

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No. 43 – 2024

Approaches to Sheerness – Grain Spit Nearshore/Landfall Cable Laying Operations

Notice is hereby given that as part of the ongoing Neuconnect Interconnector project a programme of cable laying operations is due to commence on Grain Spit and across the Swatchway as shown below. Work is due to commence on or around 31st August 2024 with completion provisionally expected by 30th September 2024.



Admiralty Chart No. 3683 refers.

Please see details of the project overview received from “Neuconnect”

Notice of Activity

Mariners are advised that cable lay works are due to commence at the NeuConnect UK cable landfall site on the Isle of Grain, Kent. Works will be conducted by the subcontractor Keynvor MorLift (KML) Ltd.

Works will begin with landfall and nearshore preparation between Kilometre Point 0.4 (51.466280; 0.715485) and Kilometre Point 2 (51.477854; 0.729118), which include:

- Trial excavations;
- Excavation of the intertidal/nearshore trench for cable burial;
- Installation of roller ways, pontoons and/or temporary cable guides by piling or ballasting;
- Installation of the pull-in winch; and
- **Cable pull-in / landing operations**

Trial excavations are proposed to start on or after **31 August 2024**. Works will be undertaken during ebb of tides. The trial excavations will be conducted using the following equipment:

- Amphibious Excavator; and
- **Soft-track.**

Landfall preparation works including excavation of the trench for cable burial are due to commence not earlier than **31 August 2024**. Works will be undertaken using:

- Amphibious Excavator;
- Barge mounted excavator (Barge NP644);
- Multicat (Sarah Gray); and
- Crew Transfer Vessel (Celtic Avenger).
- **Soft-track; and**
- Support vessels (Mor Ki Tarow).

Pull in preparation works – installation of pontoons & temporary cable guides and barges are due to commence not earlier than 31 August 2024. Works will be undertaken using:

- **Previously listed equipment spreads;**
- **Linkflote pontoon spreads;**
- **Second barge mounted excavator (Barge BCDK6464);**
- **Dive Support Vessel (Celtic Guardian); and**
- **Cable support vessels (Celtic Trader, Nomad & Islander.**

The barge and support vessels will remain onsite for the duration of works, with port of shelter being Sheerness. There will be a CTV onsite running out of Gillingham. Further vessel details are shown in the Table below.

Vessel Name	Vessel Master	Vessel Type	Vessel IMO No.	Vessel Owner:	Total Vessel Crew	MCA Code	Call Sign	MMSI No.
Sarah Grey	Glynn Bayliss / Crispin Cutting	Multicat	8956437	KML	4	Cat 2	ZQQQ5	235000357
NP644	Martin Athorn / John Miller	Pontoon Barge – Dumb	N/A	Neptune Equipment BV	3	N/A	NA	N/A
Celtic Avenger	Iain Hill	CTV	N/A	SMS Ltd	2 (12 PAX)	Cat 3	MP117	232055392
Mor Ki Tarow	Kent Paget	BD-80, Survey / Support Craft	N/A	KML	N/A	Cat 3	N/A	N/A
Linkflote Pontoons	N/A	Pontoon - Dumb	N/A	Volker Marine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BCDK6464	TBC	Pontoon Barge – Dumb	N/A	KML	4	N/A	N/A	N/A

Vessel Name	Vessel Master	Vessel Type	Vessel IMO No.	Vessel Owner:	Total Vessel Crew	MCA Code	Call Sign	MMSI No.
Celtic Guardian	TBC	DSV	N/A	SMS Ltd	2 (12 PAX)	Cat 3	2IZH5	235114006
Celtic Trader	TBC	Landing Craft	N/A	SMS Ltd	2 (10 PAX)	Cat 3	TBC	TBC
Celtic Nomad	TBC	Cabin RIB	N/A	SMS Ltd	2 (10 PAX)	Cat 3	TBC	TBC
Celtic Islander	TBC	Open RIB	N/A	SMS Ltd	2 (10 PAX)	Cat 3 Restricted	TBC	TBC

Indicative dates and durations of further cable lay activities are given in the Table below.

Activity	Start date (provisional)	End date (provisional)
Trial Excavation	31 August 2024	30 September 2024
Excavation of the intertidal/nearshore trench for cable burial	31 August 2024	30 September 2024
Installation of temporary cable guides	31 August 2024	30 September 2024
Installation of the pull-in winch	31 August 2024	30 September 2024
Cable pull-in operations	31 August 2024	30 September 2024

All craft will maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 74 whilst at the worksite, all vessels transiting the Swatchway to and from the Thames are requested to keep well clear, pass with extreme caution and reduce speed/wash appropriately.



Further information may be obtained from Medway VTS on VHF Channel 74, call sign "Medway VTS" or telephone 0151 949 6148 (**Recorded Line**).

**Marine Operations Department
Peel Ports London Medway**

23rd August 2024.