



Boojum Bay - 3.9T BP COASTAL TUG

Precision Tow Through Exeter Ship Canal

Project Summary

Client:

Damen Shipyards

Date:

March 2026

The Challenge

Marine Plant Hire was appointed to tow a newly built landing craft from Exeter to Dartmouth via the Exeter Ship Canal. The operation required precise navigation through a highly constrained route.

The landing craft was built to the maximum dimensions of the canal's locks, leaving almost no margin for error.

Narrow lock chambers, swing and lift bridges and restricted water depth significantly limited manoeuvrability. In some sections, the vessel ran extremely close to the lock walls on both sides. This demanded continuous control, accuracy, and coordination throughout the tow.

The Solution

Coastal tug Boojum Bay was deployed, equipped with a 5t bollard pull, single-screw propulsion and Kort nozzle for enhanced low-speed control.

This setup enabled steady, controlled movement through tight sections. The team focused on careful planning, clear communication and real-time adjustments at every stage.

How We Delivered

The skipper used Boojum Bay's manoeuvrability to maintain precise positioning, particularly within lock approaches.

Crew members provided clear, consistent guidance on distances and alignment, ensuring safe passage through each constraint. A disciplined, step-by-step approach ensured accuracy across the full route.

The Outcome

The vessel was delivered safely to Dartmouth for Damen Shipyards, meeting programme requirements and maintaining full asset integrity.

The project demonstrates Marine Plant Hire's capability in complex inland marine logistics using specialist vessels like Boojum Bay and potentially marking one of the final vessels to leave Exeter via this route, adding historical weight to a technically demanding operation.

