

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 carry out maintenance dredging works in Cushendun Harbour

Licence Number: ML2026019

PART 1 – PARTICULARS

1. Licensee(s) Name & Address:


National Trust,
Glenmona House,
10 Glendun Road,
Cushendun,
BT44 0PX.

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

To be confirmed as per **Condition 6**

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

Maintenance dredge of Cushendun Harbour. Approximately 1,500 m³ of sediment will be dredged and relocated to Cushendun beach using a mechanical digger, tractor and trailer. The material will be deposited to ensure it remains within the same sediment cell.

4. Location of works:

Cushendun Harbour, Cushendun.

Lat: 55.125333, Long: -6.041399.
Irish grid reference: D 24976 32630

See **Appendix A** – Location of works

5. Valid:

From: 09 September 2026
Until: 08 September 2029

As per Condition 16, works must not be undertaken between 1st June and 15th September, and the 1st October and 31st January to protect local bathing waters and Black Guillemot populations, respectively.

6. Licence Documentation

- Application form – submitted 27/03/2026
- Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) – dated January 2026
- Cushendun Coastal Scoping report and Monitoring Coastal Change to Inform Future Management – dated 28/02/2025
- Sediment Certificate of Analysis – dated 10/06/2025
- Map of dredge area – submitted 27/03/2026
- Map of dredge and disposal areas – submitted 27/03/2026
- Sediment analysis results – submitted 15/04/2026
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) – dated 01/05/2026

PART 2 - CONDITIONS

The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (referred to as the licensing authority) authorises **The National Trust** 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

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 dredge any other material other than that detailed in the Marine Licence application documents received by the licensing authority and deemed complete on **01 July 2026**. 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 and a copy of this licence is given to each contractor. This information should be provided to the Department by email to MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk.

Prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activity

7. 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 **15th April 2029**. The Licensee(s) must ensure that valid sediment analysis data is supplied to MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk and approved by the Department prior to any dredging works and subsequent disposal.

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

8. A final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be submitted to NIEA Water Management Unit, at least **four 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 effective mitigation methodologies have been planned for the protection of the water environment.

9. 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. The information supplied must include the start date and end date, a description of the works, positions of the work area (WGS84), and details of any marking arrangements. 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, within **five working days** of the notification being sent.

Reason: To allow for any necessary amendments to relevant nautical charts.

10. A biosecurity plan must be submitted **4 weeks prior** to the commencement of dredging activities. This is to be agreed by the Department before works commence. This plan should be submitted to MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk.

Reason: To prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species as required under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)

11. Local mariners and fishermen's organisations must be made fully aware of the activity through a local notification. This must be issued at least **five days** before the commencement of the works. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied into all notifications, **within 24 hours** of the notification being sent.

Reason: To ensure that local water users are aware of the works activity.

12. Zone34@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities. The DAERA must be sent a copy **within five days** of the issue of this notification.

Reason: To ensure that the local Coastguard are aware of the works activity.

13. Bird Nesting Season **1st March to 31st August**: A suitably qualified ornithologist should complete a baseline survey for nesting birds at the harbour and submit a report of results to the Licensing Authority **14 days prior** to the commencement of works. Should black guillemot nests be detected, a buffer zone should be established to prevent disturbance until all breeding activity has ceased, this should be detailed on the baseline survey report. This report must be submitted to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk

Reason: To protect local nesting populations of Black Guillemots.

During the Licensed Activity

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. The works must not be carried out during the bathing season, between **1st June and 15th September**, or during the migration of salmon and sea trout between **1st October and 31st January**.

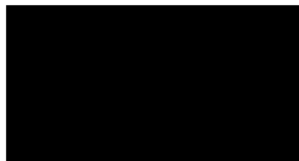
Reason: To protect nearby identified Bathing Waters and the salmonid population of the River Dun.

Upon Completion of the Licensed Activity

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

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

Signed on behalf of the Department:



Dated: 09 September 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>”

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.
- The Licensee(s) should ensure that [DAERA Pollution Standing Advice](#) and [DAERA Standing advice for development that may have an effect on the water environment \(including groundwater and fisheries\)](#) is followed 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**.
- The Licensee(s) should ensure that [DAERA Pollution Standing Advice](#) is followed to prevent adverse impacts to identified Bathing Waters as designated under the **Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008** and protected under the **Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**.
- The Licensee(s) should adhere to the [DAERA Standing Advice on Pollution Prevention Guidance and Discharges to the Water Environment](#).
- No fuel or oil should be stored close to the water and any fuelling required should only occur at a non-hydrologically linked location using a buffer of at least 10 m to reduce the likelihood of accidental spills into the marine environment.
- All equipment and plant should be maintained in good working order to minimise the risk of pollution from hydrocarbons and/or hydraulic fluids.
- Any power washing of equipment between sites should occur away from environmentally sensitive areas, taking care to first manually remove any spills or large accumulations of oil and/or sediment.

- The Licensee(s) should note that operational processes are likely to cause the release of suspended solids and ensure that the methods utilised to carry out the works are completed at a pace whereby the level of suspended solids is minimised.

DAERA advice on wildlife disturbance

- The Licensee(s) should ensure that they adhere to the guidance found within the [DAERA Marine Wildlife Disturbance Guidance Documents](#) to help to minimise disturbance to marine wildlife arising from dredging activities.

DAERA advice on Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

- The Licensee(s) should ensure that INNS biosecurity measures are in place for all stages of the project as well as all equipment used. The [DAERA Marine Invasive Non-Native Species Guidance](#) should be followed, and their attention is drawn to the [Northern Ireland Biosecurity guidelines](#) and [Check Clean Dry](#) guidance. This guidance and advice should be followed at all times to help to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species as required under the **Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)**.
- To prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species, thereby protecting native marine biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem functioning, the Licensee(s) is advised that a contingency plan should be put in place outlining procedures to be followed if an INNS is found on site or on any equipment. Furthermore, staff should be provided with marine [invasive species identification guides](#). Staff should report any INNS to DAERA MFD and record them on CEDaR. No INNS should be released back into the marine environment, instead, they should be disposed of in landfill or incinerated.

DAERA advice on marine litter

- To prevent litter entering the marine environment and adversely impacting Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), habitats, and species, as required under the **Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002**, all solid waste and litter encountered or generated during the works must be collected and appropriately disposed of at the end of each working day.
- The [DAERA Marine Litter Standing Advice](#) outlines the policy requirements with regards to marine litter.

DAERA advice on protection of archaeological objects and recovery of wreck material

- 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.
- 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**.
- The DAERA document [Guidance Note: For the Discovery of Unanticipated Underwater Archaeological Heritage](#) sets out best practice and legal responsibilities in the reporting of unanticipated finds of archaeological interest made during the course of marine construction and/or dredging projects.

Commissioner of Irish Lights advice on deployment of buoys during works

- If buoys are deployed during works, including those used to monitor turbidity during dredging, a Statutory Consent under Section 199(2) of the **Merchant Shipping Act of 1995** will be required from Irish Lights prior to deployment of the buoy(s). This Statutory Consent will be applied for by the applicant through the Local Lighthouse Authority who, in this case, is Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Marine Licensing advice

- Any person authorised by the licensing authority will be permitted to inspect the licensed activity at any reasonable time.
- 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)

Appendix A: Location of works

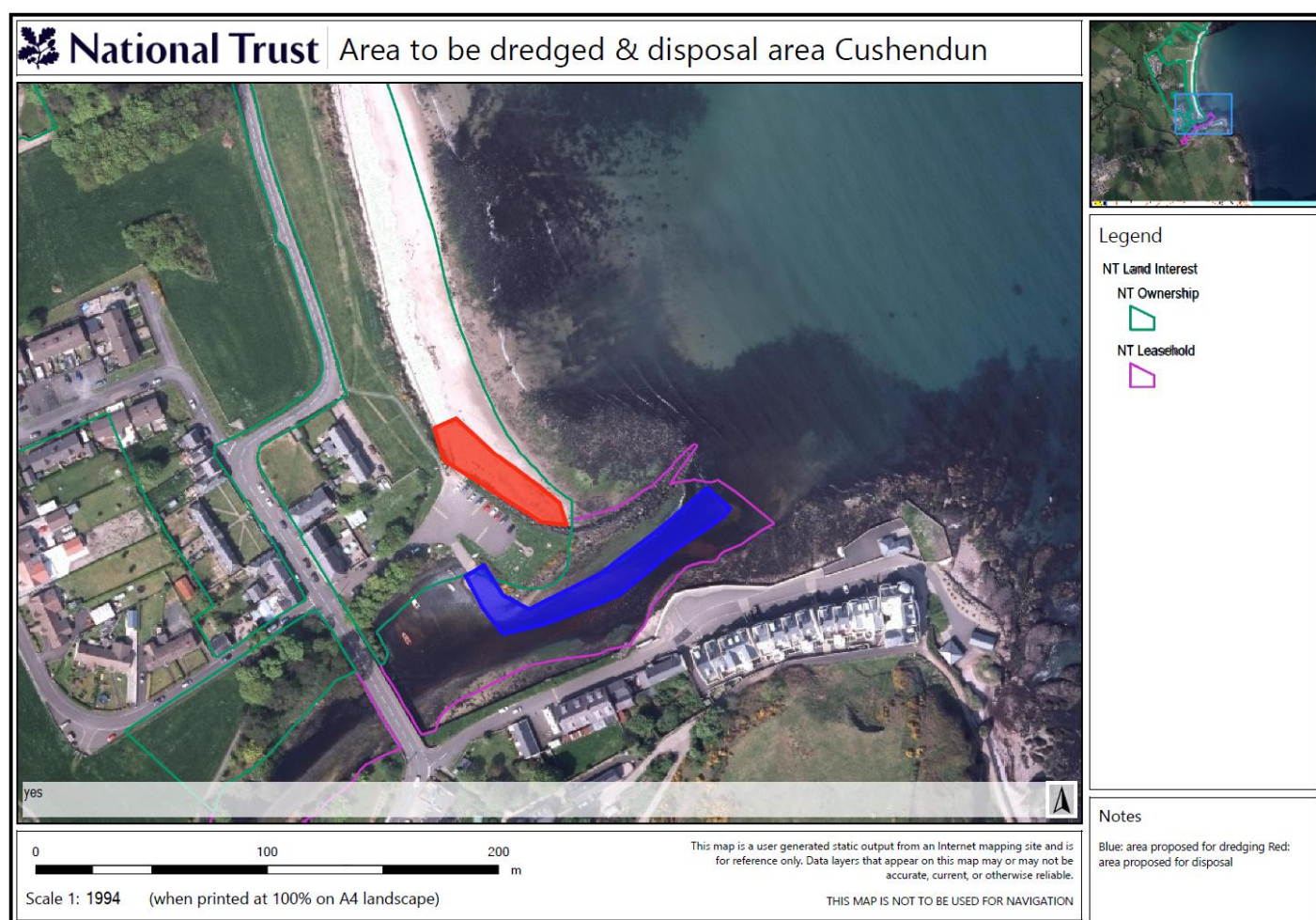


Figure 1. Location of dredging works (blue) and disposal area of dredged material for beach nourishment (red).