

REMEDIAL WORKS - OLD SLIPWAY, PORTRUSH HARBOUR
PRELIMINARY METHODOLOGY
23/07/2026

INTRODUCTION

The site is located at the Old Slipway, Portrush Harbour, Portrush, County Antrim, BT56 8DF. The slipway has been constructed in a south-easterly direction. The slipway runs onto a small sandy beach with rock outcrops.

The condition of the existing slipway has been deteriorating in recent years and now presents a Health & Safety hazard, particularly at the slipway toe. Varying sand levels cause the toe of the slipway to be exposed at certain times of the year. At times when sand levels are low, a step forms at the toe of the slipway preventing disabled access or access with a pram etc.; this is also a trip hazard.

The existing surface of the slipway is a mixture of basalt flagstones and cobbles with concrete patches throughout. Over time, some of the paving stones have become loose, creating another trip hazard.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed works will be put out to competitive tender and upon appointment of a successful contractor, a full detailed methodology will be available. The following statement provides a summary of the proposed methodology, based on the information available at the time of submission.

Break Out and Dispose of Concrete Patches

- Breaking out and removal of previous repairs to the slipway surface (concrete patches) using a mechanical excavator positioned on the slipway (see Figure 1).
- If required, the excavator will be fitted with a rock hammer to break up the concrete before lifting the broken material using an excavator bucket.
- The spoil will be loaded onto a dumper and discharged into a skip.
- All plant shall be fitted with rubber tracks or temporary mats will be used to ensure that no damage is caused to roads or hard-standing areas when accessing the slipway.
- Any spoil or excess material not suitable for re-use will be taken to a licensed waste facility.



Figure 1. Existing Slipway Surface

Install New Concrete Toe Beam and Slipway Extension

- DAERA's marine historic environment advisor will be contacted in advance of the works being undertaken and must be present on site during the excavation of the toe of the slipway. This is to ensure that no excavation works are carried out within the footprint of the buried historic shipwreck and that the area is not tracked over by heavy plant/machinery.
- A trench for the concrete toe beam will be excavated and a levelled bed prepared for setting the pre-cast concrete units.
- Pre-cast toe beam sections will be lifted in, set into place and levelled.
- The pre-cast units will provide permanent formwork for the remaining in-situ concrete sections, protecting the in-situ concrete from early exposure to seawater/wave action and minimise working time within the tidal zone.
- Reinforcement will be fixed within the precast unit.
- All formwork and reinforcement will be washed down with clean water prior to placement of concrete.
- The concrete lorry will be positioned at the top of the slipway and a concrete skip will be used to transport the concrete to the works area.
- The void within the pre-cast units will be filled with in-situ concrete to stitch all units together and create a composite pre-cast/in-situ concrete toe beam.
- The formation level for the extended slipway section will be graded and compacted.
- 1000 gauge polythene separation membrane will be laid onto a prepared sub-base.

- Formwork will be installed and reinforcement fixed within the formwork.
- Construction of the concrete base slab between the new toe beam and edge of existing slipway will involve works within the tidal zone and will be planned to ensure concrete is not placed below water.
- All formwork and reinforcement will be washed down with clean water prior to placement of concrete.
- The concrete lorry will be positioned at the top of the slipway and a concrete skip will be used to transport the concrete to the works area.
- Concreting works shall stop in sufficient time to allow the concrete to harden to avoid potential damage to the surface or otherwise resulting from tidal inundation.

Install Reclaimed Basalt Stones onto Mortar Bed

- Reclaimed basalt cobbles and flagstones will be cleaned, primed and laid onto a prepared mortar bed atop the concrete base slab.
- The stones will also be laid onto mortar beds within the existing slipway region to replace the broken out concrete patches.
- The reclaimed stones will be set tightly against one another in a pattern that closely resembles the existing.
- Liquid grout will be mixed in-situ and used to fill the gaps between the stones.
- Loose existing stones within the slipway surface will be lifted, cleaned and re-bedded onto a new mortar bed.

Repairs and Re-pointing of Existing Masonry Walls

- All exposed areas of masonry shall be cleaned to remove all marine growth and surface debris.
- All debris/marine growth shall be collected and disposed of at a licensed waste facility.
- Voids shall be cleaned out to remove all marine growth and loose stones / pebbles.
- Defective masonry and voids should be filled with concrete and finished with stone masonry facing to match existing.
- Existing mortar shall be removed to a depth of 50mm and the joint repointed by hand using lime mortar.