





Calm Waters 9

Ceredigion County Council's harbours at Aberaeron, Aberystwyth and New Quay are fantastic resources and attractions in their own right. To ensure *calm waters* at the harbours so they remain safe, enjoyable and attractive for all we are reminding harbour users of a few key things they need to be aware of and do.



Please:

- 1. Always be considerate and respectful of all other harbour users and the public.
- 2. Always be considerate and respectful of, and value, the local wildlife.
- 3. Make sure that your equipment is well maintained, in good condition, and suitable for use. This includes ground tackle, chain, rope, anchors, and other mooring devices, all of which should be checked regularly.
- 4. Deal with all your waste legally and responsibly. This includes and extends from spent fishing equipment to waste oil.
- 5. Store all equipment safely and in an appropriate place. This includes tenders, buoys, pots, and other fishing equipment.
- 6. Do not cause an obstruction or nuisance either on the wet or dry sides of the harbours. In any emergency, maintaining good access could be critical. Park vehicles in accordance with the arrangements in place and the provision made.
- 7. Respond positively to any advice or instruction issued by Harbours staff.
- 8. Raise any issues, concerns, or suggestions you may have with Harbours staff at the earliest opportunity. This includes reporting any faults or damage that you may become aware of within the harbours.
- 9. Contact 999 in any kind of emergency.

The Harbours are managed in accordance with the Ceredigion Harbour Management Policy.

- Ceredigion Harbours Management Policy
- Bylaws
- Nautical Courses and Distances
- Local Tide Tables
- Ceredigion Marine Heritage Coast, Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Pen Llyn and Sarnau SAC
- Stranded Marine Animals and Safety

All of the above can be found at:: https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/travel-roads-parking/coast-harbours/

Harbour users should familiarise themselves with this information and ensure that they act in accordance with it at all times. These documents are subject to updates and should therefore be checked regularly.

Updates:

(1) Harbour Service Team Updates

Following the departure of Chay Sanders from the Harbour Services Team, Robyn Beresford was appointed to the role of Harbour Work Leader. Robyn commenced the role in April 2025, but she was already a familiar face to our Harbour users as she was, prior to this, one of our Seasonal Harbour Assistants. Robyn has settled into her new role well and is a key link between Harbour users and the Harbour Service.

'Since April 2025 I've stepped into the role of Harbour Works Leader after working as a Seasonal Harbour Assistant in 2024, and I'm finding the new responsibilities both rewarding and a good challenge. Outside of work I stay connected with harbour life through the RNLI, sea rowing, and local water activities.' - Robyn



Robyn at the New Quay Harbour Office.

The Harbour Service has also taken on two new Seasonal Harbour Assistants. Eve Rees joined the team in April and has very much enjoyed her first season with the Harbour Service. Eve is hoping to return to us next April.

'Working as a Seasonal Harbour Assistant from April-September has been extremely rewarding. Ceredigion Harbours have been friendly and welcoming environments, and I have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with harbour users

and members of the public. The role has been an excellent learning experience, and I look forward to returning next season.' - Eve

Chloe Roberts joined the Harbour Service in early July and has also thoroughly enjoyed her first season working in the harbours. Chloe is excited to return to her role next April.

'Since July, I've had the opportunity to work as a Harbour Assistant, and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I've enjoyed spending my days outdoors in all kinds of weather, quickly learning that a waterproof is less of an accessory and more of a necessity, while taking in the harbour's everchanging scenery and meeting so many new and interesting people. Every day has offered something different to learn, and I've truly valued being part of such a warm and welcoming community. I'm already looking forward to returning next year—this time for even longer.' - Chloe





Eve out in New Quay Bay (left) and Chloe at New Quay Harbour Office(above).

(2) Completed and planned maintenance works

Maintenance dredging was carried out in New Quay back in March, focusing on areas at the pier end and Pen Polion.

Plans are underway to repair and maintain mooring points at New Quay Harbour, with works scheduled for the new financial year.

Ahead of the Summer Season lift-in, logs and debris were cleared from Aberaeron Harbour.

Routine maintenance was completed on Aids to Navigation (AtoN) in Aberystwyth and New Quay. Further work is planned for the maintenance of the Carreg Ina North

Cardinal mark in New Quay, as well as the installation of new leading lights in Aberystwyth.

Repairs were undertaken to the weir at Aberystwyth Harbour to reinstate rocks which had been dislodged.

Following receipt of the condition report following the survey of the Pontoon at Aberystwyth an options appraisal is currently being carried out to determine the most appropriate course of action. An update will be provided once more detail is available.



Left: Dredging being carried out at New Quay

Below (left and right): Painted AtoN at Aberystwyth harbour.







Left: Painted AtoN at Aberystwyth Harbour

(3) Dinghy Storage – New Quay

The Harbour Service has worked closely with New Quay Yacht Club to develop a new dinghy storage area on New Quay Beach. The facility, which is licenced to and managed by the Yacht Club has, we understand from initial feedback from the Yacht Club, been a popular addition to the harbour.

For any enquiries on Dinghy Storage at New Quay Harbour, please contact:

Contact Us | New Quay Yacht Club



Above: Dinghy storage area at New Quay Harbour

(4) Harbour User Consultative Meetings

The next Harbour Users Consultative Committee meetings will take place on 30th October 2025 at the following times and will be held virtually on Teams.

17:30 Aberaeron

18:15 New Quay

19:00 Aberystwyth

While the Committees provide an opportunity to discuss matters, there are many ongoing ways that stakeholders can liaise throughout the year with the Harbour Service regarding day-to-day matters. This includes in person at the Harbours or via Clic, the Council's contact centre: clic@ceredigion.gov.uk / 01545 570881. We encourage stakeholders to do so in order that matters can be investigated in a timely manner.

(5) Aberystwyth Harbour Office

We're pleased to share that the new cabin for the Aberystwyth Harbour Office has now been installed.

This marks a key milestone in the replacement project, and we're now working with colleagues in Property and contractors to connect utilities and complete the internal setup. Once these final steps are complete, the Harbour Services Team will begin operating from the new facility.

In the meantime, the Harbour Services Team continues to maintain a regular presence at the harbour and remains available via the usual contact methods for any assistance or enquiries.

We appreciate your continued patience and support during this transition and look forward to welcoming you to the new office soon, a further update will be provided once the new office is operational.





Above: New Harbour Office at Aberystwyth

(6) Aberaeron Coastal Defence Scheme

The completion of the Aberaeron Coastal Defence Scheme has been achieved, with all areas now open to the public. A <u>newsletter</u> was issued by the contractor in August 2025. The Harbour Authority has liaised with the scheme and Trinity House on the final AtoN arrangements for the Harbour entrance and these have been installed.

(7) Health and Safety

VHF Usage Reminder

The Harbour Service would like to remind all harbour users of the importance of VHF radio and its correct usage. All Harbour users are strongly encouraged to obtain a Short-Range Certificate (SRC) and to operate VHF devices responsibly, with proper etiquette and in accordance with established rules.

VHF is a lifeline — a vital tool used by mariners, emergency services, and leisure users for both routine and emergency communications. It plays a critical role in ensuring safety at sea and within the harbour. It is essential that harbour users understand how and when to use VHF — especially in emergency situations.

Unfortunately, there have been several instances of inappropriate VHF use within the harbour, including the use of foul language on certain channels. Such behaviour is unacceptable and will be treated in accordance with Section 23.1 of the Ceredigion Harbours Management Policy: Reckless Conduct and Disorderly Behaviour. Misuse will also be reported to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Please be aware that using offensive or inappropriate language on VHF radio is not only unprofessional — it may also be illegal under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 and other maritime communication regulations. All transmissions must be clear, relevant, and respectful.

Let's all work together to maintain a safe and respectful environment on the water.

COLREGS Reminder

Harbour users have a legal responsibility to be aware of, understand and comply with the Merchant Shipping (Distress Signals and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations 1996.

Whilst these are generally adhered to, the Harbour Service has observed occasions when these regulations have not been followed in particular:

Rule 34 (a) - three short blasts to mean "I am operating astern propulsion".

On occasion some commercial operators, using the main pier at New Quay are not sounding these sound signals when coming astern, sometimes catching other harbour users off guard. The Harbour Service will be monitoring activity on the Pier more closely, to ensure rules are followed next season.

(8) Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC)

In April 2025, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Department for Transport (DfT) issued the latest edition of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC).

Since then, the Harbour Service has been developing a new Marine Safety Plan, updating its Marine Safety Management System (MSMS), and reviewing its commitments and audit procedures to ensure full compliance with the Code. The Council is working towards confirming compliance in January 2026, as part of the nationwide PMSC compliance exercise coordinated by the MCA.

(9) Harbour Surgeries

Harbour surgeries—scheduled, surgery-style meetings—are held at each harbour so that users can discuss any issues or concerns with the Harbour Manager (or the Harbour Works Leader in his absence) face to face. The surgeries will be held at each harbour office, except for the months of October and March, as follows:

Aberystwyth – Last Tuesday of every month at 14:00

Aberaeron – Last Wednesday of every month at 14:00

New Quay – Last Thursday of every month at 14:00

Any changes to the schedule will be communicated with harbour users.

(10) Making Contact and Feedback

Please note: The technical services mailbox is no longer in use and is not monitored. Should you wish to contact the Harbours Service you can do so via:

Email: clic@ceredigion.gov.uk

Phone: 01545 570 881

Post: Ceredigion County Council

Canolfan Rheidol Rhodfa Padarn

Llanbadarn Fawr

Aberystwyth

Ceredigion

SY23 3UE

We always welcome and encourage constructive feedback from stakeholders and we look forward to hearing from you.

With thanks from,

The Harbour Service

Owen Morgan AFNI, Harbour Manager

Robyn Beresford, Harbour Works Leader

Eve Rees, Seasonal Harbour Assistant & Chloe Roberts, Seasonal Harbour Assistant









