Transparency data: Birdham Pool – Basin dredge, revetment and pontoons

On 29 April 2016 Castle Marinas Limited submitted an application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for a marine licence to allow construction, dredging and disposal activities within Birdham Pool marina.

The application included installation of 14 additional berthing pontoons at Birdham Pool Marina and, in order to achieve suitable operating depths for vessels seeking access to the marina, up to 2500 m3 would be dredged using an excavator.

The sediment within the marina was known to have levels of contaminants above Cefas Action Level 2; namely copper (Cu) and mercury (Hg); such sediment is unlikely to be suitable for open sea disposal. Relocation of the sediment within the existing basin was, therefore, proposed and material would be placed behind a newly constructed revetment to contain the placed sediment.

The revetment wall comprises Nicospan geotextile material supported with 150mm diameter soft wood posts at 500mm centres with an integrated tie back system. The base of the geotextile is to be buried in to the sea bed.

The MMO determined the application on 24 July 2017 and all information relating to the MMO's decision is contained within the attached decision report.

The marine licence application and related documentation is available on the MMO's marine licensing public register.

Further Information:

All marine licence applications are available from the marine licensing public register.

Contact information:

Marine Licensing Team

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News story: Brexit Minister concludes

two day tour of Scotland

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to work with all parts of the UK as we leave the EU, Minister for Exiting the EU Robin Walker embarked on a two day tour across Scotland this week.

With negotiations firmly underway, the visit comes as the UK Government has stepped up its engagement with businesses from all parts of the United Kingdom. During the trip, the Minister travelled across the country, hearing from a wide range of Scottish industries, from farming and fishing to life sciences and energy.

He attended roundtables on financial services and oil and gas, and met with representatives from the Scottish Whisky Association and the Scottish Fishermen's Federation. He also paid visits to the Easter Grangemuir Farm in Fife and ROVOP in Aberdeen.

UK Government Minister for Exiting the EU, Robin Walker, said:

> Over the past two days, I've met with many of Scotland's most important sectors about their priorities as we leave the European Union.
>
> We've been crystal clear that we want businesses to work as freely as they do now, which is why we're determined to work with businesses from all parts of the UK to protect our internal market and get a deal that works in the interest of the whole of the United Kingdom."
>
> Earlier this month, the UK Government introduced the Repeal Bill which will transfer all EU law into UK law on exit day. As part of the process, it is expected that there will be a significant increase in the decision making power of each devolved administration.

As powers are repatriated from the EU, the Government will ensure they are exercised within the UK in a way that ensures no new barriers to living and doing business within the UK are created.

This will protect the UK internal market, ensuring we have the ability to strike the best trade deals around the world, protect our common resources, and fulfil our international obligations.

The UK Government is continuing to have intensive discussions with the devolved administrations, which will identify where we need to retain common frameworks and what these should be.

News story: Commercialising quantum: extra £3 million available

Additional funding for UK businesses and researchers to realise the potential of quantum technologies brings total up to £9 million.

Up to £9 million is now available for UK businesses and research organisations to work together to understand the feasibility of quantum technologies and develop the market.

Innovate UK will invest up to £6 million, with an additional £3 million co-funding announced from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). It is being run as part of the UK National Quantum Technologies Programme, government's £270 million commitment.

The opportunities of quantum

The emerging quantum technologies sector is valued at £1 billion and offers substantial opportunities for innovative UK businesses.

We are seeking collaborative feasibility studies that improve understanding of the technical capabilities or quantum technologies, and the market for these products or services.

Your project could be:

- technical, establishing the feasibility of devices that exploit quantum phenomena
- non-technical, analysing future markets, applications or business models

Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for applications is 20 September 2017
- projects must be collaborative, with either a UK business or research and technology organisation as the lead
- projects should last between 3 months and one year
- total project costs should be between £40,000 and £500,000

News story: Vans to go greener and cleaner under new plans

Changes to driver licensing rules will make it easier for van drivers to switch to electric vehicles, the government has announced today (28 July 2017).

Van drivers will be able to operate heavier electric or gas-powered vehicles without having to apply for a new licence, as part of moves to improve air quality in towns and cities across the country.

The reforms are a step towards the government's aim for nearly all cars and vans on our roads to be zero emission by 2050.

Currently, a motorist with an ordinary category B licence for a car can drive a van weighing up to 3,500kg. Cleaner vans, especially those powered by electricity from batteries, are generally heavier than conventional diesel vans because of the battery they carry. This reduces the amount of goods they can carry or means van drivers have to apply for a category C licence with the associated costs and medical report requirements.

Now the Department for Transport has published plans to allow motorists to drive vans weighing up to 4,250kg if they are powered by electricity, natural gas, LPG or hydrogen.

Transport Minister Jesse Norman said:

> Vans have become essential to our economy and are vital for our builders, small businesses and delivery drivers. We have more of them on our roads than ever before. That's a good sign for the economy, but our challenge is to try to tackle their impact on air quality.
>
> We want to make it easier for businesses to opt for cleaner vehicles, and these proposals are designed to do just that.

Road traffic estimates show there has been a rapid rise in light goods vehicle traffic over the last 20 years, in part powered by the growth in internet shopping.

In 2016 vans clocked up 49.1 billion vehicle miles – an increase of 23% when compared with 2006. Vans spend much of their time driving around our towns and cities and over 96% of them are diesel powered so making them greener is essential for people's health and the environment.

Head of Fleet at Ocado Stuart Skingsley said:

> At Ocado, we are very keen to incorporate the latest low-emission technologies in our vehicle fleet, but we have been unable to do so, due to the extra weight of the technology and category B licence restrictions.
>
> This vital derogation would allow us to field the latest alternatively fuelled vans, reducing harmful emissions and improving the UK's air quality.

A public consultation is now open on the proposed new measures and will last 12 weeks. They will help level the playing field by addressing the payload penalty which currently puts operators of cleaner vans at a commercial disadvantage compared to operators of equivalent conventionally-fuelled vehicles.

News story: The impact of qualification reform on A level science practical work

This study explores the perspectives of teachers implementing the changes to A level science practical work after one year.

Ofqual has today (28 July 2017) published its report on 'The impact of qualification reform on A level science practical work – Paper 1: Teacher perspectives after one year'

Reformed A level science qualifications were introduced for first teaching in September 2015. The assessment arrangements for practical work have changed significantly and Ofqual is conducting a programme of research to evaluate the impact of the reform on students' practical skills. This report describes the first study from this programme, in which a series of interviews were conducted in 2016 with teachers. They were asked for their initial reflections on how the reform had affected the teaching and learning of practical skills.

On balance, most teachers perceived the reform, or at least many aspects of it, to be positive for teaching and learning practical skills. They suggested the new arrangements compared favourably to those that were previously in place, which had, prior to their removal, become beset by significant issues around reliability and fairness. Many suggested the post-reform assessment arrangements allowed greater flexibility to embed practical work into the

course and encouraged a more ‘hands on’ approach to practical work.

The findings also suggest schools and colleges have not been affected in a uniform way by the reform. The magnitude and nature of the impact is dependent on the characteristics of the school or college. And there was some evidence of contradictory views about how the reform would affect student motivation for engaging with practical work.