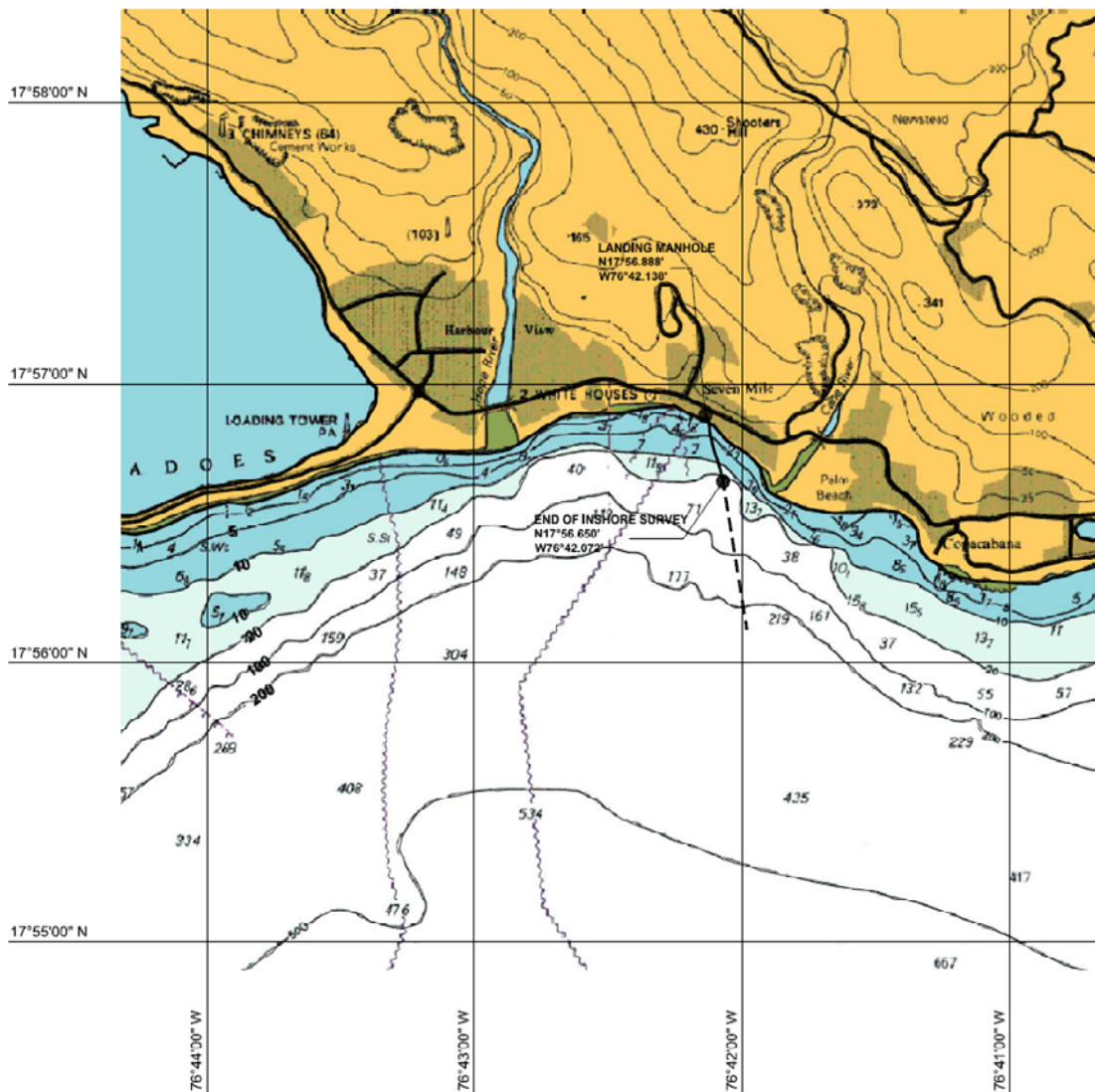


### 3.2 Terrestrial Environment

#### 3.2.1 Segment 1 – Bahamas to Bull Bay, St. Thomas

##### 3.2.1.1 Bull Bay

The project site is located in a coastal area in an existing residential area and consists of the landing site and the cable housing. It is located just outside and to the east of the Port Royal Protected Area.



**FIGURE 3: PROPOSED CABLE LANDING SITE FOR BULL BAY, ST. THOMAS**

### **3.2.1.1.1 Vegetation**

Landing Site - The landing site is located in the Seven Miles, Bull Bay region of St Thomas. The site has undergone some disturbance. There is no vegetation community at the site. The site is a rock strewn beach area beside the main road. The beach is composed of dark coarse sand with numerous washed up beach rocks. The area is prone to high winds and strong wave action and is a fully developed mix of formal and informal residential communities. The only plant life present is the grass at the road verge and it is not well represented either.

There is an existing manhole which will reduce the level of disturbance at the site.

Cable Housing Site - The cable house is to be sited at the existing AT&T facility which has manhole and underground conduits in place. As such, no disturbance of existing terrestrial community adjoining property is necessary.

### **3.2.1.1.2 Faunal Survey**

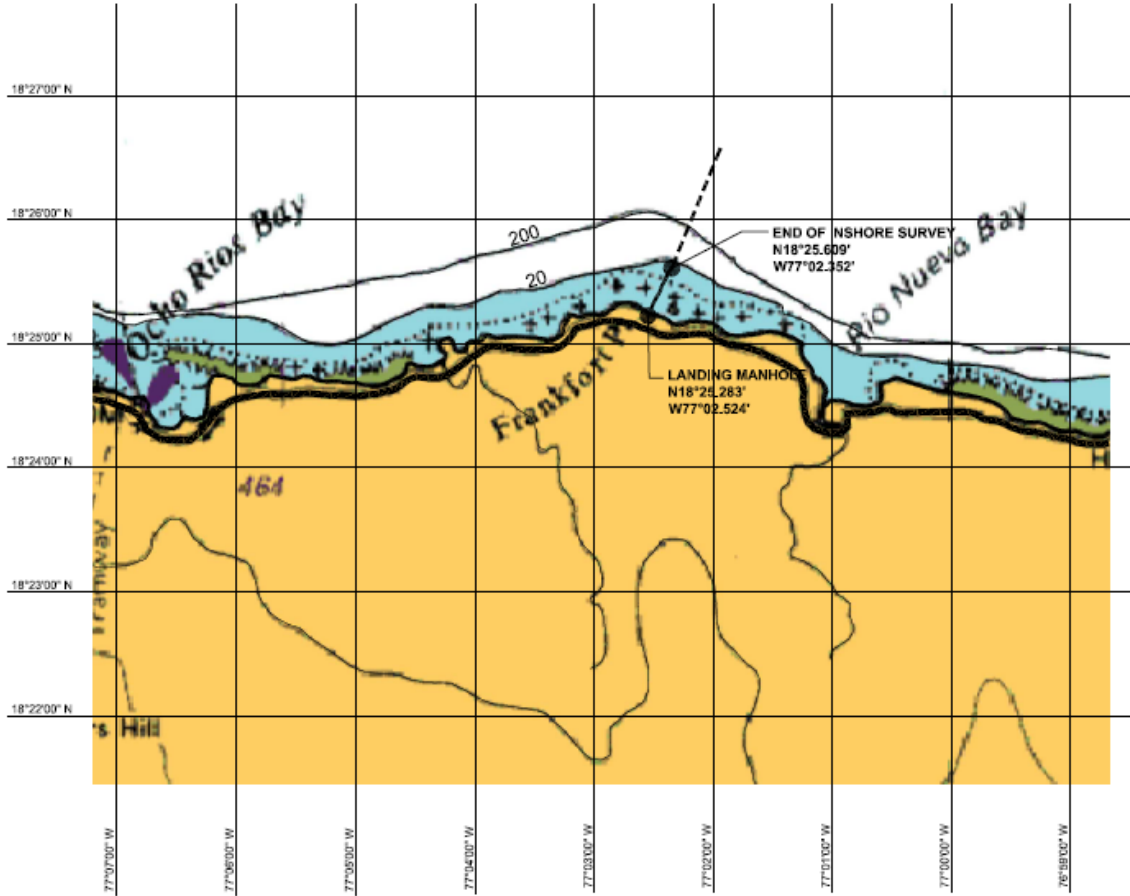
The landing site is located on a narrow strip of coastal land bordered by the sea and the main road. There are no trees or plants on the narrow strip of beach; hence no nesting birds were seen in the area. Several marine bird species were observed such as gulls but none nest nearby or would be affected by cable laying activities on the seabed.

No crab holes or crabs were observed.

## **3.2.2 Segment 2 – Bahamas to Tower Isle, St. Mary**

### **3.2.2.1 Tower Isle**

The project site is located in a coastal area in an existing residential/resort area and consists of the landing site and the cable housing both at Tower Isle, St. Mary.



**FIGURE 2: PROPOSED CABLE LANDING SITE AND ROUTE FOR TOWER ISLE, ST. MARY**

**3.2.2.1.1 Vegetation**

Landing Site - The landing site is located in the vicinity of the Couples Ocho Rios Resort at Tower Isle, St Mary. The site has undergone some disturbance. The vegetation communities observed, are a remnant of the original coastal vegetation, and only contain a portion of the species usually found in a typical coastal community.

The foreshore can be classified as dark-brown to black sandy soil, with little organic content. Approximately 2m from the water’s edge, beach pioneer plants such as *Coccoloba uvifera* (Sea grape) and *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (Seaside purslane) were present. These species are typical coastal species, which are adapted to hot, salty conditions. Further inland, succession in vegetation type was observed with a transition to shrubs and grasses. The majority of the trees at the site consisted of mature tree

species, approximately 2m - 3m (6ft - 9ft) in height. The shrub layer was not well represented, and large areas under the trees were bare. The dominant plant was the West Indian Almond (*Terminalia catappa*) with an occasional seagrape (*Cocoloba uvifera*) and coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), trees common in coastal locations. The substrate included sand and loam. This vegetation type is sparse and merges into the road verge approximately 3m further inland. At the road verge were grassland clearings, with herbs such as *Wallenia tribolata* (Marigold), *Panicum maximum* (guinea grass), and Spanish needle.

There were no endemic, rare, threatened or endangered plant species observed at the site. Additionally, none of the plants have significant cultural or economic value. None of these trees will be removed to construct the manhole.

**TABLE 2: OBSERVED SPECIES AT THE LANDING SITE**

FAMILY	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Aizoaceae	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	Seaside purslane
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	West Indian Almond
Gramineae	<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Guinea grass
	<i>Bidens alba</i>	Spanish needle
	<i>Wallenia tribolata</i>	Marigold
	<i>Ipomea pes-caprae</i>	Beach Morning Glory
Palmae	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut
Polygonaceae	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	Sea Grape

Cable Housing Site - The cable house is to be sited on the Couples Ocho Rios Resort property adjoining the landing site. The site has no significant plant community. The site consists of the existing access way and well manicured lawns.

#### **3.2.2.1.2 Faunal Survey**

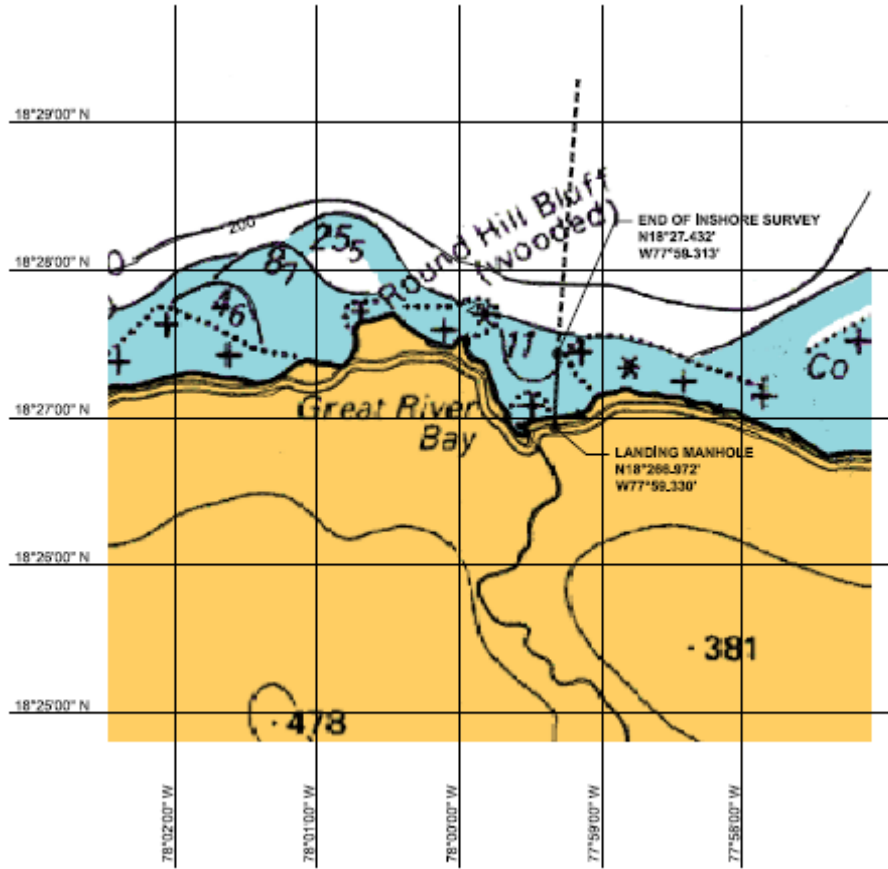
The landing site is located on a narrow strip of coastal beach. The main road can be seen not 10m away. There are few trees or plants on the narrow strip of beach; however, there were no bird species observed on any occasion the site was visited. No crab holes or crabs were observed along the beach front. It should be noted however that the area do have land crabs, possible the burrowing *Cardisoma guanhumi* (Great land crabs).

The cable housing station is within a landscaped private property with few trees in the area it's to be sited. The area is bordered by few large trees such palms. No birds were observed in the vicinity of this area during on-site inspections.

### **3.2.3 Segment 3 – Ocho Rios to Montego Bay**

#### **3.2.3.1 Montego Bay**

The project site occupies two locations in a residential coastal area, namely: the cable housing at the Chas O. Ramson Limited property in Reading and the landing site near Great River. The landing site is located within the Montego Bay Marine Park at its western boundary.



**FIGURE 3-7: PROPOSED CABLE LANDING FOR MONTEGO BAY**

**3.2.3.1.1 Vegetation**

Landing Site - The landing site is located in the vicinity of the community of Great River in St. James, directly across from a National Water Commission (NWC) Plant. The site has undergone some disturbance with a small informal settlement nearby, and a drain originating from the NWC Plant across the road. The vegetation communities observed, are a remnant of the original vegetation, and only contain a portion of the species usually found in a typical coastal community.

The foreshore can be classified as rocky with sand patches. Approximately 2m from the water’s edge, beach pioneer plants such as *Coccoloba uvifera* (Sea grape), *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (Seaside purslane), and *Panicum maximum* (Guinea grass) were present. This