Cork City Council

Cork Docklands North and South Quays Maritime Usage Licence Application

Attachment 3.3 Maritime Usage Licence duration

Aidan Long, Brendan Dickerson

AQUAFACT REF: P20039

2026

AQUAFACT

APEM Group

Client:	**Cork City Council**
Address:	**City Hall, 1-2 Angleasea Street, Cork T21T997**
Reference no:	**P20039**
Date of issue:	**30/07/2026**
Version Number:	**Final**

AQUAFACT contact:	**Dr. A. Long**
Position:	**Principal Consultant**
E-mail:	**a.long@aquafact.ie**
Telephone:	**+353 (0) 91 756812**
Website:	**www.aquafact.ie**
Address:	AQUAFACT – APEM Group, 9A Liosban Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland, H91 K120
Registered in Ireland:	No. 493496
Tax Reference Number:	9773384O
Tax Clearance Number:	559674

Report Approval Sheet

Client	Cork City Council
Report Title	Cork Docklands North and South Quays Maritime Usage Licence Application
Job Number	P20039
Report Status	Final
Issue Date	30/07/2026
Report Type	Attachment 3.3 MUL duration

Rev	Status	Issue Date	File Name	Author(s)	Approved By
1	Draft	27/07/2026	Attachment 3.3 MUL duration_CDNSQ_v1	AL, BD	AL
2	Final	30/07/2026	Attachment 3.3 MUL duration_CDNSQ_final	AL, BD	AL

Contents

Table of Tables

List of Acronyms/ Glossary

MUL	Maritime Usage Licence
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle

1. Proposed survey sequence and duration

The surveys described in Attachment 3.1 comprise ecological surveys, archaeological surveys and structural/site investigation surveys undertaken within the River Lee and the associated intertidal zone. The South Quays and North Quays elements will be delivered as separate survey programmes with different scopes and sequencing requirements. The South Quays programme includes ecological, archaeological and structural/site investigation surveys, whereas the North Quays programme is limited to structural survey works only at Horgan's Quay, the Turning Basin and North Deep-Water Quay.

For the South Quays programme, ecological and archaeological surveys will be completed in advance of the structural and site investigation surveys in order to establish the baseline environmental and cultural heritage conditions within the survey area prior to the commencement of structural investigations and intrusive sampling. The North Quays structural surveys are not dependent on South Quays ecological or archaeological survey completion and will be programmed separately. The South Quays and North Quays survey programmes may occur concurrently or independantly, and will require separate periods to complete, depending on access, tidal conditions, weather, safety requirements, contractor availability and other operational constraints.

While the programme provides broad operational windows to allow flexibility in scheduling, the expected duration of the individual South Quays survey elements is significantly shorter, typically requiring approximately 5 to 10 working days of active fieldwork per survey type, with the otter survey expected to require approximately 2 to 3 survey days.

The North Quays structural survey elements are expected to require approximately 1.5 to 2 weeks of active fieldwork per survey element. Some survey elements may also be undertaken concurrently where operationally feasible within each programme. An indicative summary of the South Quays and North Quays survey programmes is provided in **Table 1-1** and **Table 1-2**.

Table 1-1 Cork Docklands South Quays provisional survey duration.

SURVEY TYPE	SURVEY ELEMENT	INDICATIVE DURATION
ECOLOGICAL SURVEY	Intertidal and subtidal ecological survey	~ 5–10 survey days
ECOLOGICAL SURVEY	Otter survey	~ 2–3 survey days
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY	Intertidal archaeology survey	~ 5–10 survey days
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY	Archaeological metal detecting survey	~ 5–10 survey days
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY	Archaeological geophysical survey	~ 5–10 survey days
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY	Archaeological wade survey	~ 5–10 survey days
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY	Archaeological dive survey	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	ROV underwater camera survey	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	ROV sonar, echo sounder, magnetometer and LiDAR survey	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Bathymetric survey	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Hydraulic survey	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Riverbed and jetty material sampling	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Concrete coring	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Chloride, carbonation and half-cell testing	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Steel testing	~ 5–10 survey days
STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Drone survey and photogrammetry of quay walls	~ 5–10 survey days

Table 1-2: Cork Docklands North Quays provisional survey duration.

SURVEY TYPE	SURVEY ELEMENT	INDICATIVE DURATION
NORTH QUAYS STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Above-water visual and physical inspection	~1.5-2 survey weeks
NORTH QUAYS STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Underwater structural survey	~ 1.5-2 survey weeks
NORTH QUAYS STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Material testing and intrusive investigation	~ 1.5-2 surveys weeks
NORTH QUAYS STRUCTURAL SURVEY	Sonar or echo sounding survey where required	~1.5-2 survey weeks

The durations presented above represent the estimated active field survey effort for each activity. In practice, several of the structural survey elements may be undertaken concurrently or sequentially during a single mobilisation depending on vessel availability and survey logistics.

2. Seasonal and operational constraints

Survey scheduling will be influenced by a number of operational and environmental constraints. Intertidal ecological and archaeological surveys at the South Docks require suitable tidal windows to safely access exposed habitats. Vessel-based surveys within the River Lee require appropriate weather and river conditions, particularly for geophysical surveys and remotely operated vehicles (ROV) inspections where calm water conditions improve data quality and operational safety.

Archaeological dive surveys are dependent on safe diving conditions and adequate underwater visibility. The availability of licensed archaeological personnel and specialist survey equipment may also influence the scheduling of these activities. In addition, several survey activities require specialist equipment and personnel, ROVs, licensed archaeological divers, archaeological geophysical survey equipment and structural testing specialists. The availability of these resources may influence the precise sequencing of survey activities within the programme window.

For these reasons, the programme has been designed with flexible operational windows rather than fixed dates. This approach ensures that surveys can be undertaken safely, efficiently and with minimal environmental disturbance while still delivering the baseline environmental and engineering data required to inform the planning and design of the Cork Docklands South Quays project.

There are no archaeological or ecological surveys required for the North Quay Docklands proposed works. For the Cork North Docks structural survey at Horgan's Quay, the Turning Basin and North Deep-Water Quay, seasonal and operational constraints similarly influence scheduling. Above-water structural inspections and concrete coring at quay walls and suspended slabs must be coordinated with access arrangements along the N8 corridor and the Kent Station compound, including any traffic management, rail safety restrictions and working-hour limitations. Underwater structural surveys, comprising diver-led inspection of the submerged quay wall faces, wall toe and scour conditions, and multi-beam or single-beam sonar profiling of the riverbed at the wall toe, require suitable tidal states, safe diving conditions and adequate underwater visibility, and will only be undertaken when dynamic vessel positioning or temporary mooring can be used safely to minimise seabed interaction. Intrusive underwater concrete sampling by coring or chipping will be limited to locations where above-water and underwater inspection findings indicate a specific need, and the number and timing of such samples will be confirmed in the appointed structural surveyor's programme. As with the South Quays environmental surveys, the North Quays structural works will therefore be programmed within flexible operational windows, allowing desk study, above-water inspection, underwater survey and

laboratory testing to proceed sequentially or with limited overlap, subject to tidal windows, weather and resource availability.

3. Overall MUL duration

An overall Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) duration of 12 months is requested for the proposed survey programme. Although the total active fieldwork required to complete the full survey programme is expected to be approximately 6–8 weeks for each of the South Quays and 6-8 weeks for each North Quays survey element, the surveys will not be undertaken continuously and must be scheduled within operational windows that allow for appropriate sequencing of survey activities, tidal conditions, weather windows, contractor availability and other logistical constraints.

Marine survey operations in the River Lee are sensitive to other users, weather conditions, river flow, and tidal constraints. Certain survey methods, including ROV operations, intertidal surveys, geophysical surveys and dive inspections all require calm conditions and appropriate tidal states to ensure both operational safety and data quality.

The requested 12-month licence duration also provides contingency to accommodate potential programme delays associated with weather disruption, river flow conditions, restricted vessel access windows, operational safety requirements, or other unforeseen logistical constraints that may arise during the survey programme. The surveys will be undertaken intermittently and in discrete campaigns within this period rather than continuously throughout the full licence duration.

The requested licence duration therefore represents a reasonable operational window that ensures the full programme of surveys described in Attachment 3.1 can be completed safely, efficiently and in an environmentally responsible manner.