



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

21 July 2026

Re: MUL Application for RNLI Jetty and Berth at Courtmacsherry, Co Cork
Your Ref: MUL240047
Our Ref: 26/178

Dear Sir/Madam,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is part of the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment. We provide independent geological information and interpretation and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability.

With reference to your email received on the 08 July 2026, concerning the MUL Application for RNLI Jetty and Berth at Courtmacsherry, Co Cork, we recommend using our various data sets when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes for developments, plans and policies. For more detailed information on how to access this data please access 'Data and Maps' [Data & Maps \(gsi.ie\)](#) on our 'Geoscience for planning' webpage. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly (please refer to each individual dataset's metadata for correct attribution).

For specific data available for Environmental Assessment and Planning topics please follow this link [\[Data by Environmental Assessment and Planning Topic \(gsi.ie\)\]](#), where you will find our data arranged by environmental assessment topic as illustrated below:

Land and soils <i>Soil</i> • Subsoils (Quaternary Geology) • Tellus Geochemistry • Geotechnical <i>Geology</i> • Bedrock • Geophysics • Bedrock & Quaternary 3D	Water <i>Groundwater</i> • Aquifers GW vulnerability, GWPSs (GWPPs) • Karst <i>Surface water</i> • Tellus Geochemistry <i>Estuarine & marine waters</i> • Marine and coastal <i>Flooding</i> • GWClimate	Climate Change <i>Carbon accounting / Carbon balance</i> • Geothermal • Carbon capture and storage <i>Climate change trends</i> • National coastal change assessment
Cultural Heritage <i>Archaeology</i> • Cherish <i>Underwater Archaeology</i> • Shipwrecks	Material Assets <i>Built Services</i> • Natural resources (Minerals & Aggregates) • Active quarries	The Landscape <i>Landscape Appearance & Character</i> • Physiographic units <i>Historical landscapes</i> • Historic mines
Other Relevant Data		
<i>Natural (Geo) hazards</i> • Landslide Susceptibility Mapping • Groundwater flooding • Coastal vulnerability • Subsidence • Radon	<i>Natural heritage</i> • Geoheritage (County Geological Sites) • Dimension Stone/Stone Built Ireland	



Geoheritage

Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGSs), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include additional sites that may also be of national importance, but which were not selected as the very best examples for NHA designation. All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS. CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for Co. Cork was completed in 2023. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there are CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed works.**

Courtmacsherry Estuary, Co. Cork (ITM 551900E 543450N), under IGH theme: IGH13 Coastal Geomorphology. The Courtmacsherry Estuary is a wide estuarine / bay complex, comprising the drowned valley of the Argideen River, with many bounding areas of tidal mudflats exposed at low tide, and bounding headlands. The tidal mudflats and strandflats within the estuary and bay have been formed in the Holocene Period since the last glaciation. It is likely that the macro-structure of the bay dates back through the Quaternary (Ice Age) to the Tertiary Period. Link to Site Report: [CK039](#).

With the current plan, there are no envisaged impacts on the integrity of current CGSs by the proposed works. However, if the proposed plan is altered, please contact Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie) for further information and possible mitigation measures if applicable.

Marine and Coastal Unit

Our marine environment is hugely important to our bio-economy, transport, tourism and recreational sectors. It is also an important indicator of the health of our planet. Geological Survey Ireland's Marine and Coastal Unit in partnership with the Marine Institute, jointly manages [INFOMAR](#), Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's marine sector. The programme delivers a wide range of benefits to multi-sectoral end-users across the national blue economy with an emphasis on enabling our stakeholders. Demonstrated applications for the use of INFOMAR's suite of mapping products include Shipping & Navigation, Fisheries Management, Aquaculture, Off-shore Renewable Energies, Marine Leisure & Tourism and Coastal Behaviour.

INFOMAR data such as bathymetry, backscatter, sediment classification, shipwrecks and survey metadata can be downloaded free of charge in a variety of formats at the INFOMAR Marine Data Download Portal: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9213db3d963d4f3cab3a220323d7cd4e/page/Page-1/?views=Download-Vector-Datasets>

INFOMAR also produces a wide variety of seabed mapping products that enable public and stakeholders to visualize Ireland's seafloor environment <https://www.infomar.ie/maps/downloadable-maps/maps>. [Story maps](#) have also been developed providing a different perspective of some of the bays and harbors of the Irish coastline. We would therefore recommend use of our Marine and Coastal Unit datasets available on our [website](#) and [Map Viewer](#).

The Marine and Coastal Unit also participate in coastal change projects and are undertaking mapping in areas such as coastal vulnerability and coastal erosion. Further information on these projects can be found [here](#).



ObSERVE Programme

The ObSERVE Programme is a collaborative initiative between the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). Managed by DCEE, the programme delivers aerial and acoustic survey data on marine megafauna — including cetaceans, seabirds and other protected species — to address critical baseline data gaps in Irish waters. These datasets support marine spatial planning, biodiversity conservation, and Ireland's obligations under EU and international environmental frameworks.

Further information and open datasets are available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/publications/observe-programme/>

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be redacted for confidentiality and added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at <mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie>.

If we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

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Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

Trish Smullen
Geologist
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The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data are made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases these data are a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.