

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

**Licence to make repairs to sea defences on the Coleraine-Derry/Londonderry
railway line at Portstewart (site 14C2)**

Licence Number: ML2026027

PART 1 – PARTICULARS

1. Licensee(s) Name & Address:



22 Great Victoria Street,
Belfast,
BT2 7LX

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

Refer to condition 6

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

The works at **Translink Sea Defences – Section 14C2** comprise the repair and strengthening of existing coastal railway defences along the south bank of the River Bann, approximately 4.3 km northwest of Coleraine, at Irish Grid Reference C 84383 33533. The project involves installing approximately 175 m of new double-interlocking primary rock armour over the existing revetment slope, including re-grading of the embankment, removal of failed defences, localised vegetation clearance, and placement of toe and face rock armour to protect the Coleraine–Derry railway line. Deposits comprise:

- Plastic/Synthetic – 2310 m² Geofabrics HPS12 Coastal or similar
- Sand – 498 m³
- Stone/Rock/Gravel – 354 m³ granite filter material 0.005-0.04 tonnes ; 939 m³ granite primary armour grading 0.06-0.3 tonnes

4. Location of works:

Site access for construction personnel and materials is via the NIR access point at XL156 Grangemore (MP65.00), Ballywoolen Road, BT51 3PA, with works located approximately 900 m downline from the access point. The four corners of the site boundary are as follows:

- 55.155814, -6.7166564
- 55.155495, -6.7168495
- 55.154864, -6.7131963
- 55.154649, -6.7133841

See **Appendix A** – Location map of proposed works

5. Valid:

From: 03 September 2026

Until: 02 September 2027

6. Licence Documentation

Application form – received 29/04/2026

Cover letter – received 29/04/2026

Method statement – received 29/04/2026

Coastal defence flood risk assessment – received 29/04/2026

Supporting statement – received 29/04/2026

General arrangement drawing - received 29/04/2026

Typical cross section drawing – received 29/04/2026

Asset 14C2 outline and designated sites map – received 29/04/2026

Location and access plan map – received 29/04/2026

Geoenvironmental desk study assessment – received 29/04/2026

Construction environmental management plan (CEMP) – received 29/04/2026

Habitat regulations assessment (HRA) – received 27/05/2026

PART 2 - CONDITIONS

The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (referred to as the licensing authority) authorises [REDACTED] to **make repairs to sea defences on the Coleraine-Derry/Londonderry railway line at Portstewart (site 14C2)**. 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) shall 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 **27th May 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 by email to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk **no less than 7 working days** 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.

Prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activity

7. A suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of Works must be present on site through-out the works and have the power to stop works if mitigation measures outlined in the supporting documentation are not being implemented. The Licensing Authority should be notified of who this person will be and provide evidence of their qualification by email to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk at least **2 weeks prior** to works commencing.

Reason: To ensure that an environmental baseline is recorded pre-works and that any disturbed sensitive intertidal habitats are restored to a state as close to their re-works condition as possible.

8. A survey must be carried out prior to works that includes a detailed habitat map of all saltmarsh habitats including transitional reedbed/swamp with fixed point photographs. The map and associated photographs should be submitted to the MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk inbox within **8 weeks** of the completion of works, this can be submitted together with the post survey report, **see Condition 13**. This is to be reviewed and approved by the Habitat Survey team to be approved prior to discharge.

Reason: To ensure that an environmental baseline is recorded pre-works and that any disturbed sensitive intertidal habitats are restored to a state as close to their re-works condition as possible.

During the Licensed Activity

9. 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) cease work 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.

10. 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**. The licensee(s) must: (1) record the position and details of the site; (2) cease work and (3) report your discovery to and contact MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk immediately so further advice may be sought.

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

Upon Completion of the Licensed Activity

11. The Licensee(s) must inform the licensing authority at MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk of the finishing date of the licensed work within **28 days** of completion.
12. 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 MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk. This report will be held by the Licensing Authority and details considered 'Commercial in confidence' should be marked on the report by the Licensee(s).
13. A survey must be carried out upon the completion of works that includes a detailed habitat map of all saltmarsh habitats including transitional reedbed/swamp with fixed point photographs. The map and associated photographs should be submitted to the MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk inbox within **8 weeks** of the completion of works, this can be submitted together with the prior survey report, see **Condition 8**. This is to be reviewed and approved by the Habitat Survey team to be approved prior to discharge.

Reason: To ensure that an environmental baseline is recorded pre-works and that any disturbed sensitive intertidal habitats are restored to a state as close to their re-works condition as possible.

Signed on behalf of the Department:

Dated: 03 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:

DAERA MFD Marine Strategy (Bathing Waters & Shellfish Team):

Repairs to sea defences along the Coleraine-Derry/Londonderry rail line at Portstewart is hydrologically connected to Castlerock and Portstewart bathing waters. Bathing waters are identified under the [Quality of Bathing Water Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2008](#), and protected under [The Water Environment \(Water Framework Directive\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2017](#).

The identification of these bathing water sites reflects the high amenity and tourism value of the area. Water quality must be protected in these areas to ensure public health standards are achieved for bathers and water users. Bathing water quality is particularly vulnerable to pollution. Care must therefore be taken to minimise the impacts on this identified site.

The applicant should therefore ensure adherence to [DAERA Standing Advice](#), for any work that may impact the water environment, in order to minimise impacts on water quality.

DAERA MFD Sea Fisheries Inspectorate:

The applicant should consider and adhere to the Standing Advice: [DAERA Pollution Standing Advice](#)

The applicant is reminded of Section 47 of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, which covers the applicant's responsibilities relating to penalties for pollution and the consequences of causing or permitting the release of any deleterious material into any waters.

DAERA MFD Marine Conservation & Reporting - Marine Wildlife:

- Adhere in full to all mitigation outlined in the CEMP/HRA/ Method statement and this response throughout the duration of the works.
- Appropriate in-water sediment control measures suitable for a tidal environment must be implemented, including silt curtains and/or turbidity barriers (not limited to oil booms).
- Works must cease immediately in the event of a pollution incident or where excessive turbidity is observed and not recommence until effective corrective measures are in place.
- Ensure [DAERA 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.

- No fuel/oil should be stored close to the water. Any fuelling required will only occur at a non-hydrologically linked location using a buffer of at least 10m.

Reason: to reduce the likelihood of accidental spills into the marine environment.

- Implement biosecurity measures throughout all project stages in line with DAERA INNS guidance ([Northern Ireland Biosecurity guidelines](#) and [DAERA Marine Invasive Non-Native Species Guidance](#)) and [Check Clean Dry](#), including a contingency plan, staff training, reporting to DAERA MFD/CEDaR, and appropriate disposal of any INNS.

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

- All imported rock armour should be sourced, handled, and, where relevant, inspected to minimise risk of marine INNS introduction.
- 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 to prevent it from entering the marine environment and becoming marine litter, following [DAERA Marine Litter Standing Advice](#).

Reason: To prevent litter entering the marine environment and adversely impacting Marine Protected Areas, Habitats and Species, as required under The Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002, Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2018 and the UK Marine Policy Statement.

DAERA MFD Marine Conservation & Reporting - Marine Archaeology

DAERA advice on known undesignated wreck

- The Licensee(s) are advised that a recorded undesignated wreck (SWR236) is located within the wider vicinity of the proposed works. No direct impacts are anticipated; however, all works should be undertaken with due care to avoid unnecessary disturbance to this feature. Any damage to, or material deriving from, this wreck should be reported in accordance with relevant archaeological requirements.

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.

The DAERA document Guidance Note: For the Discovery of Unanticipated Underwater Archaeological Heritage (<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-note-discovery-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.

DAERA MFD Marine Conservation & Reporting - Coastal Processes:

We would recommend that the applicant looks more strategically at this site in the future to limit the potential impact that climate change and sea level rise may have upon the rail line along this section.

DAERA NIEA Resource Efficiency Division Water Catchment Unit (WCU) Planning Team:

The applicant should refer and adhere to the relevant precepts in DAERA Standing Advice on Pollution Prevention Guidance, Discharges to the Water Environment and Abstractions and Impoundments, which

can be found at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/standing-advice-development-may-have-effect-water-environment-including-groundwater-and-fisheries>

Water Catchment Unit notes the operational processes involved are likely to cause the release of suspended solids and would advise the operational methods utilised should be completed at a pace whereby the level of suspended solids is minimised.

There is also a risk of surface water overflow and the discharge of waters heavily laden with suspended solids from any stockpiles of materials or temporary access platforms made from compacted granular material. Surface water discharges from the site should be managed and controlled so that surface water is collected and treated prior to discharge to the environment using settlement features designed, installed and maintained as per industry best practice and CIRIA guidelines, which are outlined in the relevant documents at www.ciria.org as well as the Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs) produced by NetRegs: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/tools/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/>

All materials imported for use as part of the works must be strictly inert.

All areas where oil is stored (or any other potentially contaminating liquids) must be constructed from an impermeable material, and the drainage of the area must be engineered in such a way that all potentially contaminated site drainage is contained and prevented from entering the aquatic environment without adequate treatment.

All works will be required to comply with the Control Of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010. A key requirement of the Regulations is that oil storage containers (including temporary storage) must have a secondary containment system (a bund, which is an outer wall or enclosure designed to contain the contents of an inner tank, or a drip tray) to ensure that any leaking oil is contained and does not enter the aquatic environment.

Water Catchment Unit would emphasise the importance of ensuring all equipment / plant is in good working order to minimise the risk of pollution from hydrocarbons and / or hydraulic fluids.

NIEA discharge consent, issued under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, is required for any discharges of potentially contaminated water to the aquatic environment and may be required during the construction phase of the development.

Where dewatering works may be carried out, in accordance with the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended) it is a mandatory requirement that upon the abstraction and / or diversion and / or impoundment of water from the natural river channel / lake, coastal or groundwater sources, an abstraction / impoundment licence should be obtained unless the operations specified are Permitted Controlled Activities, a list of which can be found at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/water-abstraction-and-impoundment-licensing-regulations-northern-ireland-2006-permitted>

All waste materials / effluent generated by this proposal must be taken away for disposal at appropriately licenced waste facilities.

DAERA, NIEA Natural Environment Division (NED), Biodiversity and Conservation Science Branch – Habitat Survey Team:

- The applicant should have full adherence to HRA/CEMP/Method statement for the duration of works
- There should be no storage of materials or machinery on areas of coastal saltmarsh, nor should any refuelling of machinery take place on or adjacent to areas of saltmarsh
- We would advise that a toolbox talk identifying the areas of saltmarsh to all site operatives before works commences delivered by an Ecologist on site should occur

- Ecological Clerk of Works recommended to be present when areas of saltmarsh are adjacent to work carried out

DAERA, NIEA Natural Environment Division (NED), Biodiversity and Conservation Science Branch – Freshwater Team

- The River Bann is an area Atlantic Salmon a protected species will migrate through within the duration of the Project (July 2026 – November 2026) and we would ask that this is taken into account and that machinery working within the water should be mitigated especially between October to January which is the period of the Salmon Run.
- No works are permitted within the river channel under this licence.
Reason: To prevent any unmitigated damage to the marine environment

Maritime & Coastguard Agency:

- 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.
- The site is within port limits, and the applicant should gain the approval/agreement of the responsible local navigation authority or the Harbour Authority/Commissioners/Council. They may wish to issue local warnings to alert those navigating in the vicinity to the presence of the works, as deemed necessary.

Further Information

- Refer to [DAERA Marine Map Viewer](#) for details on protected areas, habitats, species, marine mammals, INNS and Regional Seascape Character Areas.
- Check the [DAERA Protected Areas site](#) for details on MPAs.
- Refer to [DAERA Protected Areas Monitoring Results](#) for details on MPA feature condition status.
- Check the [Marine Life Information Network](#) for habitat sensitivities.
- [Invasive species identification guides Northern Ireland](#)
- [Cetacean Sightings and Strandings around NI coastline](#)

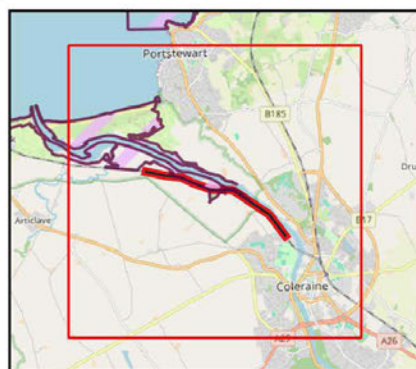
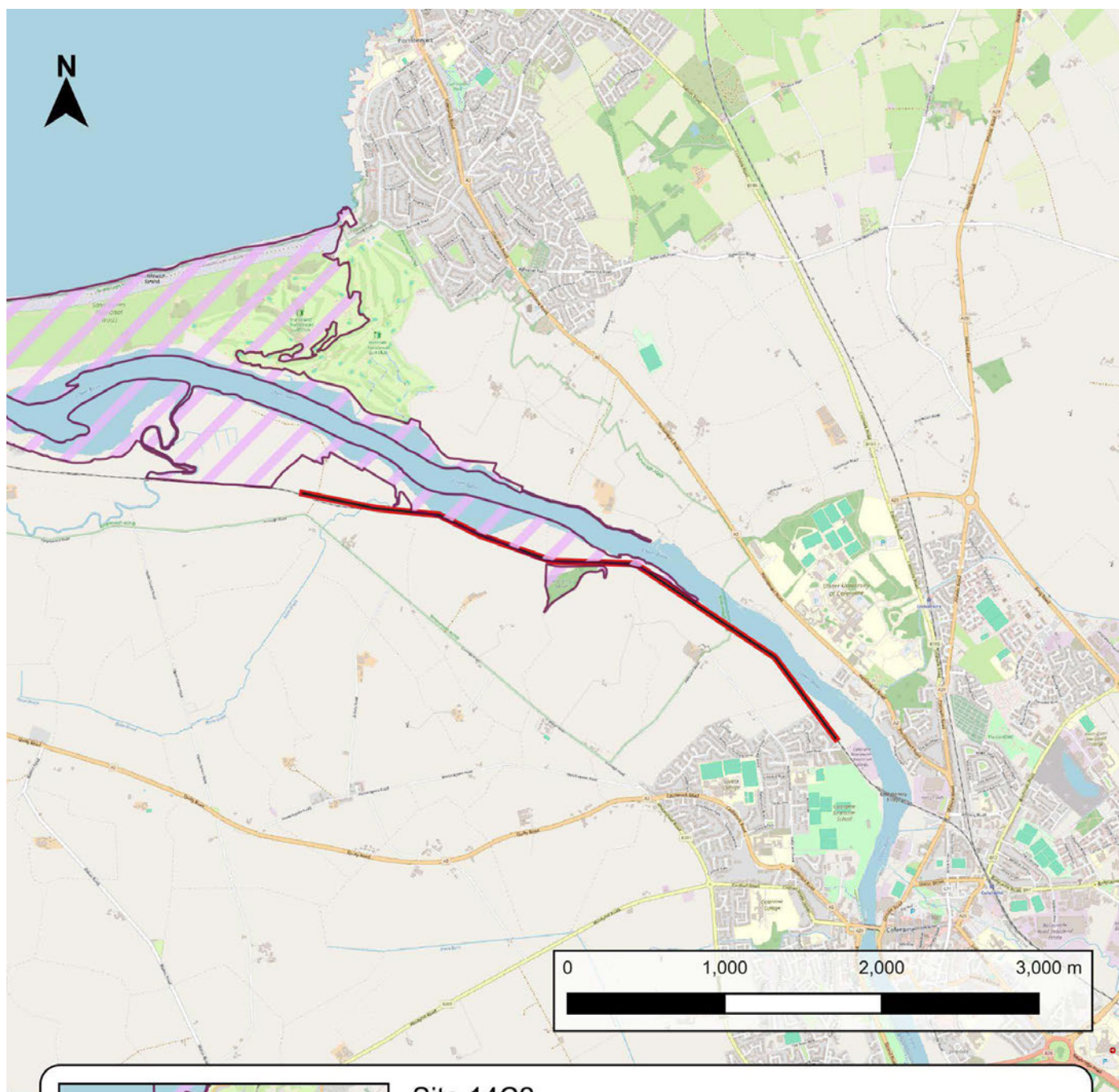
Standing Advice and Guidance

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following links which provide standing advice and guidance to be considered:

- [DAERA Pollution Standing Advice](#)
- [DAERA Discharges to the water environment Standing Advice](#)
- [DAERA Marine Litter Standing Advice](#)
- [DAERA Marine Invasive Non-native Species Guidance](#)

- [DAERA Marine Wildlife Disturbance Guidance](#)
- [Check Clean Dry](#)
- [DAERA Discharges to the water environment Standing Advice](#)

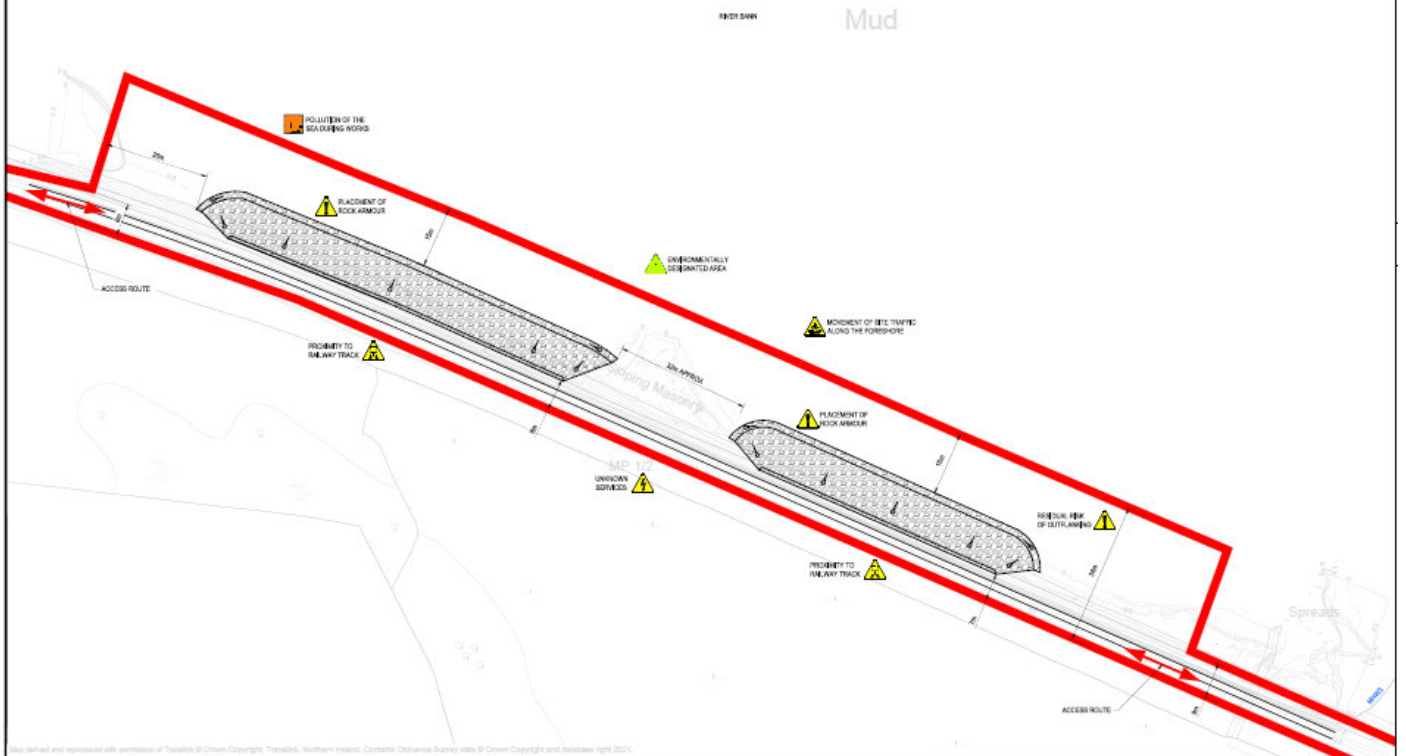
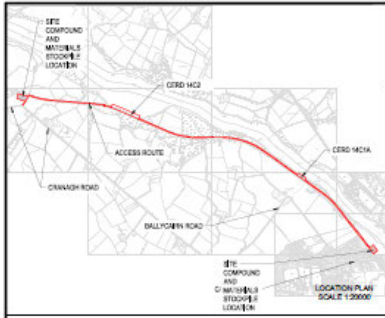
Appendix A – Location map of proposed works



Site 14C2

 Special Area of Conservation
 14C2

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