



Licence Ref: MUL260023

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

2 June 2026

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor
Menapia House
Drinagh Business Park
Drinagh
Wexford
Y35RF29

Via: licence@mara.gov.ie

Referral under Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

Re: Maritime usage licence application for maintenance dredging in Buncrana Pier for the purpose of retaining navigable depth in the navigation channel and the RNLI berth at Buncrana Pier – Donegal.

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I refer to correspondence on 28 April 2026 received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Underwater Archaeology

It is noted that the maintenance dredging project has been the subject of a desk-study Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) report *Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment: Maintenance Dredging Works at Buncrana Pier, Co. Donegal* (AMS, Feb 2026). The National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has reviewed the UAIA and is broadly in agreement with the findings and recommended mitigation in relation to underwater archaeology as set out



therein. Therefore, the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advises that the following should be included as a condition, should the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority grant the Maritime Usage Licence (MUL).

Archaeological Requirements:

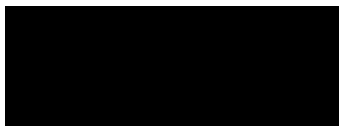
1. All mitigation measures in relation to archaeology and cultural heritage as set out in Section 6 of the submitted Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment by Archaeological Management Solutions Ltd (Feb 2026) shall be implemented in full, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the conditions of this licence.
2. All historic wrecks protected by the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014 within the MUL licence area, regardless of whether they have been located or not shall be protected by the implementation of Archaeological Exclusion Zones (AEZs). No dredge activities shall be permitted within any AEZs until formally agreed in writing with the National Monuments Service.
3. The Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) shall include the location of any and all archaeological or cultural heritage constraints relevant to the proposed development as set out in the UAIA and by any subsequent archaeological investigations associated with the project. The CEMP shall clearly describe all identified likely archaeological impacts, both direct and indirect, and all mitigation measures to be employed to protect the archaeological or cultural heritage environment during all phases of site preparation and construction activity.
4. A Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries made outside of licensed archaeological monitoring shall be agreed at least four weeks in advance of the commencement of works with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) fem.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
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Amy Thornton
Development Applications Unit
Administration