

Notice to Mariners

AMS PANTHER Tecnoambiente- WesternLink Cable Route Survey

Geophysical Survey Operations

Mariners are advised that a dedicated nearshore geophysical survey vessel will be used along the shallow extents of the existing WesternLink cable route between Hunterston, Ayrshire and Wirral.

Please be advised that depending on weather conditions, the AMS Panther will commence geophysical survey operations on 03 August 2023.

The offshore element of the route will be surveyed later in the Autumn of 2023, a separate Notice to Mariners will be issued for this element.

Project Description

WesternLink is a 390km submarine HVDC link undertaken as a joint venture between National Grid and Scottish Power. The cable route includes two HVDC cables that extends between Hunterston in Ayrshire and The Wirral. The cables have a capacity of 2,200 MW and are buried up to 3m but more generally 2m or less. Water depths along the cable route vary between +7m (at the HDD exit point) and approximately 170m deep. Along the majority of the route (circa 320km), the cables are laid separately, with a typical separation of 30m.

A detailed geophysical inspection survey along the full length of the route will be undertaken in two parts. Initially, the nearshore works, as defined in this Notice to Mariners, will be conducted from the 0m to 20m contour with a working area of approximately +/-100m from the published position of the cable.

Geophysical survey operations in the nearshore areas will include data acquisition using multibeam echosounder and side scan sonar. Marine mammal observations will be recorded during the daily operations.



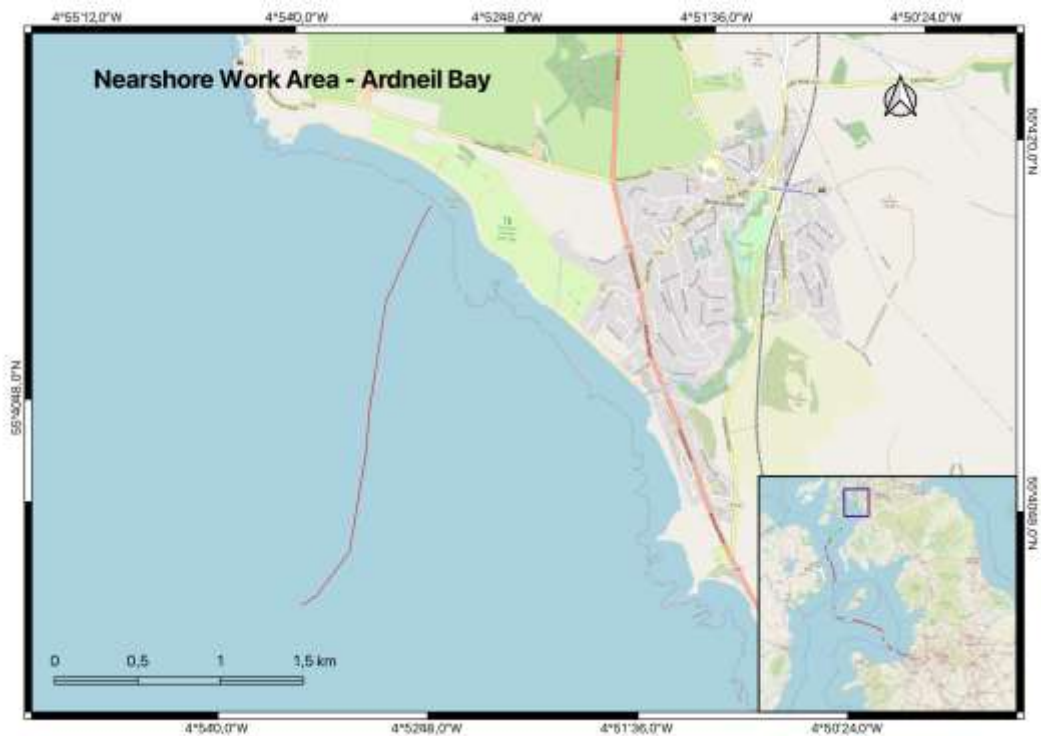
Figure 1: Overview of the WesternLink Cable Route

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Work Area

The working area of the AMS Panther is the following :



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Vessel : AMS PANTHER

 A blue and white survey vessel, the AMS Panther, is shown from an aerial perspective on the water. The vessel has a white cabin and a blue hull with a red and yellow stripe.	<p><u>Vessel Specifications</u> Call Sign: 2EHC2 Owner: AlphaMarine MMSI: 235085036 Length: 17m Beam: 6.3m Draught: 1m Email: pantherctv@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Survey Equipment</u> Edgetech 6205 Dual Bathymetry and Side Scan Sonar Valeport Swift Sound Velocity Profiler</p>
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Planning

The operations are planned to be carried out from the 03rd of August 2023 and could extend until the 18th of August 2023.

The order of operations will be the following :

1. AMS Panther will be mobilised in Liverpool (Canada Dock) from 2nd August and will be at sea, on a daylight/12-hour basis, from the 3rd August. The survey in the vicinity of the Wirral landing will be conducted as a priority between **3rd-13th August** (subject to weather).
2. On completion of the Wirral works AMS Panther will relocate to Largs Marina for works at Hunterston between **14th-18th August**.

Navigational Considerations

The AMS Panther will be engaged in geophysical survey activities.

The following considerations should be made regarding operational activities:

- A safe distance of 0.5 nautical miles from the vessel must always be maintained.
- It is also requested to establish contact with the AMS Panther (VHF 16) to obtain information on the planning and to allow a coactivity on the zone without obstructions.
- It is requested that the work area be kept clear of fishing gear to avoid entanglement.
- The AMS Panther may be towing equipment approximately 100 m behind the stern.
- The vessel with display all applicable lights and shapes.

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Communications

To contact the **AMS PANTHER** : VHF channel 16

To contact **TECNOAMBIENTE**:

- **Mike Caraher** (Project Manager)
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- **James Wells** (Survey Manager)
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Maritime Coordination

There is a dedicated Fishing Liaison Officer assigned to the project.

The contact information is as follows:

Jim Andrews

Fishing Liason Officer

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