

Marine Management

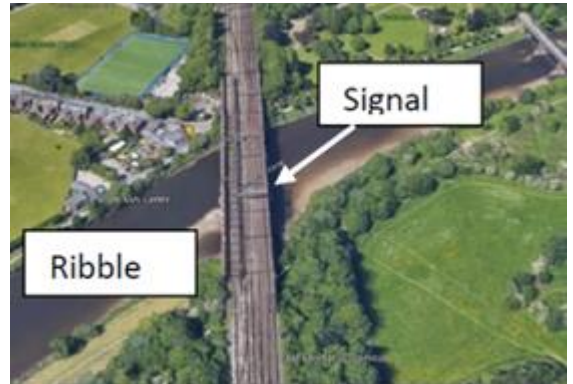
Issued to: **Environmental Distribution list and accredited suppliers**

Ref: ENV22-01

Date of issue: 21/06/2022

Location: River Ribble, Lancashire, England

Contact: Mike Bradburn, Environment Manager, NW&C



Overview

On 8 April 2022 the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) issued one of our Principal Contractors with a written advisory note to advise that they were in breach of Section 85(1)(a) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MaCAA) 2009 for exceeding the exemption parameters of a Self-Service Marine Licence.

The scope of the project was the replacement of the signals and signal gantry spanning the railway within the Ribble Railway Bridge at Preston (ELR: CGJ5 21m 559yds). The works were planned to be completed in three separate phases, with the initial phase being the casting of the foundation for one of the gantry legs. Due to access constraints this work was undertaken between 25-27 December 2021. The works were being undertaken over a tidal section of the River Ribble and, hence, fell under the regulatory jurisdiction of the MMO,

Upon application for a MMO Licence, the project team concluded that a self-service, fast track, MMO licence was considered appropriate. This licence is for minor maintenance, as this phase was only a small intervention and it would be 12 months before the main works were undertaken, it was considered to meet the requirements of the licence.

However, the MMO consider all works which fall outside of the three-dimensional boundary of an existing asset to be the construction of a new structure, therefore, considered the above works to be outside the permissible limits of the self-service licence, and that the project should have instead sought a full MMO licence. The MMO subsequently issued the advisory note, notifying the project of this decision.

A full licence will be sought for the completion of these works later in the year.

Discussion points

- Do you appropriately consider the necessary consents on your projects when working over, in or close to watercourses, tidal and otherwise?
- When seeking MMO licences, have you liaised with MMO as early as possible to establish which licence your works are aligned with?
- Have you left enough time for your application to be processed by the MMO? The MMO state that they will make a decision on any application within 13 weeks, however we are aware of cases where applications are taking 6-9 months.
- For more detail on marine licences, the type of works affected and the application process, please refer to the following links
 - [England](#)
 - [Wales](#)
 - [Scotland](#)