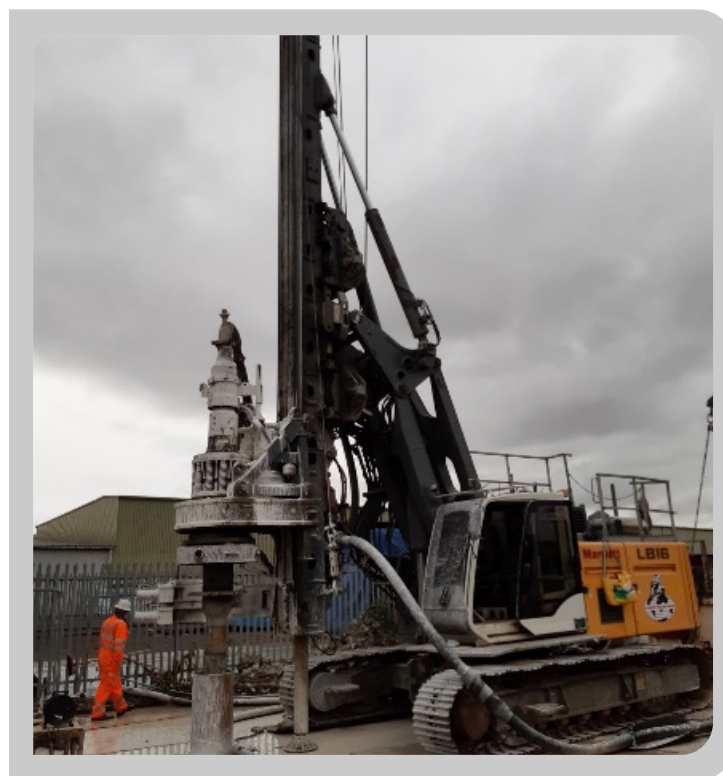


Our client, Associated British Ports (ABP) is the leading port operator in the UK. With a network of 21 ports across the country, they handle around one-quarter of the nation's seaborne trade, operating in fish and car imports. ABP was introduced to Envireau Water to gain support and guidance on a complex abstraction licensing project.



## The Challenge

ABP acquired an abstraction licence at a site near Grimsby Port. The site is located within a catchment closed to new abstractions. The licence was not in current use and our team's first challenge was to negotiate with the Environment Agency to transfer a portion of the licence and allow two new boreholes to be constructed and operated at Grimsby Port. The second challenge was to then drill two boreholes, and secure water that would be suitable for drinking and other uses by ABP's port tenants. Due to historic over-abstraction from industrial boreholes, and the Environment Agency's concerns around saline intrusion, this required careful consideration and planning.



## The Envireau Way

The project represented an investment of more than £1 million and needed to be broken down into a series of stages to manage the financial risk.

A detailed feasibility study was carried out to identify the technical and regulatory challenges and the mechanisms to resolve them. Our team's understanding of the local regulatory requirements, along with our ability to negotiate with the Environment Agency, allowed a route to abstraction licensing to be established at the very start of the project; giving ABP the confidence and certainty to progress the project.

In this case, a high level of input was required at Water Features Survey (WFS) stage. A WFS is a crucial part of any abstraction licensing project and because there are over 300 historic boreholes in and around Grimsby port, it was important to identify which features were still in use and could be at risk from a new abstraction. By developing a thorough understanding of the hydrogeology of the local area, our team developed a robust conceptual model, allowing the at-risk features to be identified.

The conceptual model was also vital for the design of the two new boreholes, ensuring that they were designed to maximise the chances of obtaining a good yield and water quality.

On completion of the borehole drilling, specialist geophysical surveying was used to confirm the locations of inflow horizons. The survey allowed a programme of acidisation to be designed and carried out to maximise yield and borehole efficiency; in this case improving the available yield by over 3 times.

Our continuous dialogue with the Environment Agency throughout the borehole development and testing process, enabled us to deliver a successful abstraction licence application which was determined within 3.5 months. Ongoing communication during determination ensured that monitoring conditions were designed that were easy to implement and manage.



## The Result

ABP obtained a new abstraction licence allowing them to abstract the water required to supply Grimsby Port. The new system will almost fully replace the existing mains water supply, resulting in substantial savings.

## Need our help?

At Envireau Water we have a strong understanding of regulatory requirements alongside many years of borehole development experience. This allows our specialists to develop unique water management solutions to suit your project needs.

Does this project sound similar to your own? Get in touch with us on 01332 871 882 to see how we can help.



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