

Welsh Government Fisheries Division



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

SECTION A.

THIS PERMIT entitles the Permit Holder to fish for, take or remove cockles from beds notified as OPEN within the Three Rivers Estuary Cockle fishery.

This Permit is issued under the authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, one of the Welsh Ministers, for the purposes of The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024.

The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024 under the authority of Welsh Ministers, make the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 189(1) and 316(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009(1).

This Permit entitles you to fish for, take or remove cockles, subject to the conditions set out below, from any cockle bed within the “Three Rivers Estuary area” (defined below) which is, at the relevant time, notified as open to cockle fishing activities, during 2025.

Please regularly check the website, locally posted notices and social media for updates regarding which beds (if any) are open.

<https://gov.wales/three-rivers-cockle-fishery>

There will be a daily catch limit of 350kgs until further notice.

Three Rivers Estuary area

In this Permit, the “Three Rivers Estuary area” means an area within the estuaries of the Rivers Taf, Tywi and Gwendraeth, known as the Three Rivers Estuary, which consists of all tidal waters within the District of the former SWSFC which are enclosed by a line drawn from Ginst Point (NG Ref. SN 332079) to Pen Tywyn Point (NG Ref. SN 357064). Tidal waters are those limits as defined by the former SWSFC:

1. A line drawn across the River Taf, between Laugharne Castle and Black Scar.
2. A line drawn across the River Tywi, true east from the south-easternmost corner of Llansteffan Castle to the opposite shore.
3. A line drawn across every river or stream flowing into the Gwendraeth estuary, along the seaward side of the bridges carrying the railway between Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park and RAF Pembrey Sands.

General Conditions

Applicable to any cockle bed not subject to a closure notice within the Three Rivers Estuary area:

1. This Permit only allows the fishing for, taking or removal of cockles from beds within the Three Rivers Estuary area which are, at the relevant time, open to cockle fishing activities (i.e. not subject to a closure notice made by the Welsh Ministers).
2. This Permit is valid until 23:59 on 31 May 2026. This Permit will expire automatically at the end of this period and may be terminated or withdrawn at any time by the Welsh Ministers within this period.
3. Only the Permit Holder may fish for, take (or attempt to fish for or take) or remove cockles from the Three Rivers Estuary area **not subject to a closure**. The Permit Holder may not be assisted by any other person and this Permit cannot be transferred to any other person.
4. The Permit Holder must have a valid permit and be prepared to be asked by a Welsh Government Officer or any Marine Enforcement Officer on demand for your personal details in order to confirm your identity and that you have a valid Welsh Government permit.
5. The Permit Holder must comply with all reasonable demands and instructions issued by any Welsh Government Official or any Marine Enforcement Officer.
6. The Permit Holder must make a full and true report (“Catch Return”) **DAILY** online via the digital portal [Apply for a fishing permit | GOV.WALES](#)
7. **Cockle sacks up to a size of 25kg (approximately 45cm x 60cm) are to be used to remove cockle from the cockle beds. Gathered cockle must be**

carried in these sacks to the point of landing on the perimeter of the specified area.

8. **Identification tags for all sacks need to be securely attached to the cockle sacks and the tags must clearly display the permit holder's permit number.**
9. Tonne bags to transport cockle from the cockle beds to the shore must not be used.
10. If you intend walking onto the cockle beds you must identify your catch from the boat you placed your cockle onto at the landing point.
11. Gathering must be undertaken by hand or by rake and fixed mesh sieve of **17.5mm or larger** only (in accordance with The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024. **-The use of net bags is prohibited.** Undersize cockle shall be returned immediately to the bed at a position as nearby as possible from where the undersized cockle was taken.
12. The use of tamps, or any other instrument used to fluidise the sand, is prohibited.
13. No person shall fish for, take or remove cockles between half an hour after sunset on any day and half an hour before sunrise on the following day. (in accordance with The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024.
14. **No vehicles of any sort to be used.** The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024. (Vehicle Usage within the Three Rivers) provides that no person may cause or permit a mechanically propelled vehicle to stand on or pass over any part of the Three Rivers Estuary (for our purposes) without the prior written authority of the Welsh Ministers.
15. **Boat only removal of taken cockle.** This condition is included to protect habitats within the fishery and to prevent intentional or reckless damage to the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
16. Boats measuring over 10 metres in length will not be permitted within the Three Rivers Estuary to remove taken cockle.
17. Further, the area of water covering this fishery is defined as "at sea". A vessel involved in any manner with regard to the transportation of personnel, equipment or cargo for cockling in the area will be operating commercially. As such any vessel operating for commercial purposes, must comply with relevant United Kingdom Merchant Shipping Legislation. (See **Annex D**) Further information on this legislation can be sought from the MCA website, <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency> or in the links below:

SI2016/354 - The Merchant Shipping (Small Workboats and Pilot Boats) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/354/pdfs/uksi_20160354_en.pdf

SI1998/1609 - The Merchant Shipping (Small Workboats and Pilot Boats) – see above amendments
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1998/1609/made>

MSN 1892 – The workboat code edition 2 (for vessel constructed after 31st December 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1892-m-the-workboat-code-edition-2>

MGN 280 - Small Vessels in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats – Alternative Construction Standards (for vessel constructed before 31st December 2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mgn-280-small-vessels-in-commercial-use-for-sport>

SI1997/2962 - The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/2962/made>

MIN 538 – Authorization of certifying authority
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/min-538-m-amendment-2-authorisation-of-certifying-authorities>

The workboat Code - Industry working group technical standard - A Code of Practice (CoP) for small workboats in commercial use to sea and all pilot boats. Workboat Code - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The Workboat Code Edition 3 - (for vessels constructed after 13th December 2023). The Workboat Code Edition 3 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) This Code should be read in conjunction with SI 2023 No. 1216, The Merchant shipping (Small workboats and Pilot Boats) Regulations 2023.

[The Merchant Shipping \(Small Workboats and Pilot Boats\) Regulations 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Existing vessels that are certificated under the Brown Code, its equivalent standard published in the technical Annex to MGN 280(M), or Workboat Code Edition 2, Amendment 1 [The workboat code edition 2 - amendment 1 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) shall meet the requirements of Workboat Code Edition 3 by the vessel's next renewal examination or three years after the date of entry into force of the Code, whichever is later, except, where references to previous requirements are explicitly specified within individual sections of the Code they may comply with such requirements. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1892-m-the-workboat-code-edition-2>

MIN 698 (M) Workboat Code Edition 3 – Standards and Guidelines for Best Practice. This notice should be read with The Workboat Code Edition 3. [MIN 698 Amendment 1 \(M\) Workboat Code Edition 3 – standards and guidelines for best practice - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk)

18. Evidence of compliance with MCA legislation must a) be displayed on the vessel being used or b) a certificate of authorisation from the MCA must be available at all times whilst gathering and be presented to Marine Enforcement Officers for inspection on demand.

Termination: The Welsh Ministers may, in their absolute discretion, withdraw the Permit at any time. Where possible prior notice of withdrawal will be given, but in any

of the following circumstances, the Permit may be withdrawn immediately (i.e. without prior notice):

- i. in the case of emergency.
- ii. if the Permit Holder breaches any of the conditions of the Permit.
- iii. if it should transpire that the activities authorised by the Permit will result or are likely to result in a significant effect to any European Marine Site (as defined by Regulation 8(4) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/490).

Any person who fishes for, takes (or attempts to fish or take) or removes cockles in reliance upon the Permit must also comply with all other applicable legislation relevant to that activity in this location, including the Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024, and all other applicable legislation (including fisheries and environmental legislation).

[The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting \(Specified Area\) \(Wales\) Order 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

<https://gov.wales/south-wales-inshore-fishery-legislation>

Specific Conditions applicable to the LLANYBRI cockle beds (when not subject to a closure notice) within the Three Rivers Estuary Cockle Fishery:

“Llanybri cockle beds” means the cockle beds at Llanybri within the estuary of the River Taf enclosed by:

- i. A line drawn between Laugharne Castle (NG Ref. SN 302108) and Black Scar (NG Ref. SN 311108) and
- ii. A line drawn between Ginst Point (NG Ref. SN 332079) to Wharley Point (NG Ref. SN 340092).

For information purposes only, the Llanybri cockle bed area is shown marked as “Llanybri” in the map at **Annex A**.

In addition to the general conditions above (which apply across the entire Three Rivers Estuary area), the following additional conditions apply to Llanybri cockle beds when open to fishing activity.

1. **Weekend gathering only** (Gathering permitted only on the days of the weekend specified in the relevant Public Notice). Due to the proximity of the live firing range at MOD Pendine, Llanybri cockle beds will only be available at weekends when activity is least likely. However, on occasion the range at MOD Pendine may also open at weekends. Permit holders should ensure the range is not operational prior to any planned weekend gathering. Access to Ginst Point is only permitted via Brill Gate on weekends, and only when the Range is not in operation. The gate is locked and monitored constantly by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Permit holders must request access using the intercom system at Brill Gate. Strictly no motor vehicles are allowed on the sand dunes

and/or saltmarsh, and the only parking available and allowed in the area is the Ginst Point car park. Failure to comply will result in the offender being reported to Dyfed-Powys Police by the MOD. For further information, please visit: [QinetiQ - Brill Gate and Ginst Point](#)

Specific Conditions applicable to the LLANSTEFFAN cockle beds (when not subject to a closure notice) within the Three Rivers Estuary Cockle Fishery:

“The Llansteffan cockle bed” means the cockle bed at Llansteffan within the estuary of the River Tywi enclosed by:

- i. A line drawn from Ginst Point (NG Ref. SN 332079) to Wharley Point (NG Ref. SN 340092) and
- ii. A line drawn due east across the River Tywi to mid channel, from the south-easternmost corner of Llansteffan Castle towards the opposite shore at Ferryside and
- iii. A line drawn to mid channel from Ginst Point (NG Ref. SN 332079) towards Tywyn Point (NG Ref. SN 340092) and
- iv. A line drawn along the River Tywi between these two mid channel points.

For information purposes only, the Llansteffan cockle bed area is shown in the area marked as “Llansteffan” in the map at **Annex A**.

In addition to the general conditions above (which apply across the entire Three Rivers Estuary area), the following additional conditions apply to Llansteffan cockle beds when open to fishing activity.

1. Gathering permitted only on weekdays specified in the relevant Public Notice.

Specific Conditions applicable to the FERRYSIDE cockle beds (when not subject to a closure notice) within the Three Rivers Estuary Cockle Fishery:

“The Ferryside cockle bed” means the cockle bed at Ferryside within the estuary of the River Tywi enclosed by:

- i. Due east from mid channel on a line drawn across the River Tywi, from the south-easternmost corner of Llansteffan Castle to the opposite shore at Ferryside and
- ii. A line drawn from St Isfael Parish Church (NG Ref. SN 362084) north west to a point mid channel opposite Wharley Point (NG Ref. SN 340092) and
- iii. A line drawn along the River Tywi between the two mid channel points.

For information purposes only, the Ferryside cockle bed area is shown in the area marked as “Ferryside” in the map at **Annex A**.

In addition to the general conditions above (which apply across the entire Three Rivers Estuary area), the following additional conditions apply to Ferryside cockle beds when open to fishing activity.

1. Gathering permitted only on weekdays specified in the relevant Public Notice.

Specific Conditions applicable to the ST ISHMAEL / TANYLAN cockle beds (when not subject to a closure notice) within the Three Rivers Estuary Cockle Fishery:

“St Ishmael & Tanylan cockle beds” means the cockle beds at St Ishmael & Tanylan within the estuary of the Rivers Tywi and Gwendraeth enclosed by:

- i. A line drawn from Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park (NG Ref. SN 367073) in a south west direction along Pastoun Scar to Pen Tywyn Point (NG Ref. SN 357064) and then in a north west direction to mid channel of the River Tywi and
- ii. A line drawn from St Isfael Parish Church (NG Ref. SN 362084) north west to a point mid channel opposite Wharley Point (NG Ref. SN 340092) and
- iii. A line drawn along the River Tywi between the two mid channel points.

For information purposes only, the St Ishmael & Tanylan cockle bed area is shown marked as “St Ishmael / Tanylan” in the map at **Annex A**.

In addition to the general conditions above (which apply across the entire Three Rivers Estuary area), the following additional conditions apply to St Ishmael & Tanylan cockle beds when open to fishing activity.

1. Gathering permitted only on weekdays specified in the relevant Public Notice.

Specific Conditions applicable to the GWENDRAETH cockle beds (when not subject to a closure notice) within the Three Rivers Estuary Cockle Fishery:

“Gwendraeth cockle beds” means the cockle beds within the estuary of the River Gwendraeth enclosed by:

- i. A line drawn from Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park (NG Ref. SN 367073) in a south west direction along Pastoun Scar to Pen Tywyn Point (NG Ref. SN 357064) and
- ii. A line drawn across every river or stream flowing into the Gwendraeth estuary, along the seaward side of the bridges carrying the railway between Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park and RAF Pembrey Sands.

For information purposes only, the Gwendraeth cockle bed area is shown marked as “Gwendraeth” in the map at **Annex A**.

In addition to the general conditions above (which apply across the entire Three Rivers Estuary area), the following additional conditions apply to Gwendraeth cockle beds when open to fishing activity.

1. **Weekend gathering only** (Gathering permitted only on the days of the weekend specified in the relevant Public Notice). Due to the proximity of the live firing range at MOD Pembrey, the Gwendraeth cockle beds will only be available at weekends when activity is least likely. However, on occasion the range at MOD Pembrey may also open at weekends. Permit holders should ensure the range is not operational prior to any planned weekend gathering. Access to Ginst Point is only permitted via Brill Gate on weekends, and only when the Range is not in operation. The gate is locked and monitored constantly by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Permit holders must request access using the intercom system at Brill Gate. Strictly no motor vehicles are allowed on the sand dunes and/or saltmarsh, and the only parking available and allowed in the area is the Ginst Point car park. Failure to comply will result in the offender being reported to Dyfed-Powys Police by the MOD. For further information, please visit: [QinetiQ - Brill Gate and Ginst Point](#)
2. Access through the Carmarthenshire Country Council owned and managed property at Pembrey Country Park or via any point along Cefn Sidan is not permitted, any vehicle using Cefn Sidan to access the cockle beds will be reported to Dyfed Powys Police as a breach of the Road Traffic act 1988.

Advisory Notes:

1. The Permit does not authorise the use of vehicles on or otherwise grant access to land bordering the Area. This authorisation does not provide any defence to prosecution under any other legislation. It has no effect in relation to and will not provide a defence to any other legal provision or requirement, including any provision of the Road Traffic Act 1988 or any other legislation applying to the use of a vehicle.
2. In addition to other statutory provisions, you may be committing a criminal offence if you access or use a vehicle in the area and bordering areas without first obtaining the prior permission of all relevant landowners (and any other relevant bodies) over whose land you intend to travel. You should also note that unless each relevant landowner has carried out all assessments required under any relevant nature conservation or environmental legislation (for example under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)) before granting permission to use your vehicle in the specified area, you may still be committing a criminal offence even if you have the landowner's permission.
3. Permit holders should be aware that it is a legal requirement that each batch of cockles must be accompanied by a **Registration Document** (previously known as movement documents) when moved from the production area, i.e. the shellfish bed, or when first placed on the market. Registration Documents must be completed and include the gatherer's details, the bed from which the shellfish were gathered and the date, before the cockles are transported (in accordance with paragraph 3 of Chapter I: General Requirements for the Placing on the Market of Live Bivalve Molluscs to Section VII (Live Bivalve Molluscs) of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin).

These documents can be obtained from Carmarthenshire County Council using the following contact details.

Tel. Carmarthenshire County Council 01267 234567 or email publichealth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk to log a request for the required documents.

4. Gathering cockles can be dangerous and brings with it a significant element of risk to personal safety. It is strongly recommended that you carry out your own health and safety and risk assessments before undertaking this activity. Please take note of any guidance from our partner and other official organisations. The guidance issued is not exhaustive and it is your responsibility to implement any measures that ensures your safety.
5. There is currently a harvestable surplus of 245 tonnes of cockles available on the Llansteffan cockle bed, 275 tonnes of cockles available at the St Ishmael & Tanylan cockle beds, 100 tonnes of cockle available on Ferryside cockle bed, 778 tonnes available on Llanybri cockle bed and 180 tonnes of cockles available on the Gwendraeth cockle bed for the 2025/2026. When the Harvestable Surplus has been reached, the relevant area will be closed by the Welsh Government pursuant to 'The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024'.
6. Similarly, if it should transpire that the activities authorised by this Permit will result or are likely to result in a significant effect to any European Marine Site (as defined by Regulation 8(4) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/490) the Welsh Government will close the fishery.
7. Any closure of the Area to cockle fishing activity will be notified, in the first instance, by Welsh Government Enforcement Staff present at the site and by notices put up in that area. An email or letter will also be sent to each permit holder confirming the area which is closed, and the relevant closure notice will be published on the Welsh Government website at: <https://gov.wales/intertidal-fisheries>
8. Unaccompanied bags of cockles should not be left on the cockle bed after gathering has concluded as they may be seen as abandoned. Any abandoned cockles will be returned to the cockle bed.
9. Permit holders are advised to hold liability insurance for any vessel used to gather cockles.
10. At the time this permit was issued the gathering area(s) within the Three Rivers Estuary area is classified C for the gathering of Cockle (*C. edule*). C classification requires the following-

Class C (≤ 46000 E. coli/100g) - molluscs can be sold for human consumption only after re-laying for at least two months in an approved re-laying area followed, where necessary, by treatment in a purification centre, or after an EC-approved heat treatment process. In all cases, the health standards in Annex III of EC Regulations 853/2004 and the microbiological criteria adopted under EC Regulation 2073/2005 must be met. Molluscs must not be subject to production or collected in prohibited areas.

You can view the current classification maps on the following link.

[Classification zone maps - Cefas \(Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science\)](#)

It is your responsibility to be aware of the current classification of the gathering area this could change during the period of opening, if classification sample results do not meet the requirements of a C classification the beds will immediately close. Notification of such a closure will include an article on the Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Website.

WARNING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

All activity undertaken pursuant to this Authorisation is undertaken entirely at the risk of the person undertaking those activities.

In particular, the Welsh Government would highlight to all proposing to undertake fishing activities that the Three Rivers Estuary area has been used currently and in the past for ordnance testing.

We must STRONGLY ADVISE all individuals who wish to operate in this area (whether pursuant to this Authorisation or otherwise) to act with caution and carry out their own risk assessment prior to any gathering or other activity taking place in this vicinity. Should any unexploded ordnance be found please contact QinetiQ on 0800 0921345.

Advice on unexploded ordnance can be found at:

[QinetiQ - Unidentified Objects and Unexploded Ordnance](#)

WARNING LIVE FIRING

The Llanybri cockle beds lie adjacent to and partially within the MOD Pendine Live Firing Range. When the range is active, the beach area may be cordoned off. The prohibited area is clearly marked with cones, flags and a public safety sign, warning of the Danger Area. (See Annex B. Note red arrow heads point into the Danger Area)

The Llanybri cockle bed will only open on weekends. Firing at the range usually takes place during weekdays, but occasionally firing may occur during weekends. You should check scheduled firing prior to gathering. Below is a link to information regarding firing forecasts.

[QinetiQ - Advance Alert Service and Weekly Forecast](#)

The following link provides information to gatherers on access.

[QinetiQ - Public Access to the Land Danger Area](#)

The following link is the MOD Byelaws relevant to Pendine Range.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carmarthenshire-byelaws>

The following link provides information on Military low flying:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/military-low-flying-air-weapons-ranges-activity>

The Gwendraeth cockle beds lie adjacent to and partially within the MOD Pembrey Live Firing Range. When the range is active, the beach area may be cordoned off. The prohibited area is clearly marked with cones, flags and a public safety sign, warning of the Danger Area. (See Annex C. Note red arrow heads point into the Danger Area)

The Gwendraeth cockle bed will only open on weekends. Firing at the range usually takes place during weekdays, but occasionally firing may occur during weekends. You should check scheduled firing prior to gathering.

The following link provides information on Pembrey Sands Air Weapons Range:

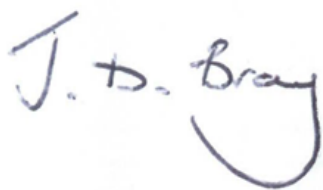
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-access-to-military-areas#pembrey-sands>

WARNING RAIL CROSSING SAFETY

The following link is to the Network Rail level crossing safety website:

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/level-crossing-safety/>

PLEASE NOTE: Any person who contravenes the terms and conditions of this Permit is guilty of an offence under section 190 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. A person found guilty of an offence under that section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50,000. In addition, the Court may order the forfeiture of any fishing gear used in the offence and any sea fisheries resources in respect of which the offence was committed or a sum of money representing the value of that fishing gear or resources. The Court may also suspend the Permit or disqualify the individual from holding such a Permit for such period as the Court thinks fit.

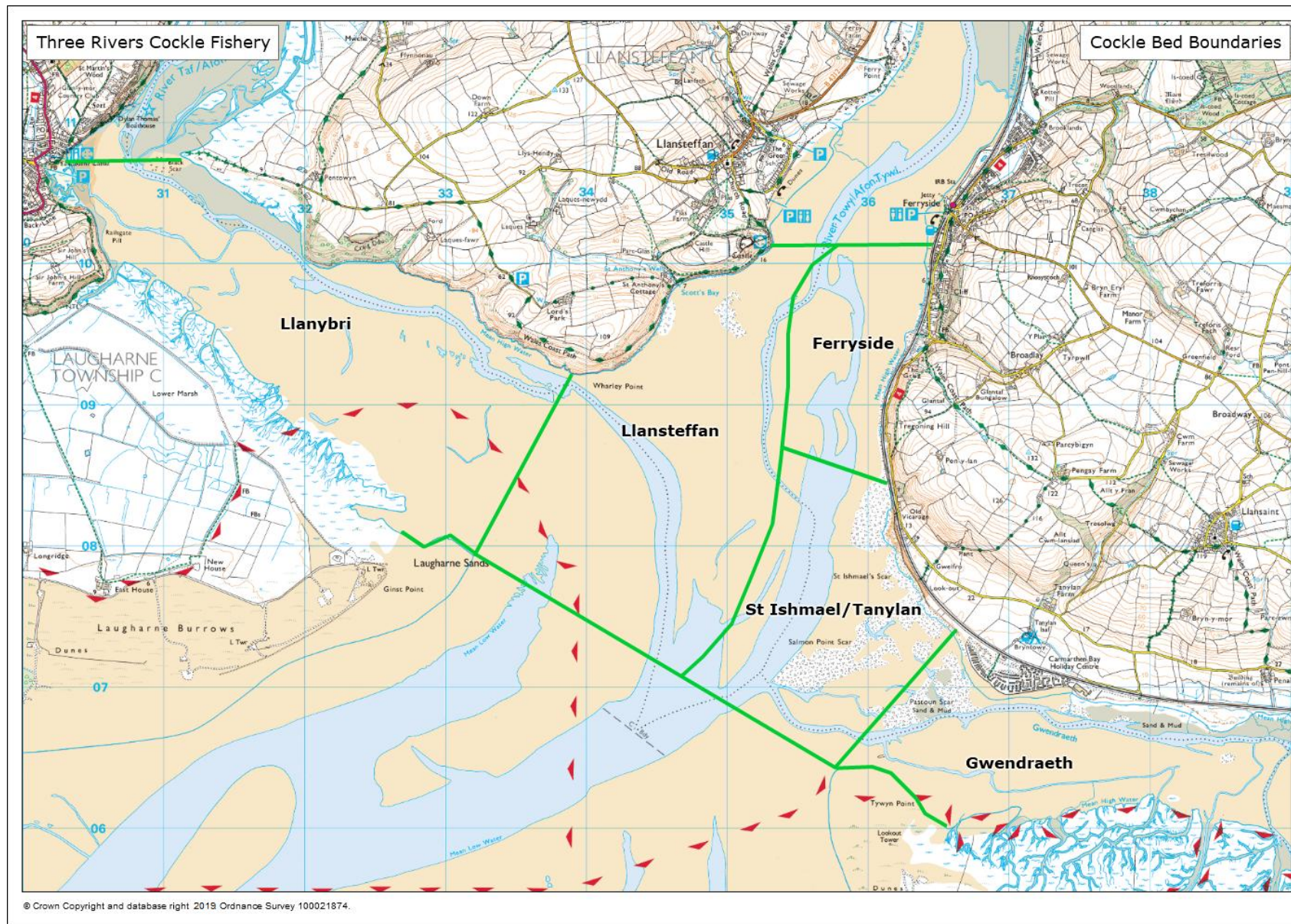
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. D. Bray', with a large, stylized flourish underneath the name.

Signed by Julian Bray

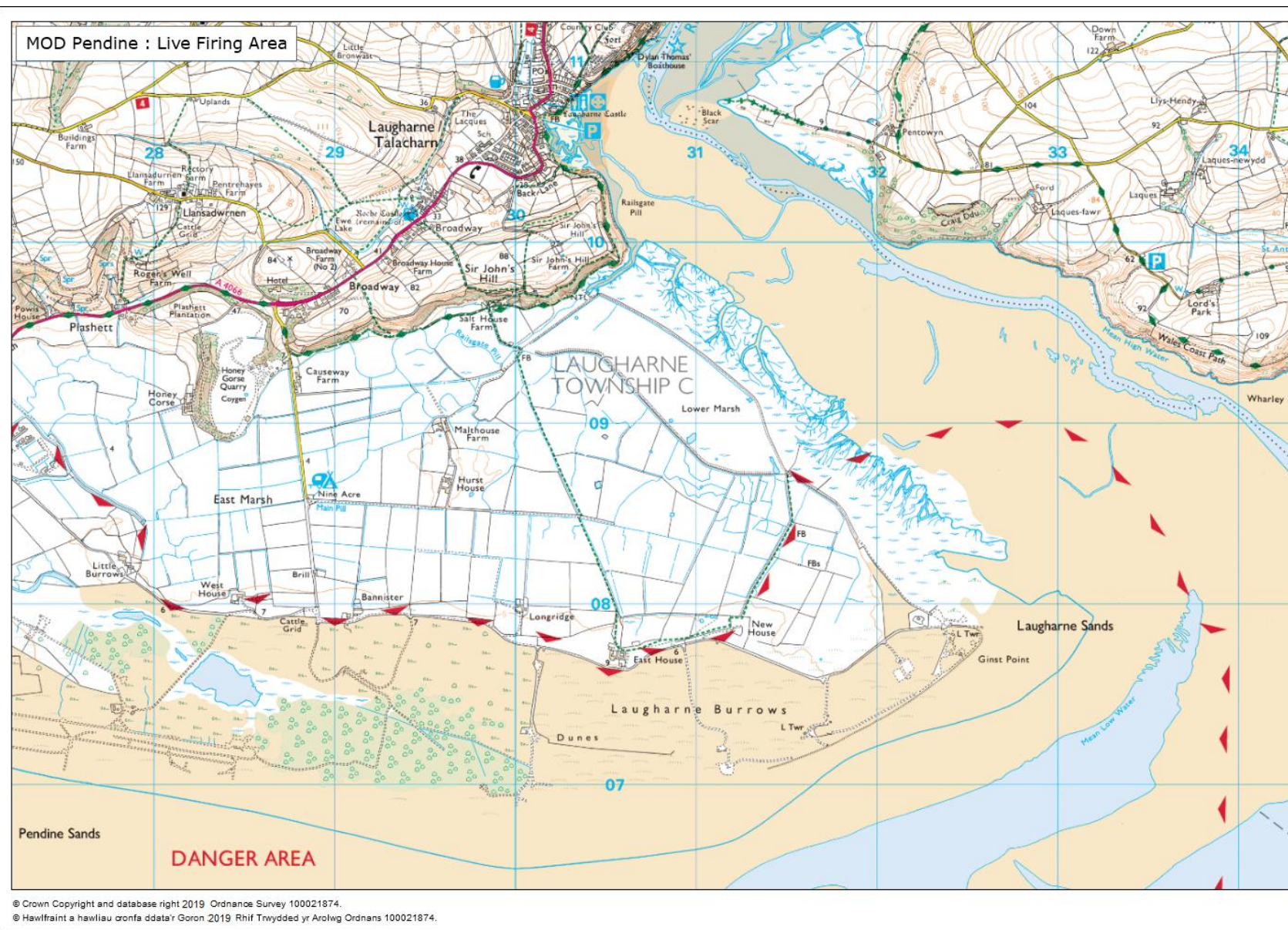
Head of Fisheries Policy and Governance

Date: 28 July 2025

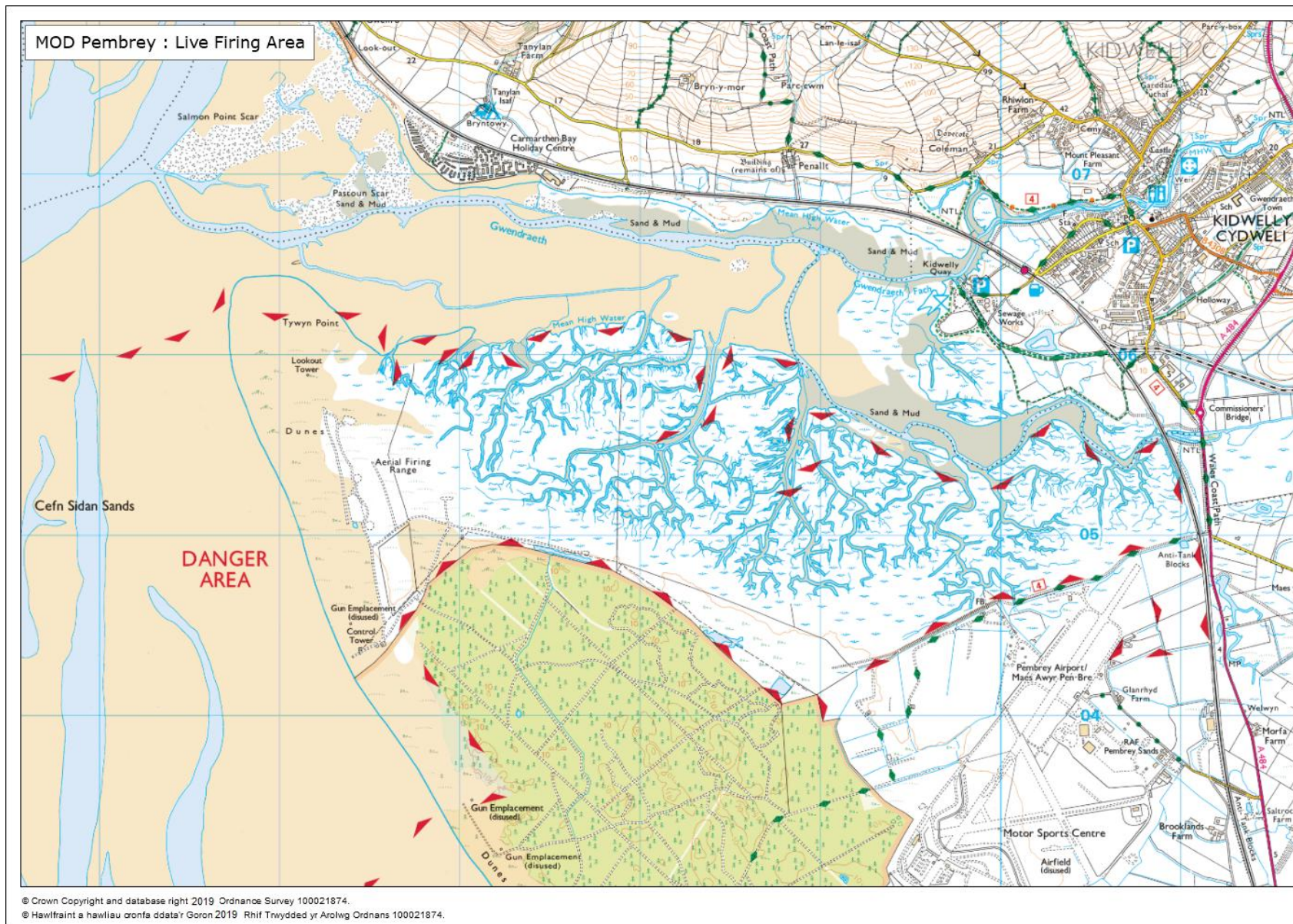
Annex A



Annex B



Annex C





Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Cardiff Marine Office
Anchor Court - Keen Road
Cardiff
CF24 5JW
Tel: 02039085220
Email: cardiff_mo@mcga.gov.uk

GUIDANCE FOR VESSELS INVOLVED IN COCKLING OPERATIONS IN THE THREE RIVERS COCKLE FISHERY

The aim of this guidance is to highlight the required legislative safety standard for vessels involved in cockling in the Three Rivers Cockle Fishery.

The area of the Three Rivers Cockle Fishery is beyond UK categorized water and it is defined as “at sea”.

A vessel involved in any manner with regard to the transportation of personnel, equipment or cargo for cockling in the area will be operating commercially. It will be expected that all commercially operating vessels are certificated and comply with the appropriate United Kingdom legislation and guidance, including but not limited to:

SI2016/354 - The Merchant Shipping (Small Workboats and Pilot Boats) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/354/pdfs/uksi_20160354_en.pdf

SI1998/1609 - The Merchant Shipping (Small Workboats and Pilot Boats) – see above amendments <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1998/1609/made>

MSN 1892 – The workboat code edition 2 (for vessel constructed after 31st December 2018) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1892-m-the-workboat-code-edition-2>

MGN 280 - Small Vessels in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats – Alternative Construction Standards (for vessel constructed before 31st December 2018) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mgn-280-small-vessels-in-commercial-use-for-sport>

SI1997/2962 - The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/2962/made>

MIN 538 – Authorization of certifying authority <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/min-538-m-amendment-2-authorisation-of-certifying-authorities>

These regulations cover vessels up to 24m load line length and carrying up to 12 passengers or equivalent weight in cargo (approximately 1000kg). More cargo may be permitted if the vessel has appropriate approved stability information.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has delegated the survey and certification work to certifying authorities. MIN 538, as listed above, provide the details of the certifying authorities.

Additionally, any Registered Fishing Vessel used for transport of catch will be classed as cargo carrying and as such will also be required to comply with the above regulations.

It is the responsibility of the owner/managing agent and skipper to ensure that they are complying with all the relevant applicable legislation.

These types of operations are associated with specific risks and hazards including, but not limited to, night work and fatigue, effect of tides, adverse weather conditions, towing. The owner shall evaluate the risks with the aim of reducing them and creating a safe working environment, adopting procedures and instructions which shall be documented and form part of a Safety Management System.

Contravention of any provision shall be an offence by the owner and the master of the vessel punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or on conviction on indictment by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine, or both.

In any case where a vessel does not comply with the requirements of these Regulations, that vessel shall be liable to be detained.