Port of Bideford

Harbour Masters quarterly report to the Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum

Vessel Movements

Bideford:

- No vessel calls this quarter.

Navantia Newquay:

- "M/V Lady Anna" 88m cargo ship, unloaded 3200 metric tons of wheat gluten 14-17th August 2026.
- Next vessel due to arrive 24th October / depart 27th October (tbc)

Yelland:

- The Deo Gloria, arrived for a dredge campaign 19th-29th August 2026, depositing Bristol Chanel sand at Yelland.

PMSC External Audit

1. Captain Rob Parsons conducted an audit of the Port of Bideford Safety Management System on the 29th September 2026.
2. He reported that the "Port remained in compliance with the PMSC" and found 2 minor observations.

Harbour Dredge Update & Plans

1. The Bank End slipway was cleared of accumulated mud and silt using a swing shovel on 9th September.
2. This work was conducted as a permitted Maintenance Dredge under the 1925 Bideford Harbour Act and as a part of a biannual clearance of the slipway to maintain river access to small boat and kayak users.

Swansea Ferry Noise

1. There have been a number of recent national and regional media articles reporting alleged progress on a proposal for a Swansea to North Devon ferry route.

2. There are reports that North Devon authorities have “not been engaging with this project.”
3. TDC has engaged and the HM was asked for an appraisal of the feasibility of the scheme. Given the sparse information provided the only sensible answer was to say that significant more work was required before a serious business and marine appraisal could be made of the project.
4. On the surface, the project is an exciting prospect which could bring significant benefits to North Devon.
5. The most significant issue to overcome is the lack of a suitable port in North Devon that has the depth of water, the proximity to the Bristol Channel, the landside marshalling space and the permissive environment required to allow the major infrastructure development that would be required.

Pilot Boat

1. It is expected that the Pilot Boat “2 Rivers II” will go onto the Navantia small boat slip in November / December 2026.
2. She will be scrubbed, painted and have the necessary engineering and equipment servicing work completed on her to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Work Boat 3 Code.

Paul Brown

Bideford Harbour Master

Taw and Torridge Pilot