goodsir@cefas.gov.uk>; Briony Silburn (Cefas) <briony.silburn@cefas.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Q26021 - DEFRA Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni, atodiadau agored nac sganio codau QR oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Dylan,

Many thanks for the comprehensive response. And thanks for the pointer to the updated legislation, I have read the amendment which is due to come in force on 1st April and noted this part in particular which will become an exempted

activity:



Our survey is due to start early July 2026 which is after this has come into effect, as such I believe our planned sampling will be an exempted activity. Although noted about the need to review the positions given cables and military practice areas.

Could you confirm how we should send through notification of an exempted activity, apologies I haven't been able to find it on the website.

And if I'm correct in that our sampling is exempted, do I need to do anything to cancel the band 1 application that I started?

Best regards,
Michelle

From: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 February 2026 12:32

To: Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Cc: Freya Goodsir (Cefas) <freya.goodsir@cefas.gov.uk>; Briony Silburn (Cefas) <briony.silburn@cefas.gov.uk>

Subject: Q26021 - DEFRA Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme

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Dear Michelle,

Our Band 1 Marine Licence process requires that correspondence from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (for removal works) is obtained for the works prior to applying. For further information, please see our website: [Natural Resources Wales / Contacting consultees before you apply for a band 1 marine licence](#).

Please be aware that some of the proposed sampling sites are located in Military Practice Areas, and as such cannot be considered under the Band 1 process. Furthermore, this is also applicable to sampling locations near subsea cables/pipelines, please see [Wales Marine Planning Portal](#) to ascertain the locations of Military Practice Areas and subsea cables/pipelines. Please also note that under the Band 1 process, collecting marine sediment (grab) samples (the total volume across all samples must be no more than 4 cubic metres, and you must not exceed 50 samples within any one hectare). For further information please see: [Natural Resources Wales / Marine licensing low risk activities \(band 1\)](#) & [Natural Resources Wales / Applying for a marine licence](#).

For your information, amendments to the Marine Licence exemption order are currently passing through the Senedd, Welsh Government and may be of interest: [SL\(6\)751 - The Marine Licensing \(Exempted Activities\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Order 2026](#).

We also have an online customer platform for Band 1 applications recently go live on our website: [Natural Resources Wales / Apply for a band 1 marine licence](#).

Your enquiry has been assigned reference number **Q26021**, please quote this reference number in any future

correspondence on this matter. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Dylan

Marine Licensing Team

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.



From: Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Sent: 12 February 2026 14:11

To: Marine Licensing <marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Cc: Freya Goodsir (Cefas) <freya.goodsir@cefas.gov.uk>; Briony Silburn (Cefas) <briony.silburn@cefas.gov.uk>; Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Subject: FW: [Reminder] Don't forget to complete the form you started

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni, atodiadau agored nac sganio codau QR oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hello,

I have started an application for our research survey CEND112026 which is a bi-annual survey as part of DEFRA's Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme. As part of the application there is a requirement to obtain confirmation from the coastguard that the activity does not pose a risk. Could you advise whether I am following the correct process as this isn't something I have come across before, and is there a specific contact or piece of evidence that you would like me to submit from the coastguard?

Attached is a method statement for the survey, in case it's useful to understand.

Best regards,

Michelle

From: Natural Resources Wales <noreply@smartsurveyuser.co.uk>

Sent: 12 February 2026 14:06

To: Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Subject: [Reminder] Don't forget to complete the form you started

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Dear michelle Kay,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

We have saved your form.

When you are ready to finish your form, please click <https://ffurflenni.cyfoethnaturiolcymru/s/MLB12026/?uid=290723891&saved=wSuG1ZpFuDcOKWZ2VMiChua5M>

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