

Our ref: RML2571v2

Date: 27 August 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: **RML2571v2**

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 **31 July 2026**, requesting a variation to a Marine Licence under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and hereby grant the Marine Licence for you to undertake the above stated works.

Accordingly, please find attached for your review and retention a copy of Marine Licence **RML2571v2** and its conditions. Please note that Marine Licence **RML2571v2** supersedes Marine Licence **RML2571v1** in its entirety.

The description of the licenced activities has been changed in Table 1 of Section 2 of the marine licence. The description now includes text clarifying the location of the vibrocore and CPT sampling at the landfall area, as well as the following changes to the samples:

- **Increase from 9 to 18 jack-up barge deployments (nearshore, <10 m water depth)**
- **Increase from 9 to 18 boreholes (nearshore, <10 m water depth)**
- **Increase from 9 to 18 cone penetration tests (nearshore, <10 m water depth)**
- **Increase from 2 to 18 vibrocores (nearshore, <10 m water depth)**
- **Increase from 174 to 200 vibrocores (offshore, >10 m water depth)**
- **Increase from 174 to 200 cone penetration/T-bar tests (offshore, >10 m water depth)**
- **Increase from 110 to 122 Dual Van Veen Grab samples (across licence area)**
- **Increase from 220 to 226 Hamon Grabs/Day Grab samples (across licence area)**

Advisory Note

NRW Advisory highlighted during the consultation that the Licence Holder should follow the relevant JNCC guidelines, use reduced vessel speeds and adhere to the Wild Seas Wales (2025) Marine Code to minimise the potential for noise and visual disturbance associated with vessel presence.

Marine Licence, **RML2571v2**, 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 urged to read the conditions of Marine Licence **RML2571v2** 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, **RML2571v2** 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.

Finally, once again, please ensure you have read and understood Marine Licence **RML2571v2**. Should you have any queries with regards to your Marine Licence then please do not hesitate to contact the Marine Licensing Team.

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,

Vicky Fisk
Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales