



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol**  
Cymru  
**Natural  
Resources**  
Wales

# Marine Licensing Decision

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

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Applicant: **National Grid Electricity Transmission  
PLC**

Application reference no: **RML2571v1**

**Geotechnical surveys along the potential route  
of a HVDC transmission link in the Irish Sea**

03 June 2026

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## **OUR DECISION**

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations NRW has decided grant the variation to the Existing Marine Licence (see Annex 1) sought by the Variation Application.

- 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 Variation Application**

Applicant Name and Address	The Applicant is the company set out below:  Company name: National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC  Address: 1 – 3, The Strand, London, England, WC2N 5EH  Company Number: 02366977
Application Reference Number	RML2571v1
Date Application was duly made	27 May 2026
Proposal[s] covered by the Application	Geotechnical surveys to gather baseline data on potential route options to inform the development of the Western Link 2 project in the Irish Sea.  (the <b>Project</b> )
Licensable marine activities	The survey activity will comprise of:  - sediment grab sampling  - vibrocore sampling  - borehole sampling  - Cone Penetration Testing (CPT)

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	(the <b>Proposed Activities</b> )
Marine Plan Area	Welsh inshore region and Welsh offshore region
Application documents:	<p>RML2571 - WL2 Application</p> <p>RML2571 - WL2 Survey Corridor Coordinates Wales</p> <p>RML2571 - WNMP</p> <p>RML2571 - WL2 Survey Corridor Wales Shapefile</p> <p>RML2571 - WL2 INNS Biosecurity RA and Management Plan</p> <p>RML2571 - NRW Geotechnical Survey Technical Note_rev01</p> <p>RML2571 - Marine Jurisdictions and the WL2 2026 Survey Licence Corridor</p> <p>RML2571 - Application Form Amendments</p> <p>RML2571 - NRW Geotechnical Survey Technical Note_rev02</p> <p>RML2571v1 - Application Form</p> <p>RML2571v1 - 81535 NRW Geotechnical Survey Technical Note_May_Submission</p> <p>RML2571v1 - Complex variation request - Duly Making Checks LH Response</p>

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## **2. VARIATION APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### **2.1. The Application**

The Variation Application was accepted by Natural Resources Wales (**NRW**) considered duly made on **27 May 2026**. 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**

The application sought a minor change to the methodology to include additional grab samples. The licensable area and licence period remain the same as within the existing consent therefore no notice was given to Local Authorities and no Public Notice was advertised for this Marine Licence variation.

### **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**

As the change related to the methodology NRW considered it appropriate to consult with body listed below due to their particular expertise and the responses received from them during the original consultation.

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Response received (Y/N)</b>	<b>Date(s) of receipt</b>
NRW Advisory (NRW A)	Y	28 May 2026

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NRW A were content with the proposal to update the methodology to include additional grab samples.


The HRA remained unchanged due to the minor nature of the variation to which NRW A agreed.

**4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on all the information available, and having regard to all relevant considerations including consultation responses, NRW's decision is to grant the variation to the existing Marine Licence sought by the Variation Application. RML2571v1 is a minor change to the methodology and as such we refer to section 4 of the decision document for RML2571 regarding the relevant legal framework and how each of the legal requirements have been considered. The decision document can be found here: [Public register - Customer Portal](#) by searching for RML2571.

NRW has determined that a Marine Licence for the Proposed Activities should be granted.

**AUTHORISATION**

<b>Report by:</b> Stephen Treby <b>Position:</b> Senior Marine Licencing Officer	<b>Date:</b> 02 June 2026	<b>Signed:</b> S. Treby
<b>Authorised by: Emmer Litt</b> <b>Position:</b> Marine Licensing Team Leader	<b>Date:</b> 03 June 2026	<b>Signed:</b> 

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**ANNEX 1 - Variation to the Marine Licence**

The description of the licenced activities has been changed in Table 1 of Section 2 of the marine licence. The description includes additional grab samples (15 in total) as well as making it clearer which activities are non depth dependent as per the email dated 29 May 2025 (*RML2571 Complex variation request - Draft Licence*).