



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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**Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Marine & Fisheries Division**

**LICENCE ISSUED UNDER THE MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009, PART 4, MARINE
LICENSING**

MARINE CONSTRUCTION LICENCE

**Variation of Licence ML2024009 to conduct ground investigation works for the TI LirIC
interconnector between Northern Ireland and Scotland**

Licence Number: MLVAR2025049

This Licence varies ML2024009 – Part 1(5)

PART 1 – PARTICULARS

1. Licensee(s) Name & Address:

TI LirIC Limited
17th Floor
88 Wood Street
London
EC2V 7DA

**2. Names, and operators, of the vessels to be employed to undertake or support the deposit,
relocation or removal operations:**

To be provided as per Condition 9.

3. Description of works and nature and quantity of all deposits below Mean High Water Springs:

Survey work to provide comprehensive data to inform cable design and routing, to include;

- Marine Geophysical Survey/Benthic Survey
- Marine Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Investigation Survey
- Marine Geotechnical Survey
- Landfall Geophysical Survey
- Landfall Geotechnical Survey

4. Location of works:

Kilroot power station located within Belfast Lough, Northern Ireland to Scotland (See Appendix A).

5. Valid:

From: 24th October 2025
Until: 1st September 2026

6. Licence Documentation

Application form (dated 07/03/2024)
Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment (dated 04 March 2024 – revised 23 December 2024)
Marine Licence Application (DAERA) - Supporting Information (March 2024)
Project red line boundary (provided 07/03/2024)
EPS and Wildlife Licence Supporting Information (dated 07 February 2024 – revised 23 December 2024)
Subsea noise technical report (dated 06 February 2024)

PART 2 - CONDITIONS

The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (referred to as the licensing authority) authorises **TI LirIC** to deposit in the sea the substances or articles (except for dredge material) used in the execution of works described in Part 1 of this licence. This licence is subject to the under mentioned condition(s):

Licence Condition(s):

NOTE: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LICENCE CONDITIONS BELOW MAY RESULT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTION BEING TAKEN

1. The Licensee(s) must commence works with **12 months** of the date of this licence.
2. All conditions of this licence bind any persons whom, for the time being, owns, occupies or enjoys any use of the works for which this licence has been granted, in relation to those licensed activities authorised under section 66 of the 2009 Act, whether or not the licence has been transferred to that person.
3. The Licensee(s) must receive written authorisation from the licensing authority to assign or transfer the consent. The licensing authority must confirm in writing to both the original Licensee(s) and any proposed new Licensee(s) that the licence has been transferred/assigned before any works may commence under the new Licensee(s).
4. The Licensee(s) must not carry out any licensable activity other than that detailed in the Marine Licence application documents received by the licensing authority and deemed complete on 02 May 2024. The Licensee(s) shall contact the Department if it is proposed to vary the materials or methods to be used from those described in the documentation supplied in connection with the Marine Licence application.

5. The Licensee(s) must commence works in line with Condition 1 and complete works within the valid dates of this licence. After that date, the licence will expire in accordance with section 71(4) of the Act.
6. The Licensee(s) must ensure that the Department is informed of any contractor appointed to carry out part or all of the works by email to MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk no less than 24 hours before the commencement of the licensed activity. The licence holder must ensure that a copy of this licence and any subsequent revisions or amendments has been provided to, read and understood by any agents, contractors or sub-contractors that will carry on any licensed activity authorised by this licence on behalf of the licence holder.
7. Any person authorised by the licensing authority will be permitted to inspect the licensed activity at any reasonable time.
8. The Licensee(s) must ensure that copies of the licence are available for inspection by any authorised Enforcement Officer at:
 - a. The premises of the Licensee(s)
 - b. The premises of the operating facility
 - c. The site of the works (including on board vessels)

Prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activity

9. A final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be submitted to NIEA Water Management Unit, at least **4 weeks** prior to the commencement of construction to ensure effective avoidance and mitigation methodologies have been planned for the protection of the water environment. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied in on the correspondence.

Reason: To ensure that all required mitigation measures are in place prior to work commencing to protect the water environment.

10. The Licensee(s) must notify The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office, Taunton. Somerset, TA1 2DN (Email: sdr@ukho.gov.uk; Tel: 01823 337900) at least **4 weeks** before commencement of the works, to allow for any necessary amendments to nautical charts. The UK Hydrographic Office must also be notified upon completion of the works. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied into all notifications.

Reason: To adhere to Maritime Safety Legislation and to protect human health and marine users.

11. The Licensee(s) must issue local notification to marine users – including fishermen’s organisations a minimum of 5 days prior to commencement of work. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied in on the notification.

Reason: To make local marine users aware.

12. The Licensee(s) must ensure invasive species biosecurity measures are in place for all stages of the works and for all equipment used. A copy of the biosecurity plan should be submitted to Marine.Wildlife@daera-ni.gov.uk, for approval at least **4 weeks** prior to works commencing. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied in on the correspondence.

Reason: To prevent the introduction and minimise the spread of marine invasive Non-Native Species.

13. Zone34@hmcq.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities.

Reason: To adhere to Maritime Safety Legislation and to protect human health and marine users

During the Licensed Activity

14. The Licensee(s) shall appoint an approved Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) to ensure adherence to the [JNCC guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from geophysical surveys](#) (JNCC 2017). The MMO report must be submitted to MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk

Reason: To ensure marine mammals are protected and any potential impacts on marine mammals are avoided.

15. The Licensee(s) must log impulsive noise data by registration on the Marine Noise Registry at <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>. Confirmation of the registration must be submitted to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk within eight weeks of completion of the licensed works.

Reason: To monitor levels of disturbance in the marine environment and meet commitments under the UK Marine Strategy.

16. In the event of a discovery of an archaeological object and/or remains during the works the licensee(s) must: (1) record the position and details of the site; (2) not disturb the site further and (3) report your discovery to and contact MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk immediately so further advice may be sought.

Reason: To ensure that historic monuments and archaeological objects are protected.

17. In the event of a discovery of wreck material during the works, the Licensee must report it to the 'Receiver of Wreck' (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) **within 28 days**.

Reason: To ensure that recovered wreck material is declared and dealt with appropriately.

18. Any dropped objects/accidental deposits must be reported to DAERA, UKHO and HMCG, as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 24 hours of the undertaker becoming aware of an incident. DAERA may require relevant surveys to be carried out by the undertaker (such as side scan sonar) if reasonable to do so and DAERA may require obstructions to be removed from the seabed at the undertaker's expense if reasonable to do so.

Reason: To ensure that there is no long-term damage to the aquatic environment.

19. Ensure [Pollution Standing Advice](#) is adhered to.

Reason: To prevent adverse impacts to Marine Protected Areas, Habitats and Species, as required under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), The Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Upon Completion of the Licensed Activity

20. The Licensee(s) must inform the licensing authority of the finishing date of the licensed work within **28 days** of completion.

21. The Licensee(s) must, within **eight weeks** after the completion of the licensed works, make a written report to the licensing authority stating the quantity and description of all articles and substances deposited under the authority of this licence. This report is to be submitted to MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk

22. At the decommissioning stage, the Licensee(s) must ensure the seabed is returned to its original profile. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be consulted 8 weeks in advance on what licensing requirements may be to complete any works.
23. The Licensee(s) must ensure that the topography must be returned to the original profile, or as close as reasonably practicable. Appropriate steps must be taken to minimise damage to the shoreline resulting from the works.

Signed on behalf of the Department:



Dated: 24th October 2025

NOTE:

- (1) The licensing authority would advise that this licence does not negate the licensees' responsibility to gain any other environmental or access permissions that may be required to progress the works.
- (2) Under Part 4, Chapter 1, paragraph 72 of the **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**, the licensing authority may revoke, vary or suspend this licence if it appears to the authority that the holder is in breach of a condition included in it, or if it appears to the authority that the licence ought to be varied, suspended or revoked because of a change of circumstances relating to the marine environment or human health, including a change in scientific knowledge. A revocation, variation or suspension may also be enforced in the interests of safety of navigation.
- (3) A person who deposits material in contravention of the terms of a licence is guilty of an offence under Section 85 of the Act. It is a defence under paragraph 86 (1) for a person charged with such an offence to prove 'force majeure'. However they are also required to prove that they took steps within a reasonable time to inform the licensing authority of all details pertaining to the incident contained in paragraph 86 (2). The licensing authority shall be obliged to report force majeure cases immediately to the OSPAR Commission.
- (4) Attention is drawn to the necessity of complying where appropriate with the **Radioactive Substances Act 1960**, the **Prevention of Oil Pollution Act 1971** and to the **Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) (Amendment) Rules 1968**.
- (5) If within 28 days of the issue of a licence the person to whom it was issued requests the licensing authority to give him notice in writing of the reasons for the inclusion of any provision in it, the Authority shall comply with his request within 28 days of receiving it.
- (6) Anyone who fails to comply with a condition on a Marine Licence commits an offence under Section 85 of the **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**, and may be subject to enforcement action. Possible enforcement actions are compliance notices, remediation notices, fixed monetary penalties and variable monetary penalties. In the worst cases, a person found guilty of an offence on summary conviction may be subject to a fine not exceeding £50,000. In addition, a person found guilty of an offence on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both. Further details can be found at our guidance note <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/marine-licensing-guidance-enforcement-under-part-4-marine-and-coastal-access-act%2C-2009-may-2016.pdf>

INFORMATIVES:

Maritime & Coastguard Agency advice on Navigational Safety

- The Licensee(s) should consider adopting the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), which sets out a national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. The Code is not mandatory, however it is endorsed by the UK Government, devolved administrations and representatives from across the marine industry sector. It is applicable to both Statutory Harbour Authorities (SHA) and non-SHAs including marinas, terminals, marine berths and jetties. The Department for Transport also publishes the PMSC Guide to Good Practice which provides useful information and detailed guidance on the safe management of these facilities, and is intended to supplement the Code. This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-good-practice-on-port-marine-operations>”
- If used, the details for the ADCP must be provided to the MCA and CIL with consideration of the potential reduction in navigation depth and potential impact on other marine users. If the deployment reduces navigable depth by more than 5%, additional risk mitigation measures may be required.
- Any dropped objects/accidental deposits must be reported to DAERA, UKHO and HMCG, as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 24 hours of the undertaker becoming aware of an incident. DAERA may require relevant surveys to be carried out by the undertaker (such as side scan sonar) if reasonable to do so and DAERA may require obstructions to be removed from the seabed at the undertaker's expense if reasonable to do so.

DAERA advice on preventing water pollution

- The Licensee(s) should comply with all the relevant NIEA Standing Advice documents and Guidance for Pollution Prevention (PPG/GPPs) available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/standing-advice-development-may-have-effect-water-environment-including-groundwater-and-fisheries>
- The Licensee(s) shall ensure that measures are in place to prevent pollution of surface or ground water as a result of the activities on site, both during construction and thereafter. Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs) documents can be obtained at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/>
- The contractor / person carrying out the works is responsible for ensuring that any and all required mitigation measures are in place and ultimately under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 is liable for any discharge or deposit, whether knowingly or otherwise, of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter so that it enters a waterway or water in any underground strata.
- The Licensee(s) should be aware that it is an offence under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 to discharge or deposit, whether knowingly or otherwise, any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter so that it enters a waterway or water in any underground strata. Conviction of such an offence may incur a fine of up to £20,000 and / or three years imprisonment.

DAERA advice on protection of archaeological objects

The Licensee(s) attention is drawn to Article 42 of the **Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995** that requires finders of archaeological objects to report within 14 days to a relevant authority.

DAERA advice on recovery of wreck material

The Licensee(s) must report any recovered wreck material to the Receiver of Wreck (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) in accordance with the **Merchant Shipping Act 1995**.

DAERA advice on marine litter

Any marine litter collected during the proposed works must be appropriately disposed of, to prevent litter entering the marine environment and adversely impacting Marine Protected Areas.

Advice from The Crown Estate

The Crown Estate are the owners of the seabed out to 12nm. Permission must be sought to undertake surveys interacting with the seabed or deploying equipment attached to the seabed. The Licensee must engage with the Crown Estate to ensure that all necessary permissions are in place. To note that survey licences are granted on a non-exclusive basis.

Advice from Ministry of Defence

The area in which the proposed marine surveys are to be undertaken is located within the vicinity of the Beaufort's Dyke sea dump site where large quantities of explosive munitions and other hazardous items, including chemical munitions, have been disposed of in the past. Therefore, there may be high concentrations of explosive munitions and other hazardous items distributed on and in the sea floor in the areas surrounding Beaufort's Dyke where the proposed survey works are to be conducted.

It is noted that in the application it has been indicated that UXO surveys will be undertaken in advance of commencing intrusive geotechnical surveys and that areas where UXO hazards are identified will be avoided. The Licensee is advised that due to the age and likely deterioration of historic UXO and hazardous items in the Beaufort's Dyke area any disturbance could result in explosive detonation or release of harmful material into the marine environment.

Advice from Commissioner of Irish Lights

The license sought is located in a busy traffic area. Irish Lights therefore advise consultation with local authorities and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). A Local Notice to Mariners should be published for the information of all local maritime users detailing the works, and any vessels which may be engaged in marine survey works.

The proposed site investigation route passes close to Kilroot and Cloghan Jetty buoys. We request the applicant liaise with the Local Lighthouse Authority, which, for these aids, is Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

The licence area overlaps with a number of Pilot boarding stations, consultation with Belfast Harbour is advised.

Advice from RSPB

We note that no targeted bird surveys are included within the scope of this MCL application for survey work. Therefore, the scope of our response is limited, and our comments are largely high-level. We expect that the EIA which is referenced within the application will include robust and competent environmental assessment, including the full consideration of potential impacts to birds.

We note that Ramsar sites are not included in the maps or analysis. It is important that Ramsar sites are also considered with regards to the impacts from the surveys and the proposed development on the species and habitats that they support.

We emphasise, on a without prejudice basis and if the licensing authority is minded to approve this licence application, that all surveys minimise disturbance to all species and habitats, for example, by minimising contact with the seabed which may disturb infaunal species and blue carbon stores. Due to the complex, dynamic and highly interconnected nature of the marine environment, negative impacts on species and habitats as a result of any offshore activity may have broader impacts (including cumulative) throughout the marine ecosystem.

APPENDIX A Project location map within NI marine licensing area

