

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR DEMOLITION WORKS AND REMOVAL OF PILES

The removal of works and associated piling from the river are subject to demolition licence granted by the PLA.

In principle, a demolished works can only be taken off Licence if it is completely removed from the site, including those parts extending into the sub-soil. This would release the Licensee from all obligations.

However, it is recognised that total removal is sometimes impractical, particularly where piled structures are concerned. Each case is therefore judged on its merits and, before work commences, the following will need to be agreed by the PLA through formal approval of the Licensing Committee:

- the proposed method statement for removing the works, including the amount of vertical pull or other efforts to be exerted on piles before cutting off is agreed;
- the method of verification that the effort agreed has been applied;
- the level below bed at which the piles will be cut off expressed as an absolute value related to Chart or Ordnance Datum at the top of the remaining pile;
- the method of cutting and the method of verification that cutting has been at the agreed level;
- the requirement for post removal hydrographic survey.

The remains of the structure would remain on licence and no consideration would be required.

If you are unable to comply with the PLA's requirements regarding the removal you have an alternative option of demolishing the works to suit your own needs providing the relevant PLA officers are satisfied from a technical perspective. The remains of the structure would remain on licence and, whilst wider liabilities of the licensee would remain, the consideration would be reduced to a token fee. A hydrographic survey of the remains would also be required.

It may be necessary to issue a Notice to Mariners to warn river traffic of the demolition work and the cost of this (currently £270 or £430) would be recoverable from the applicant.

Floating plant would need to display appropriate signals and maintain a listening watch on VHF radio (London VTS Channel 68 or 14 as appropriate). The directions of the PLA Harbour Master would have to be complied with at all times.

All demolition material, except where re-used, must be disposed of to a licensed waste management site within 3 months.

All other necessary consents would need to be obtained.

An application form, instructions and fees schedule are attached which should be completed, signed and returned together with the relevant method statement and correct processing fee.

You are reminded that the Port of London Act 1968 (as amended) requires, at Section 70, that no person shall carry out river works unless he or she has a current PLA Licence so to do.