

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

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

MARINE DREDGING LICENCE

Licence to perform a maintenance dredge at Portrush Harbour

Licence Number: MLVAR2026028

PART 1 – PARTICULARS

1. Licensee(s) Name & Address:

[REDACTED]
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

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

Vessel name: HOUND DOG
Description: MULTICAT
Registration number: IMO 9676917
Country of registration: UK

**3. Description of works and nature and quantity of all material dredged below Mean High Water
Springs:**

Removal of 7,000m³ of dredged material from an area of 6,250m² in Portrush Harbour using a long reach excavator on a pontoon.

Depth of material removed during the dredging exercise will be up to approximately 3m.

4. Location of works:

Portrush Harbour
See Appendix A

5. Valid:

From: 15 May 2026
Until: 12 February 2028

Condition 23 states:

No dredging work to be carried out between:

- 27th May and 15th September 2026 due to the designated bathing season.
- 17th of May and 15th September 2027 due to the designated bathing season.

Reason: To allow for water quality sampling ahead of the designated bathing season.

6. Licence Documentation

- Marine Licence Application Form (signed and received 03/05/2024)
- Best Practice Environmental Option assessment (BPEO April 2024)
- Sediment analysis spreadsheet (August 2023)
- Site Location Plan (March 2024)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (March 2024)
- Portrush Dredge Location plan (March 2024)
- Portrush Disposal Location plan (March 2024)
- Portrush General Arrangement (March 2024)
- Portrush Dredge heat map (March 2024)

PART 2 - CONDITIONS

The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (referred to as the licensing authority) authorises **Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council** to dredge in the area of sea specified in Part 1 of this licence. This licence is subject to the undermentioned condition(s).

Licence Condition(s):

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

Prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activity

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 16 May 2024. The Licensee(s) shall contact the Department at MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-

ni.gov.uk 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 ensure that the Department is informed of any contractor appointed to carry out part or all of the works and a copy of this licence is given to each contractor 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.
6. The licensee must ensure they provide the name and description of the vessel from which the deposit is to be made to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk, including its registration number and country of registration no less than 24 hours before the commencement of the licensed activity.
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)
9. Should the licence holder become aware that any of the information on which the determination of this licence was based, has changed or is likely to change, they must notify MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk immediately. Failure to do so may render this licence invalid and may lead to enforcement action.

Prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activity

10. The licensee 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 and CDP@daera-ni.gov.uk 4 weeks prior to works commencing. MLComplianceandEnforcement@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.

11. To ensure the validity of this licence the licensee(s) must submit sediment analysis data at least 60 days before the expiration date of the current data set which expires on 24/08/2026. The Licensee(s) must ensure that valid sediment analysis data is supplied to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk and approved by the Department prior to any sea disposal.

Reason: To ensure that the material is suitable for sea disposal in compliance with OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material

12. The licence holder must ensure that dredging and disposal operations only commence once the licensing authority has confirmed in writing that it is satisfied that the material is suitable for disposal at the designated site in discharging Condition 11.

Reason: To ensure that the material is suitable for sea disposal in compliance with OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material

13. The licence holder must ensure that, at the time of sediment sampling review, alternative uses for the sediment are considered in a BPEO report. This information must be supplied to the licensing authority **at least 60 days** before the expiration date of the data, which **expires on 24/08/2026**, within the current BPEO report at MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk along with sediment analysis.

Reason: To ensure material is suitable for sea disposal and alternative beneficial use is explored.

14. A final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be submitted to NIEA Water Management Unit, nieapollutionprevention@daera-ni.gov.uk, 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. MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied in on the correspondence.

Reason: To ensure effective mitigation methodologies have been planned for the protection of the water environment.

15. 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.

MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk **must be copied into all notifications.**

16. The Licensee(s) must ensure that details of each campaign are sent to maritime users through Notice(s) to Mariners and/or radio navigational warnings and publication in appropriate bulletins. This should take place prior to the commencement of disposal operations, as stated within the Notice(s) to Mariners guidance notes, which is usually ten days.

MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk **must be copied into all notifications.**

17. Zone33@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities.

MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be sent a copy within **5 days** of the issue of this notification.

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

During the Licensed Activity

18. The dredging operators must have operational and active AIS vessel tracking during all operations.

Reason: To ensure material is deposited within the appropriate disposal area.

19. If AIS or vessel positioning systems are faulty, dredge and/or disposal activities **must not** continue until all systems are repaired/replaced and fully operational. This must be reported immediately to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk

Reason: To ensure material is deposited within the appropriate disposal area.

20. The Licensee(s) must confirm to the licensing authority, by way of a report and supporting map, the area specifically dredged to produce the disposal material to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk within **8 weeks** upon completion of each sea disposal campaign.

Reason: To ensure only suitable material is taken for sea disposal in compliance with OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material.

21. 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 MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk **immediately** so further advice may be sought.

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

22. 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**.
MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied into all notifications.

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

23. No dredging work to be carried out between:

- 27th May and 15th September 2026 due to the designated bathing season.
- 17th of May and 15th September 2027 due to the designated bathing season.

Reason: To allow for water quality sampling ahead of the designated bathing seasons.

24. Bird Nesting Season: Licensee(s) should complete a baseline survey for nesting birds at the harbour and submit results to the Licensing Authority in writing 14 days prior to the commencement of works. Should black guillemot nests be detected artificial black guillemot nest holes must be provided prior to the next breeding season after the commencement of works on site. This applies for all times of year.

25. During the nesting season (1st February – 31st August) a suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of Works should be present throughout the works and must have the power to stop works if required. The exact locations should be confirmed by the Ecological Clerk of Works appointed by the licensee and included in the reports submitted.

During the Licensed Activity

26. 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 MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk **immediately** so further advice may be sought.

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

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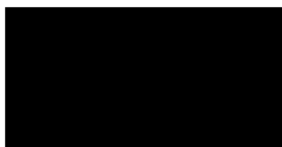
Reason: To ensure that recovered wreck material is declared and dealt with appropriately.

Upon Completion of the Licensed Activity

28. The Licensee(s) must inform MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk of the finishing date of the entire disposal campaign within **28 days** of completion.
29. 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) of completion of the works..
MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied in on the notification.

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

Signed on behalf of the Department:



Dated: 15 May 2026

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 Licencee(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>

- Bunding and/or storage facilities must be installed to contain and prevent the release of fuel, oils, and chemicals associated with plant, refuelling and construction equipment, into the marine environment.
- Any jack up barges / vessels utilised during the works/laying of the cable, when jacked up, should exhibit signals in accordance with the UK Standard Marking Schedule for Offshore Installations.

DAERA advice on preventing water pollution

- The Licensee(s) should comply with all the relevant NIEA Standing Advice documents and Guidance for Pollution Prevention (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.

The Commissioner of Irish Lights advice

- Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council as the Local Lighthouse Authority will need to apply to Irish Lights as the General Lighthouse Authority for Statutory Consent prior to any aid to navigation being deployed as part of these planned works. The Appropriate Assessment (or Appropriate Assessment Screening) conducted as part of this licensing process should consider the potential impact of the deployment of any surface marking buoys and associated moorings which may be required as part of the project.

Advice on Nesting Birds

- All surveys should be carried out in the early morning before 0800hrs BST to maximise opportunities for recording nest sites.
- Prospecting birds can begin prospecting and displaying close to nest sites months before breeding efforts begin in earnest. Furthermore, birds will remain close to shore year-round so caution must be exercised when carrying out works in close proximity to black guillemot nesting sites at any time of the year.
- Should nesting black guillemot be identified through the pre-construction surveys, then any works which are permitted during this time must not compromise the legal protection black guillemot are afforded under the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended)⁶ during the breeding season.

- Gulls and cormorants use the harbour for roosting may also be at risk of disturbance from the proposed dredging. Therefore, we would request that the works seek to avoid negative impacts on roosting birds by ceasing works well before birds congregate to roost and by avoiding the end of the breeding season when immature birds are gathering in significant numbers.

Appendix A – location of works



POINT DATA		
POINT NUMBER	EASTING	NORTHING
P01	285379.259	440569.170
P02	285366.817	440587.727
P03	285372.556	440624.197
P04	285405.877	440643.023
P05	285408.325	440660.802
P06	285401.118	440694.931
P07	285410.196	440711.987
P08	285408.153	440717.203
P09	285411.170	440721.265
P10	285414.244	440717.029
P11	285426.913	440722.162
P12	285426.822	440724.584
P13	285449.380	440717.606
P14	285424.842	440674.728
P15	285442.762	440676.229
P16	285431.263	440665.256
P17	285430.021	440653.120
P18	285445.628	440644.175
P19	285421.801	440595.881
P20	285432.428	440585.514

Legend

— Site Location

SKETCH DRAWING