

New Harbour Tug for Portland Port

This week Portland Port and Harbour Authority welcomed the arrival of the newest member of the harbour towage fleet, the Rufus Castle. Formally undertaking towage and offshore support services on the east coast of the UK, the tug was purchased by the harbour authority following the recent sale of the ports oldest operating tug, the Sandsfoot Castle. Its 40 hour journey from Hull to Portland went very well, even with the Gale force winds it encountered during its final 6 hour approach.

Captain Michael Shipley, Harbourmaster commented; “ we are delighted that we now have the Rufus Castle supporting operations here at Portland. This increases our capacity to handle some of the larger vessels when otherwise we were restricted by the available bollard pull and prevailing weather. The addition of the Rufus Castle (50T BP) to the ports other two tugs Maiden Castle(56T BP) and the Wyke Castle (28T BP) increases our capability to in excess of 130T. The Sandsfoot Castle (17T BP) was sold earlier in the year. The Rufus Castle is fitted with a firefighting capability delivering over 1200 M3 of water per hour to its two monitors”.

The tug was formally known as the Englishman; an official naming ceremony with local south Dorset MP Richard Drax will be taking place, where a plaque will be presented with the new name, Rufus Castle. The Rufus Castle will be joined by the port authority’s pilot boats in the inner harbour for a traditional on-the-water welcome.

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Photo – Rufus Castle

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Notes to Editors:

Previously a naval dockyard for over 150 years, Portland Harbour is now a thriving and successful commercial facility. It still maintains a close relationship with the past through its ongoing contract to support the RFA, as well as being home to the activities of Global Marine and Portland Bunkers International. It has almost 2,500 hectares of water at depths of up to 15m (C.D.); and provides vessel services from long term lay-ups to brief maintenance calls, luxury cruise liner docking facilities to industrial cargo shipments.

The tariff and general Portland Harbour Authority information can be viewed at

<http://www.portland-port.co.uk/>

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Portland Port has over 2,000 metres of alongside berths and 11.6 metres (C.D.) depth of water at the deepest alongside berth.

Berthing for vessels up to 300 metres (subject to Harbour Master's approval).

11 designated anchorages are within the 1,015 hectare inner harbour. Six designated anchorages are within the 1,436 hectare Outer Harbour.

A width of 210 metres and depth of over 12.6 metres (C.D.) at the entrance of the harbour mean that there are few vessel beam, lock, or air draft restriction.

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