Vessel, Equipment & Services Guide

Birmingham & Midland Marine Services Ltd
2026/27

Vessel, Equipment & Services Guide

Birmingham & Midland Marine Services Ltd (BMMS Ltd) provide a niche portfolio of safety, rescue, access, training services, and equipment provision, to clients working in, on, above, or in close proximity to our inland waters.

BMMS Ltd support clientele with the provision of pre-works site safety surveys, water and boat training courses, risk assessments, rescue planning, advisory services, specialist craft and personnel solutions, compliance and safe practice inspections.

Our target sector is commercial contracting sector, requiring specialist support; Marine, Safety, Rescue & Access Solutions for the inland, non-tidal / non-coastal marine environment. This information sheet sets out to detail the services and equipment currently available.

Quotations can be requested from office@midlandmarine.co.uk or please visit the website: www.midlandmarine.co.uk

Please see below for an overview of our current portfolio, including:

- Shore-based safety & rescue teams
- Safety, rescue, & work boats
- Procurement of floating plant, & equipment, including pontoons
- Boat training and water safety & rescue training

Thanks very much for your interest in what we have to offer – we look forward to working with you.

The BMMS Ltd Team.

Water Rescue Contracting Support

Before you commit your staff to deploy in, on, above, alongside (3m) or even 'in' the water, you need to ensure that both you and they will be compliant with the legal requirements. HSE, DEFRA, and / or CDM Regulations 2015.

Once this is in place, based upon your risk-assessment, you may decide that an enhanced level of safety and rescue cover would be beneficial, and this is a service BMMS Ltd can provide.

Our highly trained Water & Flood First Responders and Rescue Technicians can be on hand to oversee the water safety on your site and be both prepared and equipped to facilitate a rescue in case of an accidental immersion or related incident.

Safety & Rescue boats, alongside rescue sleds for less accessible watercourses detailed below.
BMMS Ltd personnel include specialists hailing from Fire & Rescue Service, Search and Rescue, Mountain Rescue, Military, & Teaching backgrounds. Specialists in our field.

Water Rescue Teams

Our highly trained and experienced Water & Flood First Responders and Rescue Technicians (DEFRA Modules 2, & 3) can be on hand to oversee the water safety on your site and be both prepared and equipped to facilitate a rescue in case of an accidental immersion or related incident.

BMMS Ltd can also provide the training, aquatic PPE, and rescue equipment a client requires for the duration of their contract.

Safety & Rescue boats with competent and experienced, qualified crews are available, as are 'bank-based' rescue teams capable of putting a 'rescue-swimmer' into the water.

These 'bank-based' two or three-person teams hold advanced medical qualifications, and are equipped with reach rescue equipment, and able to deploy our water rescue sleds.

Ideal for accessing areas of the watercourse inaccessible to motorised vessels, rescue sleds have multiple uses; from movement of personnel to full tethered rescues.
Operators of the sled will be trained to the level of a DEFRA Module 3, either current or recently lapsed but with a high level of competency.

'Bank-based' dedicated 'Downstream Safety' teams ensure the safety of your personnel working near, in, or over hazardous waters; and can assist them accessing difficult locations.

From a boat-based Safety and Access perspective, Birmingham & Midland Marine Services have a wide rage of skippered workboats, utility, support, safety, and rescue boats, Companies and Organisations managing over-water, waterside or vessel based works can only be expected to provide safety cover to a certain level – Should an environment look 'particularly' challenging then consideration should be given to employing a dedicated water safety & rescue team on standby.

Birmingham & Midland Marine Services Ltd supply both boat-based and bank-based Teams, trained up to Emergency Services levels and work in the Midlands area predominantly and on a National basis by appointment.

Support / Safety Craft & Rescue Boats (restricted to non-tidal / coastal locations) are available for industrial and commercial support roles with two-person teams include Coxswain and Able Bowman. A three-person team would include the former plus either an additional DEFRA Module 3 (Concept of Flood Operations guidelines) Rescue swimmer or medical first responder with full pre-hospital care kit including automatic external defibrillator and

oxygen. Rescue Boats can also be requested crewed by DEFRA Module 3) and 4) Water Rescue Technicians and Boat Operators.

'Utility / Service Craft (USC) operated by a single coxswain are also available for crew transfers and general 'run-about' duties.

Bankside cover for non-navigable waterways includes a 2–6-man team, environment and risk assessment dependant, equipped with Rescue Sled and pre-hospital care / trauma kit including oxygen and External Automated Defibrillator.

BMMS Ltd personnel are medically qualified to IPOS FREC 3 / FPOS Medical First Responder level, and the Team are made up of Water Rescue First Responders and Water Rescue Technicians. (DEFRA Modules 2 & 3 – Flood Rescue Concept of Operations documentation.) include specialists hailing from Fire & Rescue Service, Search and Rescue, Military, & Commercial vessel backgrounds. Specialists in our field.

For further information on our, Water Rescue Support Contracting please email office@midlandmarine.co.uk

x1 Ionic Rapid full-inflation Rescue Boat – 4 metres (SSC / RBR)

x1 Jeanneau 360 Newmatic Rigiflex - 3.6 metres (USC / SSC)

1x Bombard C3 Commando Inflatable - 3.8 metres (USC / SSC / RBR)

x2 4-metre Swiftwater Rescue Sled (RBR & shore-based support)

1x Heavy displacement workboat - 12 metres (USC)

x2 Rigid Raider Mk1 Beach Assault Craft – 5 metres (USC / SSC)

Many of the BMMS Ltd vessels can be deployed in a variety of roles, and we are happy to advise which types of vessels (USC / SSC / RBR) are suitable for the task in hand when the client gives us an understanding of their project.

Boat specifications and equipment required may also be contract dependant, so costings can be dynamic. The level of equipment aboard, the crew qualifications, the type of operation and the complexity of the logistics required to mobilise the craft again have a bearing upon the rate charged for skippered hire for both safety, and insurance purposes.

Our vessels are not for hire without a BMMS Skipper or Coxswain and are deployed with a minimum of a two-man crew. Note: USC can be operated by a sole coxswain with 2nd crew as support/ assist/ relief.

Vessels that can be manhandled from the trailer to the watercourse benefit from a lower mobilisation cost, whereas heavier craft may require a lift plan and mechanical positioning into the water. Some vessels will require slipway access, and it is noteworthy that all inflatable vessels must be removed from the watercourse overnight in most circumstances to alleviate the risk of vandalism and theft.

Note: ALL personnel working waterside and relying on BMMS Ltd for marine support MUST have undertaken suitable & relevant occupational water safety training and remain 'in-date'. They must also wear an appropriate personal floatation device, fitted correctly, which is in service and holds certification or buoyancy test.
HSE / DEFRA / MCA / CDM Regs '15 training for working waterside is available in-house.

Utility / Service Craft (USC)

Description
These vessels are not contracted to undertake a lifesaving role due to the basic level of equipment carried aboard, and the lower level of required qualifications to crew the vessel and the number of crew aboard.

They are ideal however, for crew transfers, bathymetric surveys, gaining access, offside vegetation works, bridge and structure inspections, events, security, and a range of other roles.

Many of the BMMS craft can undertake this role with the choice of vessel being dependent upon the role it is expected to provide. It can be crewed with one or two persons, environment dependant.

Availability restrictions
This craft can only be deployed if the contractors / client's Team(s) hold in-date DEFRA Module 1, or equivalent certification, and an agreed alternative rescue plan in place.

Support / Safety craft (SSC)

Description
This is the type of cover best suited to lake, canal, or minor river-based commercial operations, and it allows for a certain amount of flexibility in its deployment. This vessel is a two-crew minimum role due to the 'safety' aspect, and man overboard (MOB) rescue and recovery considerations.

Unlike a 'Rescue Boat,' that must sit on station and not be used for any other purpose, the SSC set-up can be used for USC roles as well as providing basic medical support, casualty extraction, search, rescue, and recovery roles.

Availability restrictions This craft can only be deployed if the contractors / client's Team(s) hold in-date DEFRA Module 1, or equivalent certification and have shore-based rescue equipment and procedures in place.

The SSC can assist / lead a rescue and is able to recover a casualty to the pre-arranged RV to hand over the Emergency Medical Services. (EMS).

Rescue Boat (Restricted) RBR

Description
Deployable to non-tidal, non-coastal locations. Crew attired in full Aquatic PPE to DEFRA Mod 2/3/4 specification dependant, a 'rescue boat' is a dedicated vessel and crew of two or three personnel, who hold a higher level of training.

Additional equipment is kept both aboard and in the support vehicle. A 'standard' two-man crew of Coxswain and 'Able Bowman' can be joined by a Medical First Responder and crews are qualified as below:

A 'dedicated' safety / rescue craft, that cannot be utilised in any other role. Generally, this type of operation is undertaken by the Ionic Rescue Inflatable or the Bombard C3 Commando.

Availability restrictions This craft can only be deployed if the contractors / client's Team(s) have hold in-date DEFRA Module 1, or equivalent certification, are correctly attired in aquatic PPE, and full rescue plan and procedures are in place.

The RBR is on site to deliver a safety & rescue service only and can recover a casualty to the pre-arranged RV to hand over the Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Procurement of floating plant, & equipment, including pontoons

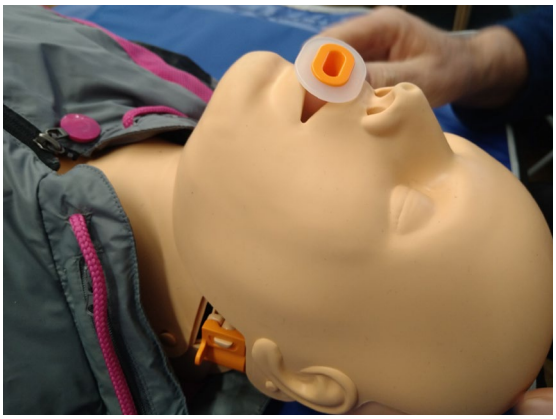
Specialist kit from HIAB barges to pontoons and Portadam solutions can be procured for our clients via our suppliers. BMMS Ltd has supplied HS2, National Grid, and Balfour Beatty on major projects in recent years. BMMS Ltd can also provide your team with a diverse range of aquatic PPE and rescue equipment ranging from drysuits to buoyancy aids, lifejackets, and throwbags to reach rescue systems.

Training courses available

The mainstay of our business is as a specialist skills training provider, up-skilling clients working in, on, above, or in proximity to (3m) our inland waters.

BMMS Ltd are 'Corporate Partners' of the Institute of Technical Search & Rescue (InSTR), and audited and approved by InSTR, the Maritime & Coast Guard Agency (.gov), Outreach Rescue, and the Royal Yachting Association

- DEFRA Module 1, Water Awareness (shore-based)
- DEFRA Module 1, Annex G – Water and Flood Non-Rescue Support Operations Training Module
- DEFRA Module 2, Water Rescue First Responder
- DEFRA Module 3, Water Rescue Technician (in conjunction with our training partners)
- RYA Powerboat Level 2, (Commercially oriented: Cat 'A'& 'B' Waters to EA & CRT requirements)
- RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman (Workboat: Cat 'A'& 'B' Waters to EA & CRT requirements)
- RYA Small Craft First Aid (MCA Approved)
- RYA VHF Radio
- RYA Personal & Professional Responsibilities
- MCA Water Safety & Personal Survival (Ancillary)
- MCA Boat Fire Safety (Restricted – Ancillary)
- InSTR Inland Waters Rescue Boat Operator - category 'A'& 'B' waters non-coastal / tidal
- InSTR Marina Water Safety Management
- InSTR Inland Water Safety Management - Boat and Bankside Operations, and Bankside Only Operations



Kit & Training levels – USC / SSC / RBR

Utility / Service Craft (USC)

Crew qualification USC

- RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman
- RYA Powerboat Level 2
- DEFRA Module 1
- RYA First Aid

Support / Safety craft (SSC)

Crew qualification SSC

- RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman
- RYA Powerboat Level 2
- DEFRA Module 1) Annex 'H' / 'G' Water Safety Rescue / MCA Ancillary Water Safety & Personal Survival
- RYA First Aid at Work all Crew
- Advanced First Aid 1x Crew member
- Undertaken in-house Rescue Boat training based on DEFRA Module 4 skills

Equipment carried

- Response vehicle (ERV) parked on station.
- Man-Over-Board (MOB) recovery equipment
- Spinal Board
- Medical Kit + crew personal kit
- Defibrillator
- Survival Bag
- Immersion Suit
- VHF Radio (As appropriate)

Rescue Boat Restricted (RBR)

Crew qualification RBR

- DEFRA Module 2, Water Rescue First Responder / 3, Water Rescue Technician
- DEFRA Module 4, or, Inland Waters Rescue Boat Operator (Coxswain)
- RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman #
- RYA Powerboat Level 2 (Commercial endorsement not required for Category 'A' & 'B' Waters #)
- IPOS / FPOS / FREC 3 Medical First Responder qualification

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Equipment carried

- Man-Over-Board (MOB) recovery equipment
- Spinal Board
- Defibrillator
- Survival Bag
- Immersion Suit
- Torch / Scene Lighting
- VHF Radio
- Full medical trauma kit including medical oxygen

Note: *Advice from the MCA was that vessels on Category 'A', 'B' and non-linked bodies of water are not required to be MCA Coded.*

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