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Wales

Marine Licensing Decision

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

Applicant: Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm Ltd
Application reference no: RML2576

Awel y Môr Offshore Array Area Geotechnical Survey

16 April 2026

Application Number: RML2576

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OUR DECISION

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations NRW has decided to grant the marine licence sought by the Application subject to the conditions set out in Annex 1.

This decision document:

- explains how the Application has been determined, having regard to the relevant legal framework outlined in section 4;
- explains how relevant considerations have been taken into account and how each of the legal requirements have been considered in determining the Application;
- provides a record of the decision-making process; and
- sets out the reasons for any conditions imposed in connection with any marine licence granted pursuant to the Application.

1. APPLICATION DETAILS

1.1. The Application

Applicant Name and Address	The Applicant is the company set out below: Company name: Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm Ltd Company number: 12270928 Address: Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB
Application Reference Number	RML2576
Date Application was duly made	23 December 2025
Proposal[s] covered by the Application	Awel y Môr Offshore Array Area Geotechnical Survey (the Project)
Licensable marine activities	Up to 80 vibrocores and up to 265 deep push seafloor Cone Penetration Tests (CPTs), of which, up to 53 will be seismic CPTs. (the Proposed Activities)
Marine Plan Area	Welsh inshore region and Welsh offshore region
Application documents:	RML2576 - AyM_Marine_Licence_Application_Form_(Marine_Works)_RevA_2026 (1) (002) - 23 December 2025

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	<p>RML2576 - 2026-RWE-Awel y Mor-Geotechnical MLA Supporting Environmental Information - 23 December 2025</p> <p>RML2576 - Copy of AyM_Array_Area_Coordinates_20042023 - 23 December 2025</p> <p>RML2576 - 231907_AyM_Geoarch MS_2026_Issue 1 - 20 March 2026</p> <p>RML2576 - 006727828-01 Offshore Geotechnical Sample Locations – 19 March 2026</p> <p>RML2576 - 005415890-01 AyM - Proposed Benthic Monitoring Approach and Justification – 19 March 2026</p>
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2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

2.1. The Application

The Application was accepted by Natural Resources Wales (**NRW**) considered duly made on 23 December 2025. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination, but not that it necessarily contained all the information we needed to complete that determination, and the documents considered may therefore include documents provided after the Application was first made.

2.2. Documents considered

In reaching its decision, NRW has considered the documents listed in section 1 of this decision document along with such other information provided by the Applicant or received by consultees as NRW considered relevant.

2.3. Commercial Confidentiality

The Applicant made no claim that any information forming part of the Application was subject to commercial confidentiality and we have not received any information in relation to the Application that appears to be commercially confidential.

2.4. Publicity and advertising

As required by s. 68 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the 2009 Act), notice was given to Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council on 02 February 2026.

As required by s. 68 of the 2009 Act NRW has required the Applicant to publish notice of the Application.

Public notice advertising the Project was placed in The Daily Post on 30 January 2026. The application documents were made available to the public at <https://publicregister.naturalresources.wales/Search/Results?SearchTerm=RML2576> and they could also be requested from Natural Resources Wales Marine Licensing Team, Welsh Government Offices, Cathays Park, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

The public were given a period of 28 days from the date of the Public Notice to provide comments on the Application.

No public responses were received in response to the Public Notice.

2.5. Environmental impact Assessment

Council Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment aims to protect the environment and the quality of life by ensuring that projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects by virtue of their nature, size or location are subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before permission is granted.

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (“the Regulations”) transpose the EIA Directive in Wales and England for marine licence applications.

Having considered the Application NRW has determined that it does not constitute a development requiring EIA under the Regulations.

3. CONSULTATION

3.1. Consultees

NRW considered it appropriate to consult the bodies listed in the table below on 02 February 2026, due to their particular expertise. These bodies were consulted for a period of 28 days. For those bodies which responded to the consultation an 'Y' can be found in the response received column, and those which did not respond to the consultation an 'N':

Consultee	Response received (Y/N)	Date(s) of receipt
The Crown Estate	Y	26 February 2026
NRW	Y	1 st Consultation: 02 March 2026 2 nd Consultation: 26 March 2026 Provision of Form 3: 09 April 2026
MoD - Safeguarding Defence	Y	03 February 2026
Maritime & Coastguard Agency	Y	26 February 2026
Trinity House	Y	06 March 2026
Royal Yachting Association	Y	27 February 2026
Local Biodiversity Officer [Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council]	N	
Local Planning Authority [Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council]	N	
Local Harbour Authority	N	
Local Port Authority	N	
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	N	
Welsh Government Marine Enforcement Officers	Y	03 March 2026
Welsh Archaeological Trust	N	
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	Y	05 February 2026 09 March 2026
Cadw	Y	02 March 2026
Chamber of Shipping	N	

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NERL Safeguarding	Y	03 February 2026
Welsh Fishermens Association	N	
Public Health Wales	Y	17 February 2026
NFFO	N	
IFCA (North West)	Y	19 February 2026

Consultees who did not provide a response were assumed to have no comment.

NRW has had regard to all consultation responses received in making its decision. Where these have impacted on NRW's decision making, this has been noted in the relevant paragraph in section 4 of this decision document.

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4. BASIS FOR OUR DECISION

In determining this application, including the terms on which it was granted, and the conditions attached to it, NRW has had regard to the factors set out in section 4 below in accordance with the 2009 Act.

Under the 2009 Act NRW is required to have regard to the following:

- the need to protect the environment (see section 4.1);
- the need to protect human health (see section 4.2);
- the need to prevent interference with legitimate uses of the sea (see section 4.3);
- in the case of an application for a licence to authorise construction, alteration or improvement of works within the UK marine licensing area, the effects of any use intended to be made of the works in question when constructed, altered or improved (considered, if relevant in sections 4.1 to 4.5 below);
- any representations which it has received from any person having an interest in the outcome of the Application (summarised in section 3 and where relevant considered in sections 4.1 to 4.5 below); and
- such other matters as it thinks relevant (see section 4.5 below).

4.1. The need to protect the environment:

The reference to the “environment” includes the local and global environment; the natural environment; and, by virtue of section 115(2) of the 2009 Act, any site of historic or archaeological interest. The natural environment may include the physical, chemical and biological state of the sea, the seabed and the seashore, and the ecosystems within it, or those that are directly or indirectly affected by an activity, whether within the marine licensing area or otherwise.

In considering the need to protect the environment we have considered the relevant environmental legislation set out below.

4.1.1. Water Framework Directive, Groundwater Directive and Water Environment Regulations

a) The legal framework

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (**Water Environment Regulations**) implement the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (**WFD**) (Directive 2000/60/EC) which requires consideration as to whether that proposals for development may cause deterioration or prevent a water body from achieving ‘good status’. Proposals likely to cause deterioration or prevent a waterbody from achieving good status should be rejected, unless derogation procedures have been applied.

Under the Water Environment Regulations, NRW must exercise its relevant functions to ensure compliance with the requirements of the WFD, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (Directive 2008/105/EC) and the Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EEC).

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b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW has considered the potential effect of the Proposed Activities on the following WFD waterbodies:

- North Wales - GB641011650000

A Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment has been undertaken for the Proposed Activities and taken into account in this decision. This assessment concludes that the activities have no potential to cause deterioration of any water body or prevent a water body or WFD Protected Area from meeting its objectives due to the small scale and temporary nature of the works.

Further details are described within the Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment.

4.1.2. Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty

a) The legal framework

Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 requires that we seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of our functions, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, in a manner that is consistent with the proper exercise of our functions.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW A initially had concerns regarding the activities impact on sensitive marine habitats. Previous survey data had been collected to inform Marine Licence ORML2233 which indicated an absence of sensitive habitat in the array area however, this data had not been presented to support the geotechnical survey application.

NRW A therefore advised that the Applicant should either provide such information, together with the planned sampling station locations, in order to micro-site the survey stations around known sensitive features, or, commit to deploy DDV prior to placement of the drilling equipment to confirm absence of sensitive features. They also requested that the size of the sampling rig/equipment be provided. To provide added assurance, NRW (A) also advised that should any sensitive habitats be encountered, the Applicant move away from that location to avoid further damage.

Subsequently, the Applicant provided additional information regarding the sample locations, "*RML2576 - 006727828-01 Offshore Geotechnical Sample Locations*", and survey data, "*RML2576 - 005415890-01 AyM - Proposed Benthic Monitoring Approach and Justification*". Although the exact sample locations were not confirmed, they stated that all samples would be within 20m of the Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) positions and the previous survey data indicated that there was a lack of sensitive habitat in the array area.

Having reviewed the additional information provided, NRW A were satisfied that the proposed activities for the geophysical survey are unlikely to result in significant lasting impacts on sensitive section 7 habitats. They did however request that should any sensitive habitats and/or species (most notably Horse Mussel, *Modiolus modiolus*) be encountered during the survey activities, that they are avoided and the data be used to inform any subsequent surveys and final design/construction of the Awel y Mor offshore wind farm. The following condition has therefore been added to the licence as requested:

*The Licence Holder must ensure that in the event of removal of Section 7 habitats, most notably Horse Mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) beds, no further removals occur at that location, or within **50 metres** of that location.*

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NRW is satisfied that in this case, we have taken into account and had due regard to this duty in so far as it is consistent with the function of determining an application for a Marine Licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

4.1.3. European Protected Sites and Ramsar Sites

a) The legal framework

European sites are those designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (**Habitats Regulations 2017**) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (**Offshore Habitats Regulations 2017**) as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

The Habitats Regulations 2017 and the Offshore Habitats Regulations 2017 require that any project that is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) must be subject to an appropriate assessment. NRW undertakes a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to establish whether an appropriate assessment is required.

In addition NRW must exercise its functions under the 2009 Act so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the relevant European Directives. NRW also has a duty under the Habitats Regulations 2017 to support wild birds by protecting habitats and avoiding pollution.

A Ramsar site is a wetland which has been designated under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention does not place specific legal requirements on its parties (though Ramsar sites are often SSSIs or SPAs, considered below), however Ramsar status is considered by NRW as matter of policy in its decision making.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

The Project is located in/may affect the following European Protected Sites:

Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA

North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Môn Forol SAC

Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau / Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC

A Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Proposed Activities has been undertaken, and NRW (as Statutory Nature Conservation Body) consulted on the HRA.

NRW requested that marine mammals were screened in to the assessment due to the potential for noise/vibration from the works. Although no AEOsI was expected, evidence was required to demonstrate this.

Subsequently, the Applicant provided evidence to demonstrate that CPT and seismic CPT produce noise/vibration levels which are highly unlikely to result in AEOsI. Following a 2nd consultation, NRW were happy with the evidence provided and agreed with the conclusions of the HRA. Further details are described within the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

NRW is therefore satisfied that the Proposed Activities, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of European Site(s).

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4.1.4. European Protected Species

a) The legal framework

The Habitats Regulations 2017 and the Offshore Habitats Regulations 2017 also confer protection on certain designated species (European Protected Species). A licence (EPS licence) must be obtained in order, whether deliberately or accidentally, to capture, kill, disturb or injure such a species, damage or destroy their breeding or resting places or obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW considers that no protected species are likely to be impacted by the Project.

Any determination made as part of this decision are without prejudice to the consideration NRW is required to give an EPS licence application as the body with a statutory responsibility for its determination and do not constrain or bind NRW in exercising this function. Should an application for an EPS licence in relation to the Project be made it will be determined by NRW based on all the relevant information available to NRW at that time.

4.1.5. Marine Conservation Zones

a) The legal framework

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) were established under the 2009 Act to protect nationally important, rare or threatened habitats and species. The only currently designated MCZ in Wales is Skomer.

Under the 2009 Act, NRW must exercise its functions in the manner which it considers best furthers the conservation objectives stated for any MCZ or, where that is not possible, in the manner which it considers least hinders the achievement of those objectives.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW is satisfied that there is no significant risk of the Proposed Activities on the Skomer MCZ.

4.1.6. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

a) The legal framework

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (**1981 Act**) and protected by law to conserve their wildlife or geology. NRW must take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which an SSSI is of special scientific interest.

b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW is satisfied that there is no impact pathway to any SSSI .

4.1.7. The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

a) The legal framework

The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended) establish a legal framework for treating waste. This is designed to protect the environment and human health by emphasising the importance of proper waste management, recovery and recycling techniques to reduce pressure on resources and improve their use. Waste generated by a project or activity must in general terms be dealt with in an environmentally friendly way. To achieve this the Regulations describe a waste hierarchy which gives an order of preference for how waste is dealt with (prevention, re-use, recovery for other purposes such as energy, and finally disposal).

b) Factors relevant to our determination

NRW is satisfied that the Proposed Activities meet the requirements of The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

4.1.8. Other matters considered relevant to the need to protect the environment

The RCAHMW requested that the Method Statement should also include a Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD) to help mitigate any unexpected discovery. Having discussed this with the applicant, they confirmed that a PAD had already been developed as part of ORML2233, and this would be in place for the geotechnical investigations.

The Applicant subsequently provided a Geoarchaeological Method Statement, “RML2576 - 231907_AyM_Geoarch MS_2026_Issue 1” and the RCAHMW confirmed they were happy with the methods detailed.

The following condition has been added to the licence to ensure the Licence Holder works in line with this document:

The Licence Holder must implement any actions outlined in “RML2576 - 231907_AyM_Geoarch MS_2026_Issue 1”, submitted 20 March 2026 and detailed in section 2.3 as approved by the Licensing Authority. Any proposed changes to the actions outlined in the document must be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Licensing Authority prior to any changes being enacted.

4.1.9. Conclusion of our considerations under the need to protect the Environment

In summary, having considered the need to protect the environment, NRW does not consider that any impacts of the Project on the environment (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) are sufficient on their own to justify refusal of the Application.

4.2. The need to protect human health

No comments or representations were received in relation to the need to protect human health and no other concerns in this regard have been identified.

4.2.1. Conclusion of our considerations under the need to protect human health

In summary, having considered the need to protect human health, NRW does not consider that any impacts of the Project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) are sufficient on their own to justify refusal of the Application provided that the Proposed Activities are implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

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4.3. The need to prevent interference with legitimate uses of the sea

Legitimate uses of the sea include (but are not limited to): navigation (including taking any steps for the purpose of navigational safety); fishing; mineral extraction; and amenity use.

The MCA recommended that the Licence Holder notifies the operators of the nearby offshore wind farms at Rhyl Flats and North Hoyle in advance to ensure their operational teams are fully aware of the planned investigation activities. This has been passed on via the cover letter.

The MCA also requested the inclusion of the following Dropped Object condition:

All dropped objects must be reported to the NRW, UKHO and HMCG using the Dropped Object Procedure Form as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than 6 hours of the undertaker becoming aware of an incident. Immediate notification should be made to HM Coastguard via telephone where there is a perceived danger or hazard to navigation. On receipt of the Dropped Object Procedure Form, the MMO may require relevant surveys to be carried out by the undertaker (such as side scan sonar) if reasonable to do so and the NRW may require obstructions to be removed from the seabed at the undertaker's expense if reasonable to do so.

The standard dropped objects condition we include on all licences is:

*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.*

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.

Providing notification to the UKHO and HMCG is not normally included in our condition, but given the MCA's request, they have been added (See Annex 1, Condition 3.7.1). As for the time period in which to notify the relevant authorities, our condition requires notification within **48 hours** as opposed to **6 hours** and we would not be looking to change this as it ensures consistency with our other licences for similar activities.

Finally, the submission of a Dropped Object Procedure Form is an MMO procedure and not something that NRW apply to geotechnical investigations licences, so this has not been included in the condition. As part of the overarching Awel y Mor Offshore Wind Farm licence, [ORML2233](#), a condition has been included which states that the Applicant must comply with a dropped objects procedure.

Condition 3.7 was subsequently sent to the MCA alongside the explanation provided above. They have since agreed with our reasoning and are happy with Condition 3.7.

4.3.1. Conclusion of our considerations regarding the need to prevent interference with legitimate uses of the sea

In summary, having considered the need to protect interference with legitimate uses of the sea, NRW does not consider that any impacts of the Project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) are sufficient on their own to justify refusal of the Application.

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4.4. Marine Policy Documents

a) The Legal framework

NRW is required to take its decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

UK Marine Policy Statement 2011 (MPS)

The MPS is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.

Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP)

The WMNP is the Marine Plan for the Welsh inshore region and the Welsh offshore region and sets out the Welsh Government's policies for and in connection with the sustainable development of this area.

b) Our determination

UK Marine Policy Statement 2011

This decision has been taken in accordance with marine policy as set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement 2011.

Welsh National Marine Plan

This decision has been taken in accordance with marine policy as set out in the Welsh National Marine Plan. The project has demonstrated compliance with the following policies:

ECON_01: Sustainable Economic Growth - The site investigation surveys provide essential data that underpins the design and delivery of the AyM offshore wind development. These surveys reduce project risk and support efficient, cost-effective planning, ensuring the long-term viability and profitability of the wider development. By enabling a major renewable energy project, they help create enduring employment opportunities across multiple skill levels (for example from engineering and marine science to operations and maintenance) supporting Wales' transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

SOC_02: Well-being of coastal communities - The site investigation surveys are temporary, short-term, and located offshore, with no adverse effects on coastal communities (including tourism or recreation) are predicted. Moreover, site investigation surveys provide essential data that underpins the design and delivery of the AyM offshore wind development which will help create enduring employment opportunities across multiple skill levels and supporting Wales' transition to a low-carbon economy.

Due to the location and scale of the works the proposal is not considered to have the potential to have an adverse impact on any Tidal Stream Energy Strategic Resource Area (Policy SAF_02).

4.5. Other matters NRW thinks relevant

4.5.1. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

a) The legal framework

In making its decision, NRW is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its published well-being objectives, which are designed to maximise NRW's contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. NRW must also act in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

b) Our determination

NRW has taken into account its well-being objectives and is satisfied that its decision is consistent with meeting those objectives.

NRW is also satisfied that its decision is consistent with the sustainable development principle i.e. seeking to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.5.2. Sustainable management of natural resources

a) The legal framework

NRW's general purpose is to pursue the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources as set out in section 4 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 so far as consistent with the proper exercise of its functions.

b) Our determination


NRW is satisfied that this decision, when implemented in accordance with the attached conditions, is consistent with its general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales, and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations including the consultation responses, NRW's decision is to grant the Marine Licence sought by the Application. We have reached this decision having had regard to the relevant legal framework outlined in section 4 and have also explained in section 4 how each of the legal requirements have been considered. NRW has determined that a Marine Licence for the Proposed Activities should be granted.

Conditions have been attached to the Marine Licence as set out in Annex 1. The reason for the inclusion of each condition is set out with the conditions.

6. AUTHORISATION

Report by: Jack Thompson	Date: 09 April 2026	Signed: 
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Position: Senior Marine Licensing Officer		
Authorised by: Emmer Litt Position: Marine Licensing Team Leader	Date: 16 April 2026	Signed: 

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ANNEX 1

Conditions imposed and reasons for those conditions.

Note: Condition numbers used below reflect the condition numbers used in the licence.

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.

Reason: To ensure the Licensing Authority are aware of the commencement of Licensed Activities.

- 3.1.2** The Licence Holder must notify Welsh Government Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement) no less than **10 days** before the commencement of the Licensed Activities, or an individual phase of the Licensed Activities, is expected to commence.

Reason: To ensure the Marine Enforcement Officers are aware of the commencement of Licensed Activities.

- 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.

Reason: To minimise interference with other sea users and ensure other vessels in the vicinity can safely plan and conduct their passage.

- 3.1.4** The Licence Holder must ensure that notification is sent to The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office (email: sdr@ukho.gov.uk) at least **10 days** prior to commencement of the works. The information supplied must include the start date and end date, a description of the works, positions of the work area (WGS84), and details of any marking arrangements.

Reason: To ensure that navigation warnings can be issued to marine users and for the update of nautical charts.

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 Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement) at least **24 hours** prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activities.

Reason: To ensure that the Licensing Authority are made aware, in a timely manner, of the vessels and/or vehicles operating under this licence to enable the Licensing Authority to comply with the

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reporting obligations in the Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended.

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.

Reason: To ensure that the Licensing Authority are made aware, in a timely manner, of the agent(s), contractor(s) or sub-contractor(s) operating under this licence and in order to enable the Licensing Authority to comply with the reporting obligations in the Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended.

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 **Zone31@hmcg.gov.uk, Zone32@hmcg.gov.uk and offshoreenergy.notifications@mcga.gov.uk..**

Reason: To ensure the safety of navigation.

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.

Reason: To allow for inspection of the Licensed Activities to check compliance with the Licence.

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.

Reason: To ensure the Licensing Authority are aware of the completion of Licensed Activities.

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

Reason: To ensure the Marine Enforcement Officers are aware of the completion of Licensed Activities.

- 3.6.3** The Licence Holder must notify the UK Hydrographic Office of the Licensed Area and the Licensed Activities within **10 days** of the completion of the Licensed Activities.

Reason: To permit the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information and the updating of nautical charts and publications to ensure other vessels in the vicinity can safely plan and conduct their passage.

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, UKHO and HMCG within **48 hours** of the incident occurring.

Reason: To allow the Licensing Authority to take appropriate action to ensure the appropriate removal of the unlicensed deposit.

- 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.

Reason: To allow for the recovery of objects that have been accidentally dropped when carrying out the Licensed Activities.

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 agents, contractors and subcontractors 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.**

Reason: To ensure that all agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s) and vessel Masters are aware of their obligations under the conditions established within this Licence to ensure compliance with the conditions.

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.**

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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.

Reason: To ensure that all agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s) and vessel Masters may access the details of this Licence at all times and to ensure that the details of this Licence are available for inspection when required.

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.

Reason: To ensure that the Licensing Authority are made aware, in a timely manner, of the agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s) operating under this Licence to enable the Licensing Authority to comply with the reporting obligations in the Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended.

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.

Reason: To minimise the risk of fuels/other contaminants entering the marine environment.

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.

Reason: To minimise impacts on the marine environment and other users of the sea/seabed.

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.

Reason: To ensure that any material which may pose a hazard to safe navigation has been removed.

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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**.

Reason: To minimise the risk of pollution incidents and to ensure the timely report of such incidents to enable the Licensing Authority to take action as appropriate.

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

Reason: To minimise the risk of fuels/other contaminants entering the marine environment.

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.

Reason: To minimise the amount of man-made materials disposed of at sea.

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.

Reason: To minimise the risk of spread of invasive non-native species.

Activity-specific Conditions

3.18 Implement Actions within the Geoarchaeological Method Statement

The Licence Holder must implement any actions outlined in "RML2576 - 231907_AyM_Geoarch MS_2026_Issue 1", submitted 20 March 2026 and detailed in section 2.3 as approved by the Licensing Authority. Any proposed changes to the actions outlined in the document must be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Licensing Authority prior to any changes being enacted.

Reason: To ensure mitigation/actions are implemented as approved.

3.19 Vibrocores – Sensitive Species

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The Licence Holder must ensure that in the event of removal of Section 7 habitats, most notably Horse Mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) beds, no further removals occur at that location, or within **50 metres** of that location.

Reason: To minimise the risk of impact to sensitive species and habitats.