



## Three Rivers Cockle Permit Conditions

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 2024.

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

With effect from the 03 August there will be a daily catch limit of 300kgs until further notice.

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

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## 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 Permit 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 2025. 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. Tonne bags to transport cockle from the cockle beds to the shore must not be used.
4. 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.
5. Only the original applicant, whose name and personal details are recorded on the WG Fisheries spreadsheet, 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.

6. The Permit must be carried by the Permit Holder either in paper or digital format at all times whilst gathering and must be produced on demand by any Welsh Government Officer or any Marine Enforcement Officer.
7. The Permit Holder must comply with all reasonable demands and instructions issued by any Welsh Government Official or any Marine Enforcement Officer.
8. 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](#)
9. OR to the address below of cockles fished, taken or removed from the Three Rivers Estuary area, The Fisheries Office, Suite 3, Cedar Court, Havens Head Business Park, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire SA73 3LS or daily via email at [MilfordHavenFisheriesOffice@gov.wales](mailto:MilfordHavenFisheriesOffice@gov.wales) The Catch Return form is available on the Welsh Government website and must specify the location, date and quantities (in kg) of cockles that were taken from the Three Rivers Estuary area during the period of the Permit.
10. 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.
11. The use of tamps, or any other instrument used to fluidise the sand, is prohibited.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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).

15. Boats measuring over 10 metres in length will not be permitted within the Three Rivers Estuary to remove taken cockle.
16. 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](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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The Workboat Code Edition 3 - (for vessels constructed after 13th December 2023).

[The Workboat Code Edition 3 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://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://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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1892-m-the-workboat-code-edition-2) 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 \(M\) Workboat code edition 3 – standards and guidelines for best practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1892-m-the-workboat-code-edition-2)

17. 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://www.gov.uk/government/legislation/the-cockles-fisheries-management-and-permitting-specified-area-wales-order-2024)

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

## Specific Conditions applicable to the Cockle Beds

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

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.
2. Access through Pembrey Country Park is only allowed via permission of Carmarthenshire County Council through the purchase of a beach permit for this, and only this, purpose.
3. Link: [Parking & Annual Parking Permits - Pembrey Country Park and Beach](#)

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 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. 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.

## 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/>

## Classification of shellfish beds

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 ( $\leq 46000$  *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.

<https://www.cefas.co.uk/data-and-publications/shellfish-classification-and-microbiological-monitoring/england-and-wales/classification-zone-maps/>

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.

**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.

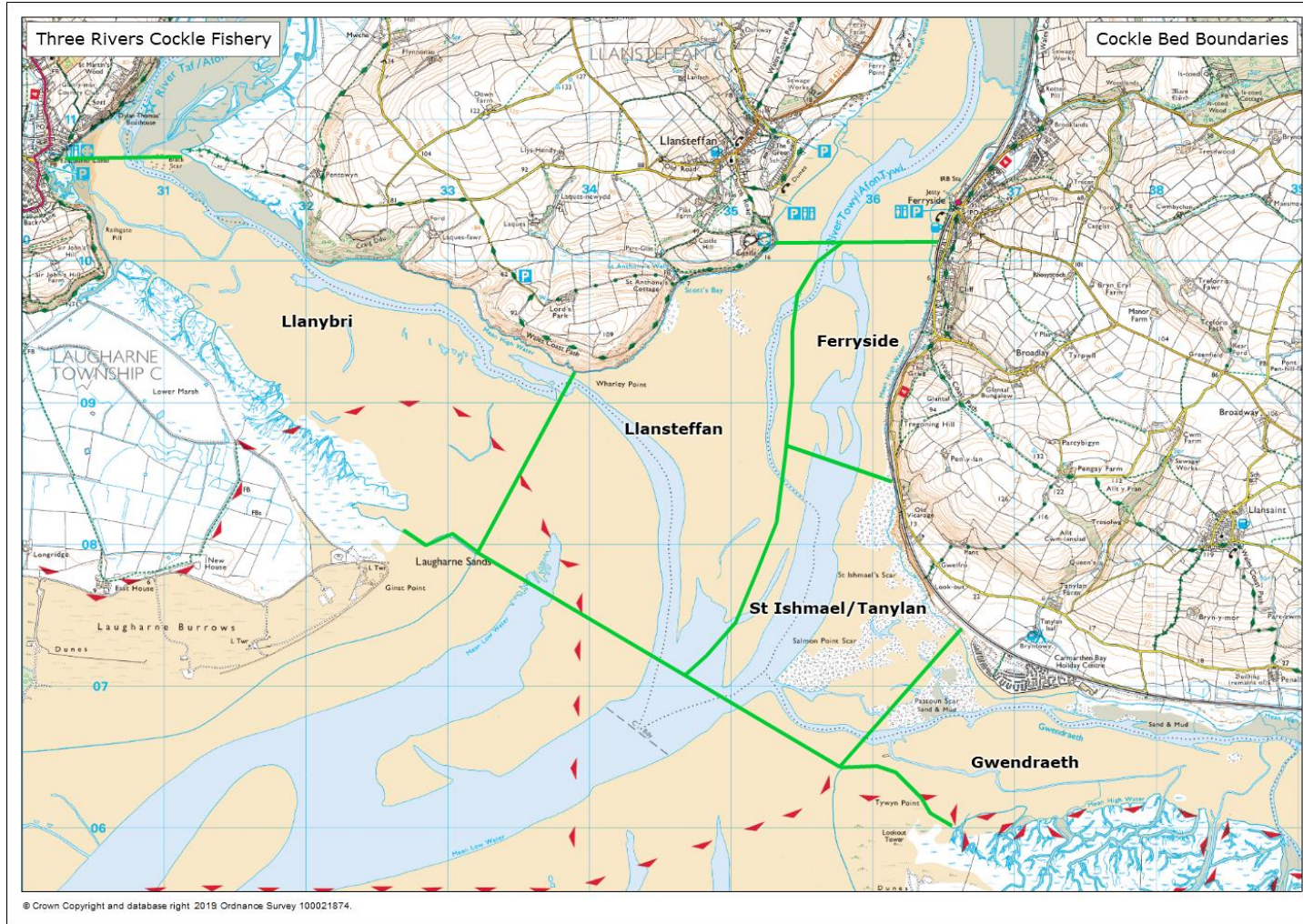
A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward flick.

Signed by Gareth Bevington, Deputy Director, Fisheries Division under authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, one of the Welsh Ministers.

Date: 18 July 2024

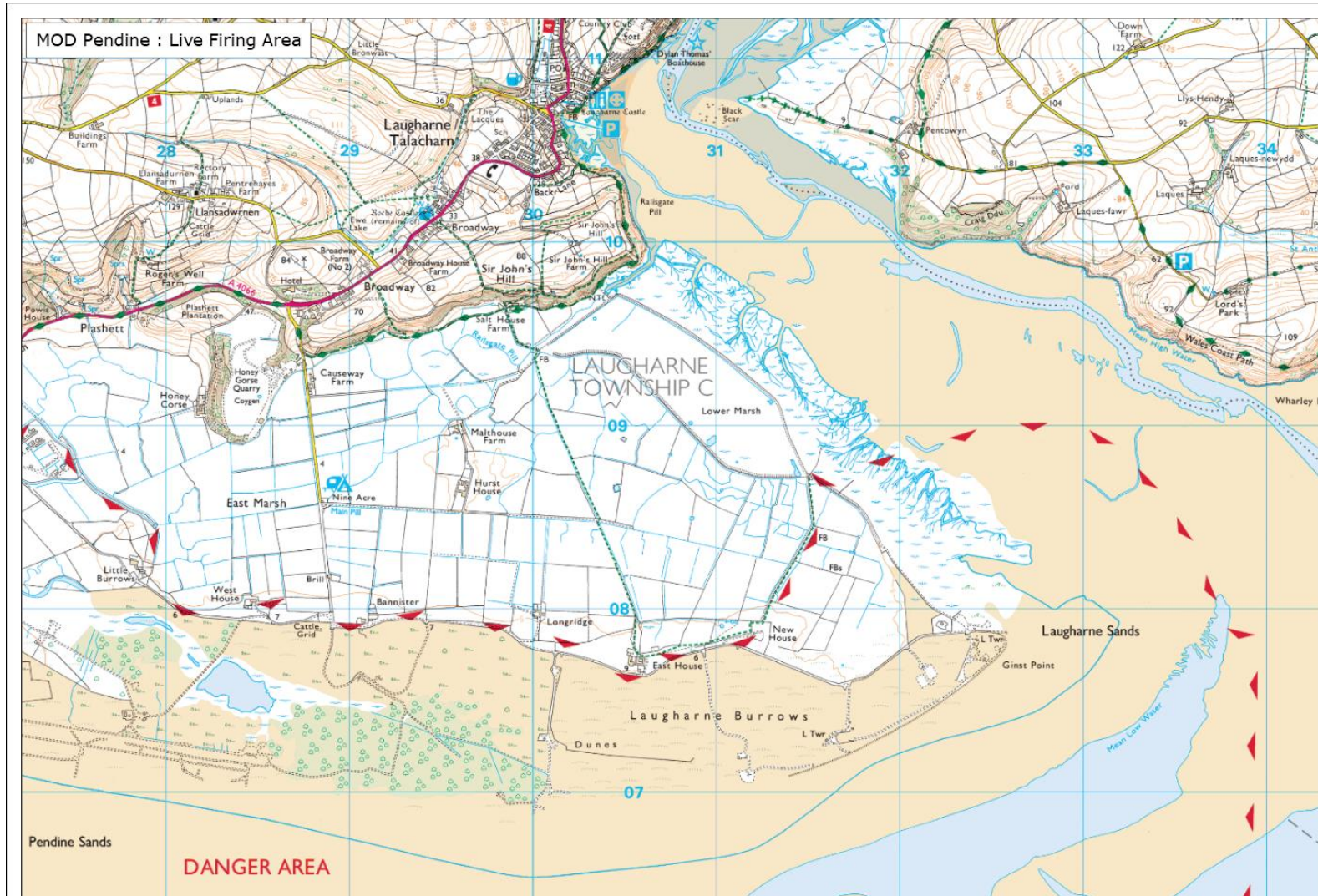
## Annex A

Map showing the River Tywi, River Taf and River Gwendraeth. It shows the boundaries depicting the cockle beds: Ferryside, Gwendraeth, Llanbyri, Llansteffan and St Ishmael / Tanylan.



# Annex B

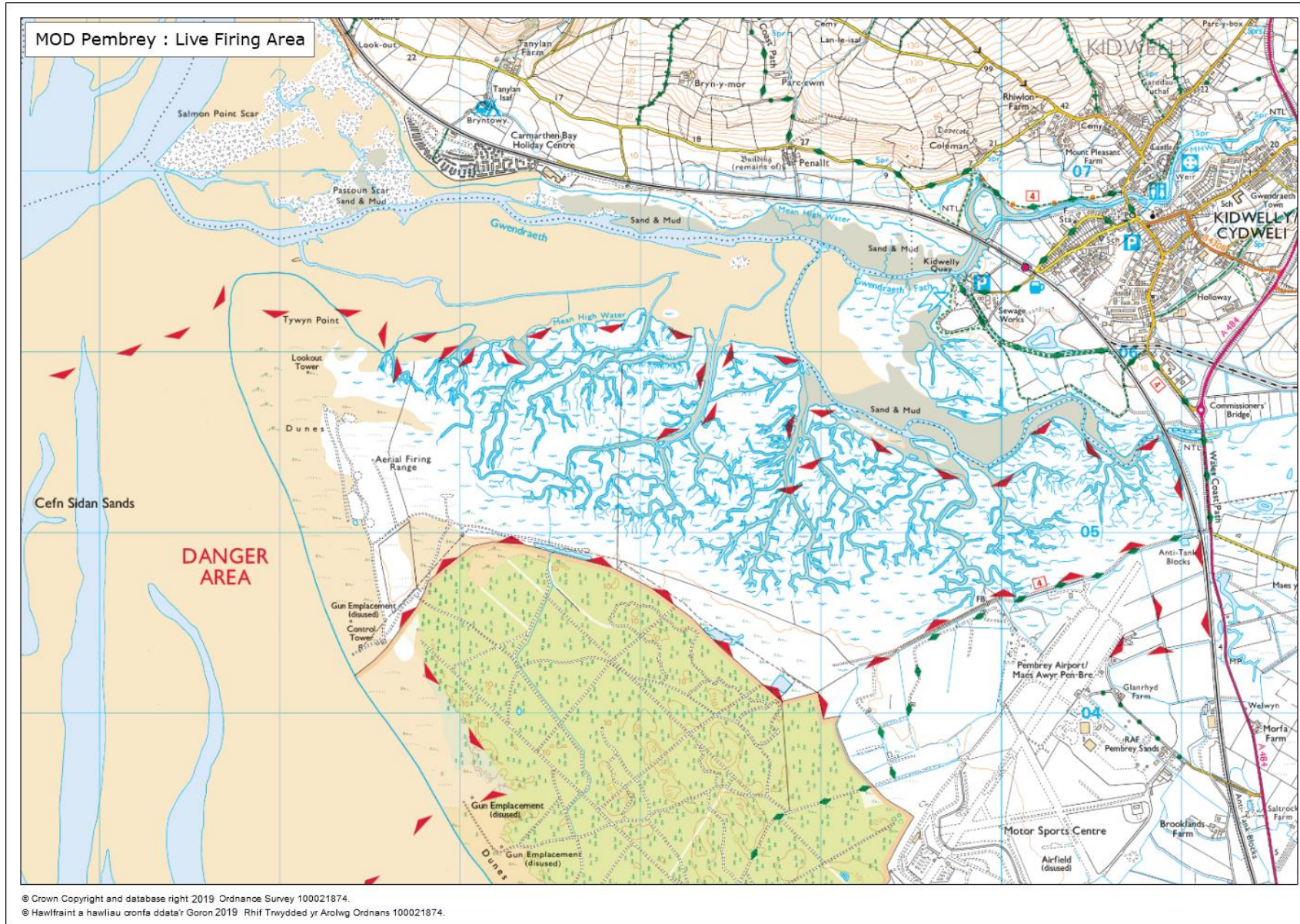
## Map showing MOD Penine: Live Firing Range



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# Annex C

## Map showing MOD Pembrey: Live Firing Range



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## Annex D

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency Guidance for Vessels Involved in Cockling Operations in The Three Rivers Cockle Fishery



Maritime & Coastguard Agency  
Cardiff Marine Office  
Anchor Court - Keen Road  
Cardiff  
CF24 5JW  
Tel: 02039085220  
Email: [cardiff\\_mo@mcga.gov.uk](mailto: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](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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.