

# GIGHA AND TAYINLOAN BREAKWATERS AND OVERNIGHT BERTHING

Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity  
Supporting Information



794-NI-WAE-02250  
03 June 2024

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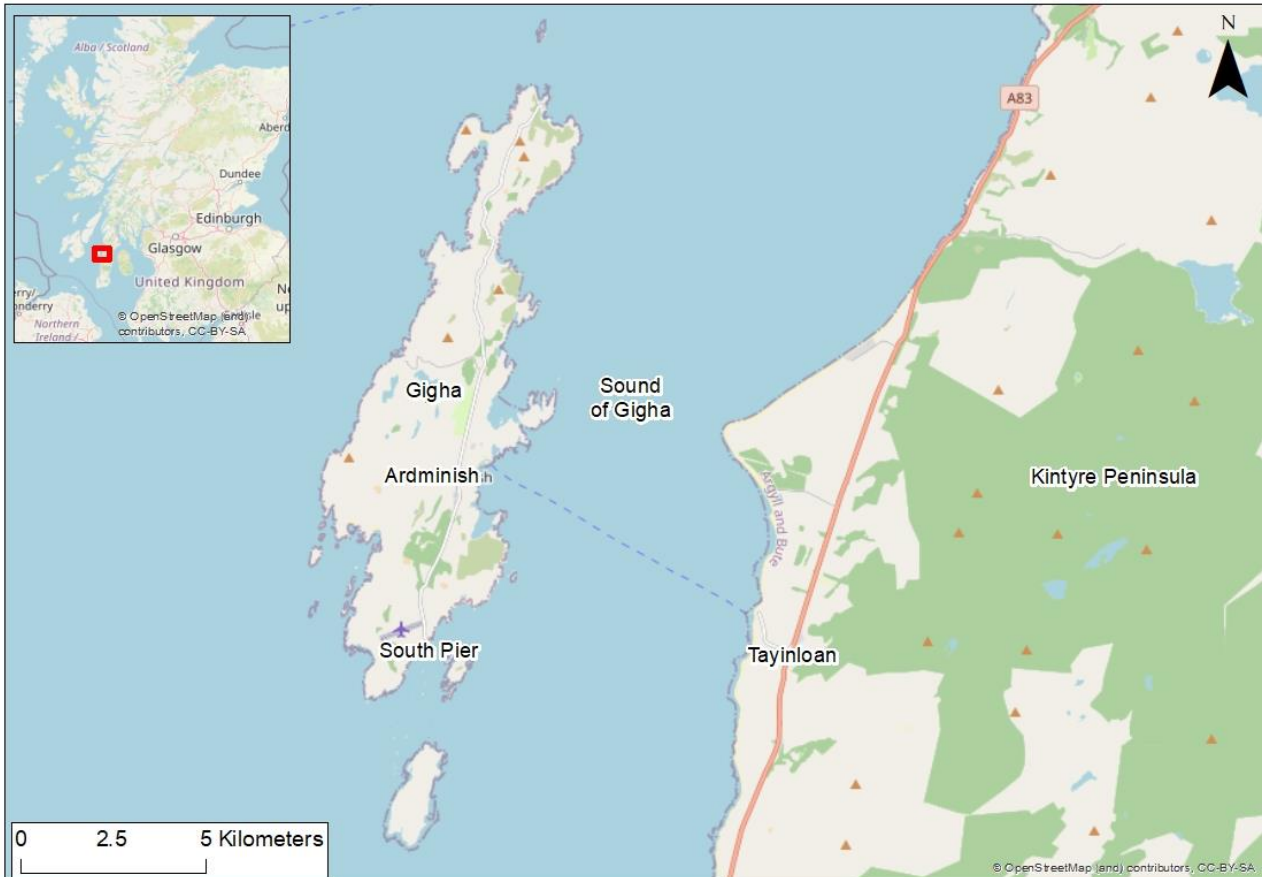
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# 1 DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The Isle of Gigha (Gigha) is located off the west coast of the Kintyre Peninsula on the west coast of Scotland and is separated from the mainland by the Sound of Gigha, a shallow channel of clear water approximately 5 kilometres wide. Tayinloan is located to the east of Gigha, on the Scottish mainland, across the Sound of Gigha, shown in Figure 1-1.



**Figure 1-1 Overview map of the Proposed Development location**

Ardminish is the sole village on the Isle of Gigha. Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) operate a year-round timetabled ferry service from Ardminish, linking Gigha to Tayinloan on the Kintyre Peninsula. This island is one of several coastal areas in Scotland and Northern Ireland which have been involved in the planned introduction of larger, hybrid ferries, through the Small Ferries Project<sup>1</sup>, which are considered necessary to meet the expected growth in demand for identified ferry routes.

The proposed development consists of the construction of a pier/breakwater to provide overnight berthing facilities at Gigha (Ardminish), and a breakwater extension at Tayinloan.

Dredging works will be required at both locations to accommodate the larger draft of the hybrid ferries. This may include rock breaking, due to the proximity of rock to the surface in the area.

Proposed ground investigations and surveys are required to inform the:

- Preliminary and detailed engineering design of the proposed development, including form and location. Caisson or piled structures being considered at present.
- Environmental assessments of the location to consider the impacts of the proposals, and facilitate an EIAR to support planning and marine licensing applications for the proposed development.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cmassets.co.uk/project/small-ferries-project/>

## 1.1 Existing Historical Information

Aspect Land and Hydrographic Surveys collected bathymetry data for Gigha and Tayinloan in August 2020 and July 2023 through a multibeam bathymetric survey.

In addition to bathymetric data, Ground Investigation (GI) data was collected at Tayinloan by Fugro in 2010. These include:

### Marine GI

- Five Cone Penetration Test locations,
- Five vibrocore locations,
- Laboratory analysis, including: water content, bulk density, particle size distribution, maximum and minimum density and internal angle of friction.

### Land GI

- Eight light cable tool percussion boreholes, two with rotary follow on,
- 14 trial pits.

Comparison of bathymetric data between the two time periods is illustrated in Figure 1-2 (Gigha) and Figure 1-3 (Tayinloan). Existing GI data is illustrated in Figure 1-4.

Given the changes to the proposed structure at Tayinloan since the previous GI, the time passed since any environmental sampling, and the lack of available data for Gigha, more recent data is required.

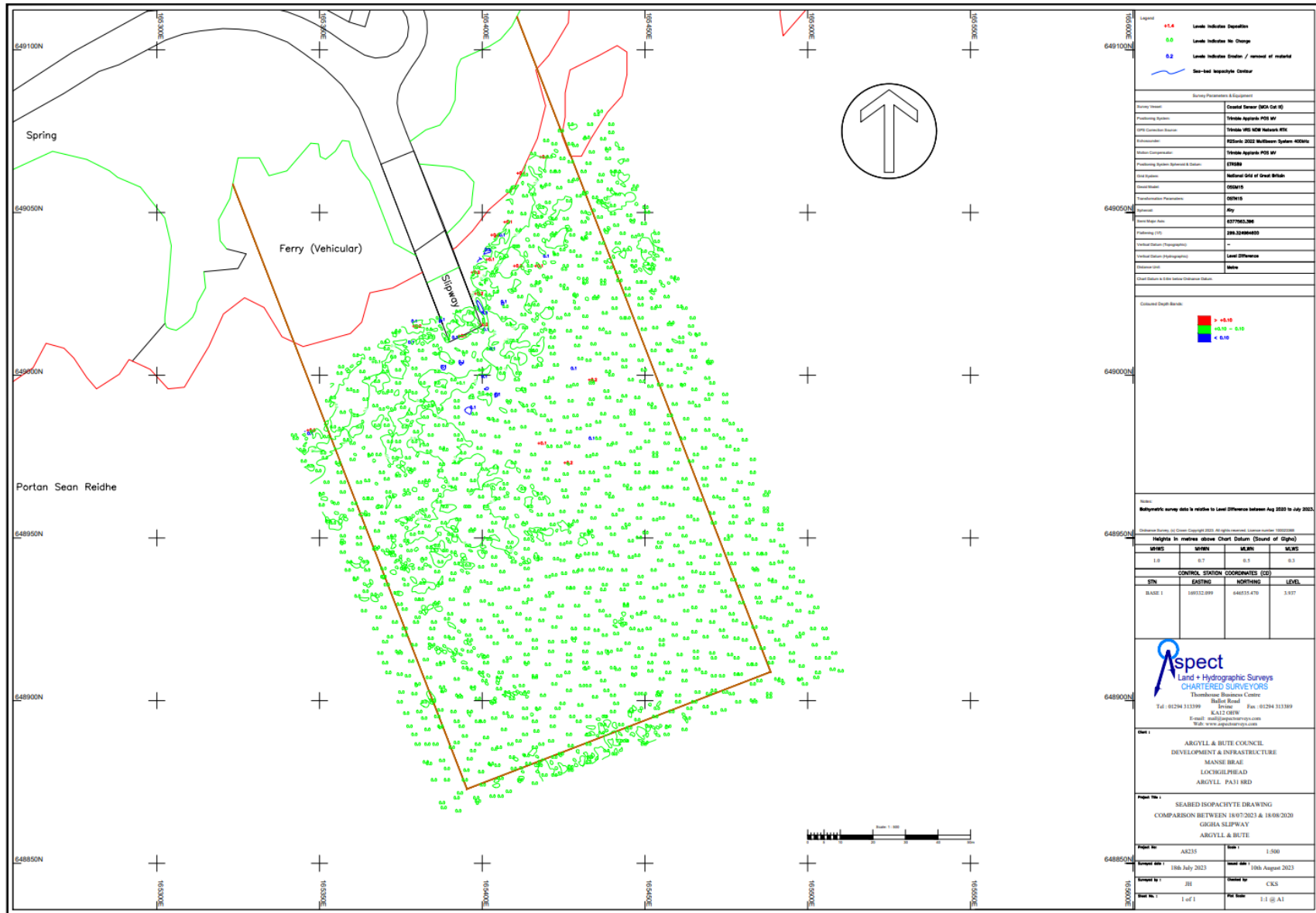


Figure 1-2 Gigha (Ardminish Bay) seabed isopachyte drawing comparison between July 2023 and August 2020



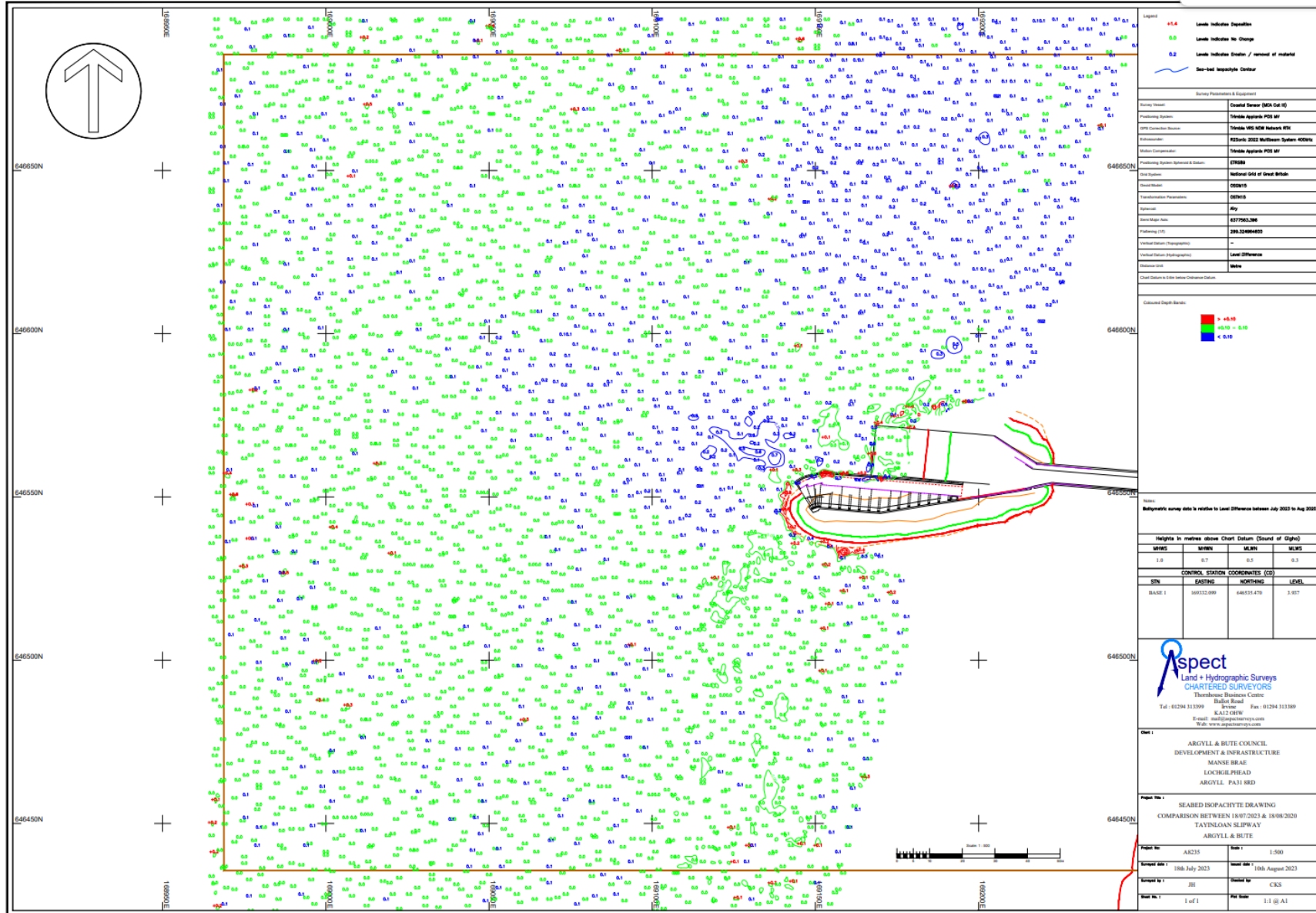


Figure 1-3 Taynloan seabed isopachyte drawing comparison between July 2023 and August 2020

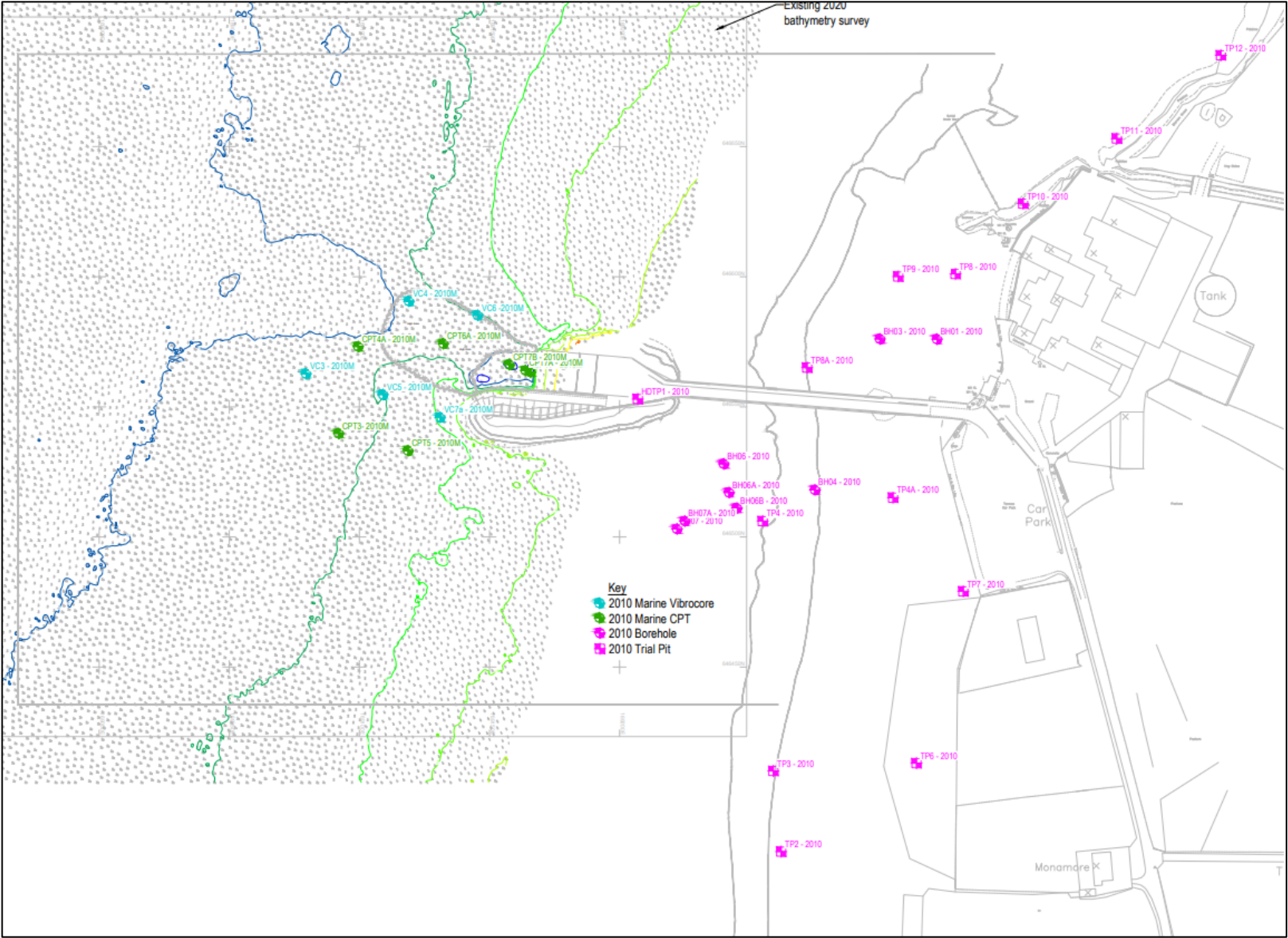


Figure 1-4 Existing GI data at Tayinloan

## 2 REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 Objective

The aim of the ground investigation and surveys is to provide information on the:

- Ground profile for the various elements of the works including its:
  - suitability for piled or ground bearing foundations,
  - suitability for dredging, disposal at sea and/or reuse as fill,
- Profiling the natural deposits at the breakwater extension, overnight berth and within the dredge pocket,
- Bottom profiling to provide updated bathymetry for computational modelling of the baseline environment and proposed development. Informing the impact of the development on hydraulics, sediment transport, waves and harbour disturbance effects.
- Benthic ecology, cultural heritage and contamination for input to environmental assessments.

### 2.2 Scope of Work

Table 2-1 outlines the scope of work required across Ardminish Bay (Gigha) and Tayinloan. Sampling is required in the form of:

15 Grab Samples; 7 Vibrocores; and 11 Boreholes for geotechnical, geoenvironmental and benthic analysis.

Geophysical surveys (Bathymetric and sub-bottom profiling) and Side scan sonar and Magnetometer surveys are also proposed.

Geotechnical laboratory testing is required to characterise the ground conditions.

Physico-chemical laboratory testing is required for the assessment of the potential risk to human health and the water environment.

Biological sampling is required to inform the EIAR associated with the proposed development.

**Table 2-1 Scope of Work**

Type of Test	Number of tests	Location	Sampling and Testing
Grab Sample	7	Ardminish Bay	5 physical and 4 benthic
Grab Sample	8	Tayinloan	4 physical, 3 benthic and 3 chemical
Vibrocore	7	Ardminish Bay	7 physical and 3 chemical
Borehole	6	Ardminish Bay	6 physical
Borehole	5	Tayinloan	2 physical
Bathymetric Survey	124ha	Ardminish Bay	
Bathymetric Survey	74ha	Tayinloan	
Geophysical Survey (Bathymetric and sub-bottom profiling), Side scan sonar and Magnetometer surveys	6ha	Ardminish Bay	
Geophysical Survey (Bathymetric and sub-bottom profiling), Side scan sonar and Magnetometer surveys	5ha	Tayinloan	
Drop down video	4	Ardminish Bay	
Drop down video	3	Tayinloan	

The locations of the proposed investigations works are illustrated in Figure 2-1 to Figure 2-3. Detailed information on the methodology is provided in Sections 2.2.1 to 2.2.3.



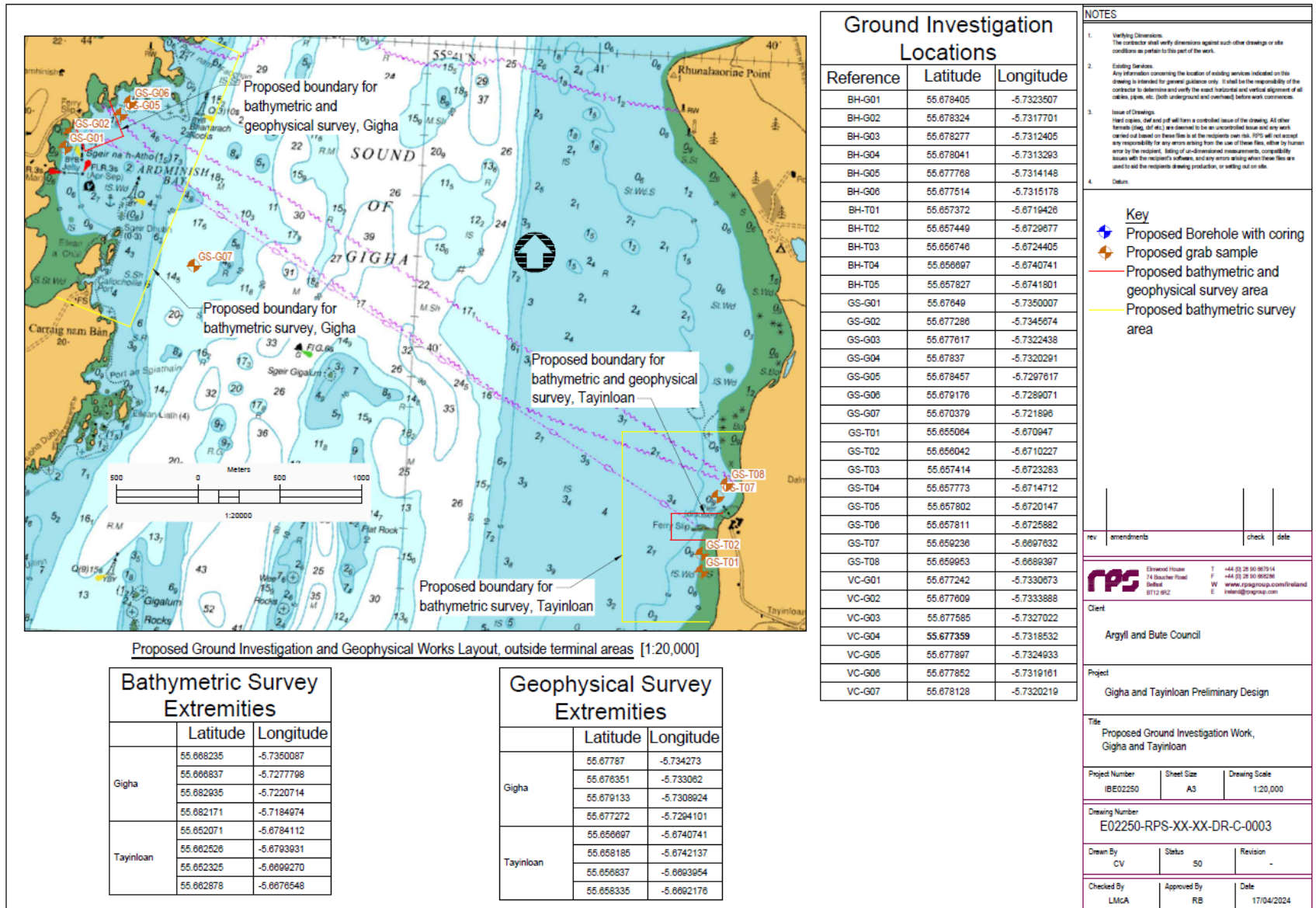


Figure 2-1 Proposed Investigation Works Summary

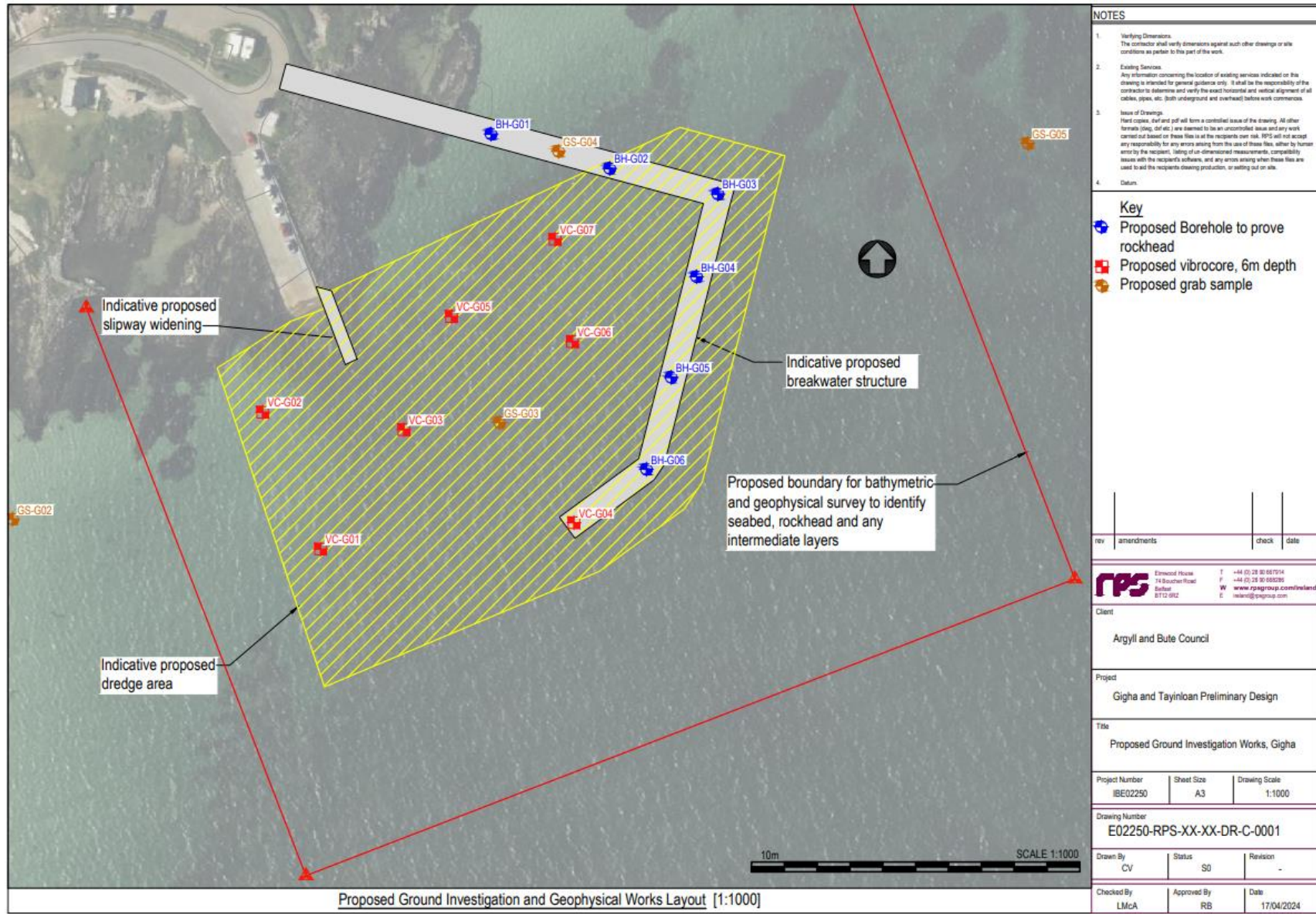


Figure 2-2 Proposed Investigation Works at Gigha (Ardminish Bay)



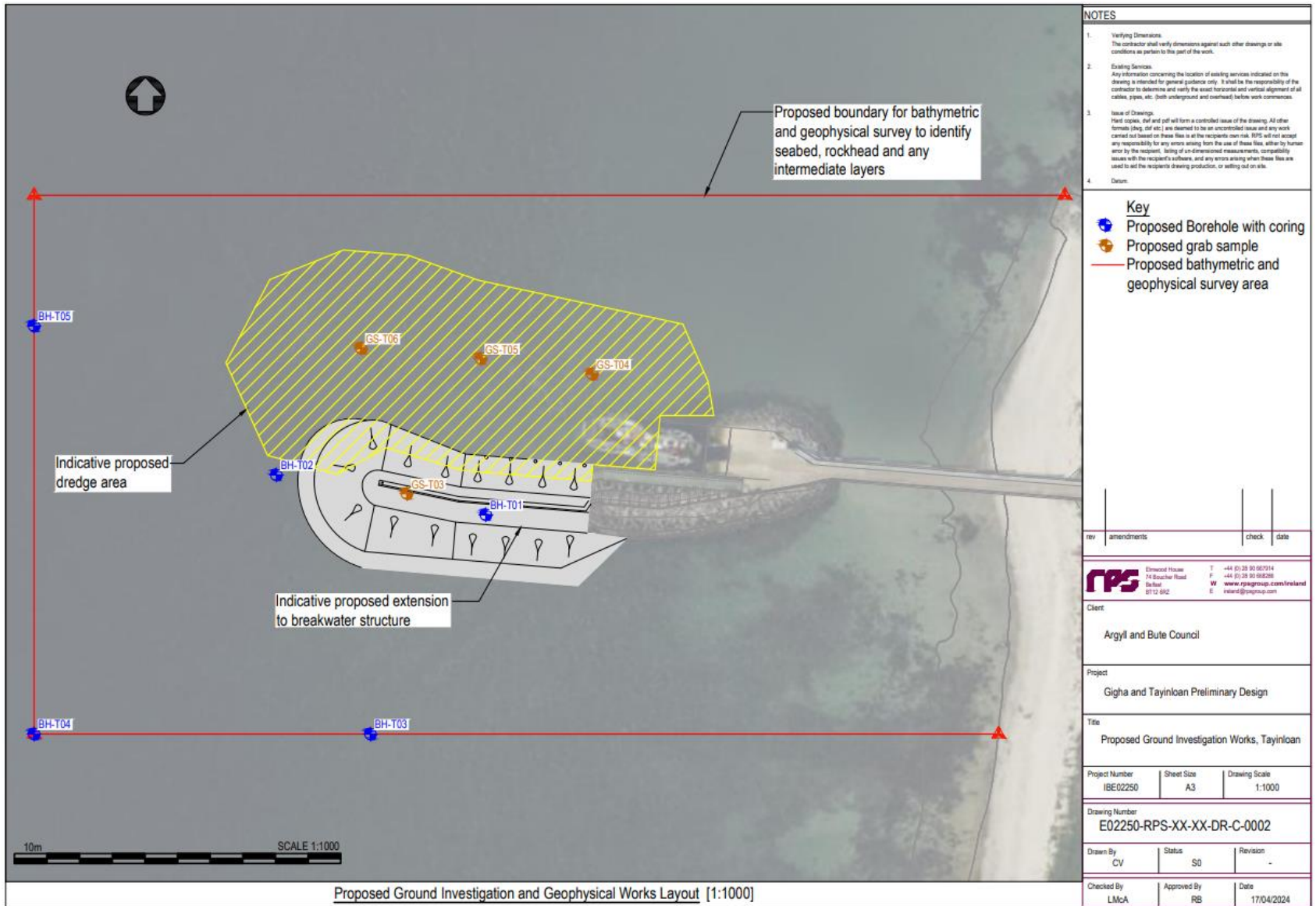


Figure 2-3 Proposed Investigation Works at Tayinloan

## 2.2.1 Vibrocore Schedule

Table 2-2 shows the vibrocore schedule. These are all proposed to reach 6m depth into the seabed, for particle size analysis and to locate depth of firm strata, where possible.

**Table 2-2 Vibrocore Schedule**

Hole Number	Type	Location	Grid Reference		Approximate ground level (mCD)	Scheduled Soil Depth	Total Scheduled Depth	Remarks
			Latitude	Longitude				
VC-G01	VC	Gigha – Proposed Dredge	55.677242	-5.7330673	-2.5	6m	6m	Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Testing
VC-G02	VC	Gigha – Proposed Dredge	55.677609	-5.7333888	-1.0	6m	6m	Geotechnical Testing
VC-G03	VC	Gigha – Proposed Dredge	55.677585	-5.7327022	-3.0	6m	6m	Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Testing
VC-G04	VC	Gigha – Proposed Structure	55.677359	-5.7318532	-3.5	6m	6m	Geotechnical Testing
VC-G05	VC	Gigha – Proposed Dredge	55.677897	-5.7324933	-2.0	6m	6m	Geotechnical Testing
VC-G06	VC	Gigha – Proposed Dredge	55.677852	-5.7319161	-2.5	6m	6m	Geotechnical Testing
VC-G07	VC	Gigha – Proposed Dredge	55.678128	-5.7320219	-2.0	6m	6m	Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Testing

REPORT

2.2.2 Borehole Schedule

Table 2-3 shows the proposed borehole schedule. These are all with follow on rotary coring to prove rock (3m into competent strata). It is recommended that the boreholes are progressed utilising sonic boring, which has proved effective at recovering weathered rock in the area.

Table 2-3 Borehole Schedule

Hole Number	Type	Location	Grid Reference		Approximate ground level (mCD)	Scheduled Soil Depth	Scheduled Rock Depth	Total Scheduled Depth	Remarks
			Latitude	Longitude					
BH-G01	BH	Gigha – Proposed Structure	55.678405	-5.7323507	-1.0	5m	5m	10m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-G02	BH	Gigha – Proposed Structure	55.678324	-5.7317701	-2.0	5m	5m	10m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-G03	BH	Gigha – Proposed Structure	55.678277	-5.7312405	-2.5	7m	23m	30m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-G04	BH	Gigha – Proposed Structure	55.678041	-5.7313293	-3.0	7m	5m	12m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-G05	BH	Gigha – Proposed Structure	55.677768	-5.7314148	-3.0	10m	5m	15m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-G06	BH	Gigha – Proposed Structure	55.677514	-5.7315178	-3.5	10m	20m	30m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-T01	BH	Tayinloan – Proposed Structure	55.657372	-5.6719426	-2.5	10m	5m	15m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>



**REPORT**

Hole Number	Type	Location	Grid Reference		Approximate ground level (mCD)	Scheduled Soil Depth	Scheduled Rock Depth	Total Scheduled Depth	Remarks
			Latitude	Longitude					
BH-T02	BH	Tayinloan – Proposed Structure	55.657449	-5.6729677	-3.0	10m	5m	15m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-T03	BH	Tayinloan – Additional Info	55.656746	-5.6724405	-2.5m	10m	5m	15m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-T04	BH	Tayinloan – Additional Info	55.656697	-5.6740741	-3.5m	10m	5m	15m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>
BH-T05	BH	Tayinloan – Additional Info	55.657827	-5.6741801	-3.5m	10m	5m	15m	Geotechnical Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;95% TCR</li> <li>• SPTs</li> <li>• UT's</li> </ul>

2.2.3 Grab Sample Schedule

Table 2-4 Grab Sample Schedule

Hole Number	Type	Location	Grid Reference		Approximate ground level (mCD)	Scheduled Soil Depth	Remarks
			Latitude	Longitude			
GS-G01	GS	Gigha – Sediment Transport Modelling	55.67649	-5.7350007	-0.5	Surface	Geotechnical Testing
GS-G02	GS	Gigha – Sediment Transport Modelling	55.677286	-5.7345674	-0.5	Surface	Geotechnical Testing
GS-G03	GS	Gigha – Proposed Dredge	55.677617	-5.7322438	-3.0	Surface	Geotechnical and Benthic Testing
GS-G04	GS	Gigha – Proposed Structure	55.67837	-5.7320291	-1.5	Surface	Benthic Testing
GS-G05	GS	Gigha – Sediment Transport Modelling	55.678457	-5.7297617	-2.0	Surface	Geotechnical and Benthic Testing
GS-G06	GS	Gigha – Sediment Transport Modelling	55.679176	-5.7289071	-1.0	Surface	Geotechnical Testing
GS-G07	GS	Gigha – Benthic Baseline	55.670379	-5.721896	-15.0	Surface	Benthic Testing
GS-T01	GS	Tayinloan – Sediment Transport Modelling	55.655064	-5.670947	+0.5	Surface	Geotechnical Testing
GS-T02	GS	Tayinloan – Sediment Transport Modelling	55.656042	-5.6710227	+0.5	Surface	Geotechnical and Benthic Testing
GS-T03	GS	Tayinloan – Proposed Structure	55.657414	-5.6723283	-3.0	Surface	Benthic Testing
GS-T04	GS	Tayinloan – Proposed Dredge	55.657773	-5.6714712	-2.5	Surface	Geoenvironmental Testing
GS-T05	GS	Tayinloan – Proposed Dredge	55.657802	-5.6720147	-3.0	Surface	Geoenvironmental and Benthic Testing
GS-T06	GS	Tayinloan – Proposed Dredge	55.657811	-5.6725882	-3.0	Surface	Geoenvironmental Testing
GS-T07	GS	Tayinloan – Sediment Transport Modelling	55.659236	-5.6697632	-1.0	Surface	Geotechnical Testing
GS-T08	GS	Tayinloan – Sediment Transport Modelling	55.659953	-5.6689397	-1.0	Surface	Geotechnical Testing

## 2.2.4 Geophysical Investigations Schedule

Table 2-5 Geophysical Investigations Schedule

Type of Survey	Coverage	Location	Anticipated Charted Water Depths
Bathymetric Survey	124ha	Ardminish Bay	Intertidal to 15m
Bathymetric Survey	74ha	Tayinloan	Intertidal to 5m
Geophysical Survey (Bathymetric and sub-bottom profiling), Side scan sonar and Magnetometer surveys	6ha	Ardminish Bay	Intertidal to 4m
Geophysical Survey (Bathymetric and sub-bottom profiling), Side scan sonar and Magnetometer surveys	5ha	Tayinloan	Intertidal to 3.5m
Drop down video	4 locations	Ardminish Bay	-3.0, -1.5, -2.0 and -15.0m
Drop down video	3 locations	Tayinloan	+0.5 and -3.0m

The seabed bathymetry and sub-bottom profiling is required within the development and dredge area to inform engineering design. It is expected that this will be mostly undertaken by multi-beam echo sounding (MBES) and appropriate geophysical survey techniques to capture the level of rockhead, and the nature, thickness and location of the sub surface strata to rockhead.

Bathymetric surveys only are required within the yellow line boundaries (Figure 2-1).

Side Scan Sonar surveys are required for cultural heritage environmental assessments.

Drop-down video is required at the seven benthic grab sample locations, to include a minimum of 5-minutes of clear video and a minimum of 5 good-quality still images.

## 2.3 Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) (Scottish Inshore Region) Order 2011

Sediment samples are proposed to be removed from the seabed as part of the proposed Works. In accordance with Section 18B of the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) (Scottish Inshore Region) Order 2011:

- the volume of sediment removed will be less than 1m<sup>3</sup> per sample. Boreholes shall have a minimum diameter of 200mm and the minimum finishing diameter shall be 150mm. No borings are proposed to depths which would produce samples of 1m<sup>3</sup> at a single location.
- The investigation works will not cause, or is not likely to cause an obstruction or danger to navigation. Calmac Ferries Ltd operate between Gigha and Tayinloan. The summer Ferry Timetable (valid from 29 March 2024 to 20 October 2024) will be in operation during the time of investigation works. RPS have engaged with Calmac Ferries Ltd to ensure there are no impacts to ferry operations. In addition, RPS have engaged with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Northern Lighthouse Board. The outputs of these consultations are included in Appendix A.
- The proposed investigation works are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site. The proposal area occurs within the Sound of Jura Special Protected Area (SPA). The Sound of Jura SPA is designated for:
  - Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), non-breeding
  - Great northern diver (*Gavia immer*), non-breeding
  - Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), non-breeding
  - Slavonian grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), non-breeding

Consultation has been undertaken with NatureScot. The output of this consultation is included in Appendix B.

- The proposed investigation works are not likely to have a significant effect on a Ramsar site. The nearest Ramsar site is located at Kintyre Goose Roosts. This is a terrestrial Ramsar site located >5km to the northeast of Tayinloan.
- The proposed investigation works are not capable of affecting (other than insignificantly)—
  - (i) the protected features of an MPA; or
  - (ii) any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of an MPA is (wholly or in part) dependent.

The nearest Marine Protected Area is Loch Sween, which is located >25km to the north of the proposal.

# Appendix A



## RE: [EXT] Notice of Intention to Carry out an Exempted Activity

[Redacted]

Tue 04/06/2024 14:06

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed exempted survey activities at two sites, Ardmish and Tayinloan.

We note there has been consultation with CalMac to avoid disruption to ferry activities.

I can confirm the Northern Lighthouse Board do not foresee these activities to be a hazard to navigation and advise the following:

- Argyll and Bute Council issue a local Notice to Mariners for each sampling campaign, please copy any issued NtM to [navigation@nlb.org.uk](mailto:navigation@nlb.org.uk)

Please come back to us on [navigation@nlb.org.uk](mailto:navigation@nlb.org.uk) if you need further assistance.

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

**Official - Northern Lighthouse Board Email**

[Redacted]

**Navigation Officer**

NLB Navigation, 84 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3DA

07836 702141

[Redacted]

[www.nlb.org.uk](http://www.nlb.org.uk)



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**Our values:** Safety, Pride, Integrity, Teamwork, Fairness, Innovation, Respect, Environment

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 12:59 PM

**To:** navigation <navigation@nlb.org.uk>

**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Notice of Intention to Carry out an Exempted Activity

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[Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 12:48 PM

**To:** Enquiries <[Enquiries@nlb.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@nlb.org.uk)>

**Subject:** [EXT] Notice of Intention to Carry out an Exempted Activity

RE: Consultation for Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity

Dear Sir/Madam,

RPS have been appointed by Argyll & Bute Council under the Scottish Excel Framework to prepare an EIAR and HRA for a proposal to construct a pier/breakwater to provide ferry overnight berthing facilities at Gigha (Ardrinish), and a breakwater extension at Tayinloan.

RPS are proposing to undertake ground investigations and surveys in the vicinity of Ardrinish and Tayinloan. The purpose of the ground investigations and surveys is to inform the:

- preliminary and detailed engineering design of the pier/breakwater and breakwater extension, including form and location; and
- environmental assessments to consider the impacts of the proposals, and facilitate an EIAR to support planning and marine licensing applications for the proposed development.

RPS have engaged closely with Calmac to ensure no disruption to the current ferry operation.

All sediment sampled from each sample location will not exceed 1 cubic metre per sample and therefore a Marine Licence Exemption is being sought from the Marine Directorate.

In addition, an EPS Risk Assessment is being undertaken to support EPS licencing requirements.

Please see attached draft Supporting Information and draft Notice of Intention to Carry out an Exempted Activity.

Prior to our submission to the Marine Directorate, can you please confirm that you are content with the proposed surveys to be undertaken. Your response will be used within the Supporting Information document and submitted to the Marine Directorate.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Senior Associate - Water Environment & Flood Risk Management  
RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland  
Elmwood House  
74 Boucher Road, Belfast  
Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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## RE: Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity - Response

navigation safety <navigationssafety@mcga.gov.uk>

Mon 10/06/2024 15:28

To: McAnallen, Laura <Laura.Mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com>

⚠ **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. Verify the source before opening links or attachments. ⚠

Dear Laura,

Thank you for the information regarding the proposed exempted Activity at Ardmish on the Island of Gigha.

We note that the works comprise geophysical, 15 grab and 7 vibrocore samplings, plus 11 boreholes, to be undertaken after late July 2024 once the contract has been awarded. We also note that consultation has taken place with Calmac Ferries, to mi

On the understanding that the following takes place, the MCA would have no significant concerns to raise with regards to the safety of navigation and would be satisfied that the risk is relatively low on this occasion:

1. All maritime safety legislation is complied with;
2. Local notification is issued to marine users, including fishermen's organisations, relevant authorities and other local stakeholders, to ensure that they are made fully aware of the activity at least five days before commencement of the works;
3. [Zone34@hmcg.gov.uk](mailto:Zone34@hmcg.gov.uk) must be notified prior to commencement of activities.
4. A notification must be sent to The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office (email: [sdr@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:sdr@ukho.gov.uk)) of commencement of the licensed activities, at least 10 days before commencement of the works. The information supplied must include the start date and end date, a description of the works, positions of the work area (WGS84), and details of any marking arrangements.

Please can you confirm that you accept the above risk mitigations?

Kind regards,

**Jo Cooke**

Policy Advisor

Marine Licensing and Consenting

**UK Technical Services Navigation** [NavigationSafety@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:NavigationSafety@mcga.gov.uk)



Mobile: 07815 703225

**Maritime & Coastguard Agency**  
Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road,  
Southampton, SO15 1EG



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[www.gov.uk/mca](http://www.gov.uk/mca)

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**From:** McAnallen, Laura <Laura.Mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 12:50 PM  
**To:** navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>; Info Line <Infoline@mcga.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity

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RE: Consultation for Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity

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Many thanks,  
Laura

**Dr Laura McAnallen CSci C.WEM MCIWEM**

Senior Associate - Water Environment & Flood Risk Management

RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland

Elmwood House

74 Boucher Road, Belfast

Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom

T +44 2890 667 914

E [laura.mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com](mailto:laura.mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com)

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## Appendix B


## Re: Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity

McAnallen, Laura <Laura.Mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com>

Thu 13/06/2024 09:58

To: Esther Whitford <Esther.Whitford@nature.scot>

Cc: Bingham, Richard <Richard.Bingham@rps.tetrattech.com>; Mitchell, Sara <Sara.Mitchell@rps.tetrattech.com>; Ferguson, Catherine <Catherine.Vincent@rps.tetrattech.com>

 1 attachments (137 KB)

Summer-Timetable\_TAY-GIG.pdf;

Hi Esther,

Thanks for your email.

The works are proposed to take place Monday to Friday 0800-1800 and will work around the ferry operations as agreed with Calmac. Please see attached summer ferry schedule for your reference.

No boreholes have been proposed on the line of ferry approaches and these have been replaced with vibrocores or grab samples as these will require a shorter time in position.

Where any work is required between ferry crossings, this will be before or after the last ferry of the day.

Depending on the consultation period with the Marine Directorate on the Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity, we are hoping to award a contractor as soon as possible. We have anticipated that the works could begin and end between 26<sup>th</sup> August and 27<sup>th</sup> September, with 5 weeks anticipated on site.

Any other questions please let me know.

Many thanks,  
Laura

**Dr Laura McAnallen CSci C.WEM MCIWEM**

Senior Associate - Water Environment & Flood Risk Management

RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland

Elmwood House

74 Boucher Road, Belfast

Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom

**T** +44 2890 667 914

**E** [laura.mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com](mailto:laura.mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com)

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**From:** Esther Whitford <Esther.Whitford@nature.scot>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 June 2024 09:23

**To:** McAnallen, Laura <Laura.Mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com>

**Cc:** Bingham, Richard <Richard.Bingham@rps.tetrattech.com>; Mitchell, Sara <Sara.Mitchell@rps.tetrattech.com>

**Subject:** RE: Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity

You don't often get email from esther.whitford@nature.scot. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Laura,

Thank you for consulting NatureScot regarding this survey work.

Do you have a rough idea of timescales i.e. when you expect the works to start and how long they will take? I know last year the surveys were timed around the ferries (first thing in the morning/last thing at night), will that be the same for this years works?

Many thanks,  
Esther

**Esther Whitford** (she/her) | **Operations Officer - West**

**NatureScot** | 7 Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8AB | t: 01313 144172 m: 07385 413225

**NàdarAlba** | 7 Pairèid Alexandra, Dùn Obhainn, Earra Ghàidheal, PA23 8AB

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**From:** McAnallen, Laura <[Laura.Mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com](mailto:Laura.Mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 12:57 PM

**To:** LICENSING <[licensing@nature.scot](mailto:licensing@nature.scot)>; MARINEACTIVITIES <[marineactivities@nature.scot](mailto:marineactivities@nature.scot)>

**Cc:** Bingham, Richard <[Richard.Bingham@rps.tetrattech.com](mailto:Richard.Bingham@rps.tetrattech.com)>; Mitchell, Sara <[Sara.Mitchell@rps.tetrattech.com](mailto:Sara.Mitchell@rps.tetrattech.com)>

**Subject:** Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity

RE: Consultation for Notice of Intention to carry out an Exempted Activity

Dear Sir/Madam,

RPS have been appointed by Argyll & Bute Council under the Scottish Excel Framework to prepare an EIAR and HRA for a proposal to construct a pier/breakwater to provide ferry overnight berthing facilities at Gigha (Ardminish), and a breakwater extension at Tayinloan.

RPS are proposing to undertake ground investigations and surveys in the vicinity of Ardminish and Tayinloan. The purpose of the ground investigations and surveys is to inform the:

- Preliminary and detailed engineering design of the pier/breakwater and breakwater extension, including form and location; and
- Environmental assessments of the location to consider the impacts of the proposals, and facilitate an EIAR to support planning and marine licensing applications for the proposed development.

All sediment sampled from each sample location will not exceed 1 cubic metre per sample and therefore a Marine Licence Exemption is being sought from the Marine Directorate.

The proposal area is located within the Sound of Jura SPA. This SPA is designated for:

- Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), non-breeding
- Great northern diver (*Gavia immer*), non-breeding
- Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), non-breeding
- Slavonian grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), non-breeding

The nearest Ramsar site is located at Kintyre Goose Roosts. This is a terrestrial Ramsar site located >5km to the northeast of Tayinloan.

The nearest Marine Protected Area is Loch Sween, which is located >25km to the north of the proposal.

In addition to the above, an EPS Risk Assessment is currently being undertaken to support EPS licencing requirements. This can be made available to you once completed.

Please see attached draft Supporting Information and draft Notice of Intention to Carry out an Exempted Activity.

Prior to our submission to the Marine Directorate, can you please confirm that the proposed works will not have a likely significant effect on an SAC, SPA, pSPA or Ramsar site or be capable of affecting an MPA or pMPA. Your response will be used within the Supporting Information document and submitted to the Marine Directorate.

Many thanks,  
Laura

**Dr Laura McAnallen CSci C.WEM MCIWEM**

Senior Associate - Water Environment & Flood Risk Management

RPS | Consulting UK & Ireland

Elmwood House

74 Boucher Road, Belfast



Co. Antrim BT12 6RZ, United Kingdom

**T** +44 2890 667 914

**E** [laura.mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com](mailto:laura.mcanallen@rps.tetrattech.com)

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a- mach bho NàdarAlba.

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