

Martina Gallagher

From: Edwin Mooney
Sent: 13 October 2016 14:23
To: Martina Gallagher
Cc: terry.mcmahon@marine.ie
Subject: RE: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application - FS006403

Martina,

The proposed works associated with the trench at the mouth of the Owenavorrhagh River are not on State Foreshore and therefore a Foreshore Lease/Licence is not required. However as the works are contiguous to the State Foreshore we should ensure the works do not impact on the foreshore. I recommend the following conditions are included in the Licence for the dredging works as follows:

During the course of the works the Local Authority shall ensure that,

1. (a) all necessary precautions are put in place to protect the public in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Legislation;

(b) existing public access arrangements to the general foreshore area are not impeded by any plant or materials used in connection with the trench works, where relevant this access should be made safe and guaranteed by the provision of appropriate signage/notices/barriers etc.
2. The seashore contiguous to the State owned foreshore shall be reinstated to its original condition on completion of the works.

Furthermore, conditions proposed by IFI relating to the proposed trench should be included in any consent issued.

Regards,

Edwin.

From: Martina Gallagher
Sent: 05 October 2016 11:46
To: 'Terry McMahon'; Edwin Mooney
Subject: FW: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application - FS006403

Terry/Edwin

Please see the below information submitted by the applicant in respect of a revised proposal for a trench through the beach at the mouth of the Owenavorrhagh River that would be maintained for the duration of the dredging works to allow fish to access the river from the sea.

Your views/comments on this information would be appreciated.

Martina
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90



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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 05 October 2016 11:22
To: Martina Gallagher
Cc: Jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie; Edwin Mooney; Matthew McLoughlin; Pat Parle
Subject: RE: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application - FS006403

Hi Martina,

Please find attached our responses to the below queries.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]
Sent: 22 June 2016 16:58
To: Pat Parle
Cc: Jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie; Edwin Mooney - (DECLG); Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application - FS006403

Pat

Further to your email in respect of the above referenced foreshore application.

In order to assess your proposal further can you please submit the following information:

1. Location map of the proposed trench;
2. Methodology for the digging of the trench and
3. Detailed description of how this differs from the previous application.

Regards

Martina
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90



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From: Pat Parle [<mailto:patrick.parle@mwp.ie>]

Sent: 16 June 2016 11:18

To: Jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie

Cc: Donnachadh Byrne; alan.mccullagh@fisheries.ie; Eoin Lucey; Edwin Mooney - (DECLG); Martina Gallagher - (DECLG); John Lambe

Subject: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application

Jimmy,

To confirm the conclusions of our telephone conversation of yesterday:

It was agreed that a trench through the beach at the mouth of the Owenavorrhagh River would be maintained for the duration of the dredging works to allow fish to access the river from the sea.

MWP will undertake further discussions with Donnachadh Byrne and Alan McCullagh of your Clonmel offices with regard to finalising the methodology and personnel for fish salvage during the project.

Regards

Pat

Pat Parle,
Chartered Engineer

Malachy Walsh and Partners

Consulting Engineers

Park House, Mahon Technology Park,

Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork

Tel: 021 4536400

Fax: 021-4536450

E: patrick.parle@mwp.ie

W: www.mwp.ie

Check out our website at <http://www.mwp.ie>

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Registered Office: Park House, Mahon Technology Park Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, Ireland.

Registered in Ireland. No. 133445
.....

Martina Gallagher

From: Jimmy King <Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: 07 October 2016 12:48
To: Martina Gallagher
Cc: Donnachadh Byrne
Subject: RE: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application - FS006403

Martina,

Re above, The proposal for an open channel across the beach to facilitate fish movement during the dredging was discussed by Pat Parle and myself and agreed as a valid option to permit movement of migratory fish species in both directions.

The detail provided below from Eoin Lucey is consistent with the content of my discussion by phone with Pat Parle.

Jimmy King

Dr. James King
Senior Research Officer

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)1 8842600

Mob +353 (0) 87 6468608

Fax +353 (0)1 8360060

Email jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie

Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, IRELAND.

From: Martina Gallagher [mailto:Martina.Gallagher@housing.gov.ie]
Sent: 07 October 2016 12:06
To: Jimmy King
Subject: FW: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application - FS006403

Hi Jimmy

As you are aware the applicant has submitted information in respect of a revised proposal for a trench through the beach at the mouth of the Owenavorrigh River that would be maintained for the duration of the dredging works to allow fish to access the river from the sea.

May I please have your comments on this proposal as soon as possible but no later than close of business on 20 October 2016.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Eoin Lucey [mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie]
Sent: 05 October 2016 11:22
To: Martina Gallagher
Cc: Jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie; Edwin Mooney; Matthew McLoughlin; Pat Parle
Subject: RE: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application - FS006403

Hi Martina,

Please find attached our responses to the below queries.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie]
Sent: 22 June 2016 16:58
To: Pat Parle
Cc: Jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie; Edwin Mooney - (DECLG); Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application - FS006403

Pat

Further to your email in respect of the above referenced foreshore application.

In order to assess your proposal further can you please submit the following information:

1. Location map of the proposed trench;
2. Methodology for the digging of the trench and
3. Detailed description of how this differs from the previous application.

Regards

Martina
Martina Gallagher
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Department of Environment, Community & Local Government

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Wexford
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From: Pat Parle [<mailto:patrick.parle@mwp.ie>]

Sent: 16 June 2016 11:18

To: Jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie

Cc: Donnachadh Byrne; alan.mccullagh@fisheries.ie; Eoin Lucey; Edwin Mooney - (DECLG); Martina Gallagher - (DECLG); John Lambe

Subject: Courtown Basin Dredging Foreshore Application

Jimmy,

To confirm the conclusions of our telephone conversation of yesterday:

It was agreed that a trench through the beach at the mouth of the Owenavorrhagh River would be maintained for the duration of the dredging works to allow fish to access the river from the sea.

MWP will undertake further discussions with Donnachadh Byrne and Alan McCullagh of your Clonmel offices with regard to finalising the methodology and personnel for fish salvage during the project.

Regards

Pat

Pat Parle,
Chartered Engineer

Malachy Walsh and Partners

Consulting Engineers
Park House, Mahon Technology Park,
Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork
Tel: 021 4536400
Fax: 021-4536450
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Check out our website at <http://www.mwp.ie>

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Martina Gallagher

From: Jimmy King <Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: 13 May 2016 10:15
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Terry McMahon; David McNerney; Donnachadh Byrne
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging
Attachments: IFI - comment on documents of 28.4.2016.docx

Martina,

Comment from IFI in regard to the proposed Courtown Harbour dredging and associated issues
Jimmy

Dr. James King
Senior Research Officer

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Inland Fisheries Ireland

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3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, IRELAND.

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]

Sent: 28 April 2016 14:53

To: Jimmy King

Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging

Jimmy

In relation to your recent email requesting further information/clarification regarding the above Foreshore Application. Please see attached response from the applicant in respect of FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging.

May I please have your comments on this further information/clarification as soon as possible but no later than close of business on 13 May 2016.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section

Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
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MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE:

Re: DECLG file ref FS0006403 Application on behalf of Wexford Co. Council for maintenance dredging of the basin area within Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford.

Response to additional documentation submitted by applicant (28.4.2016), addressing previous IFI observations, via Ms. Martina Gallagher (DECLG).

IFI reviewed documentation re FS0006403 and made observations in corres. of 18.3.2016. Two particular issues were of concern to IFI:

1. Flow of Owenavarragh over the beach north of Courtown, if flow through the town is blocked off for dredging
2. Salvage of fish

The applicant responded to the IFI observations on 22.3.2016 and IFI further responded on 18.4.2016.

The following arises from further comments of the applicant dated 28.4.2016.

Comment of applicant of 28.4.2016 re Item 1 Flow of Owenavarragh over the beach north of Courtown

The culvert pipes will be located landward of the HWM as shown on the OSI Map. The pipe invert levels will however be below the sea water level to allow for fish passage within the pipes. A trench will be excavated through the beach to allow for this depth. Culverts will be transported to the location by truck and lifted from the truck and placed in the channel by sling using an excavator. The culvert pipes will be placed directly onto the excavated beach. The pipes will be placed side by side. The beach is comprised of sand and gravel. This material will be replaced over the pipes to a sufficient depth to allow for safe travel of vehicles over the pipes. The pipe culvert are a temporary structure and will be monitored for settlement and blockages throughout the contract. They will be adjusted if required. These works will be carried out in preparation for the harbour blocking. Once the harbour is blocked all river water will enter the sea from the original river mouth location through the temporary culverts.

IFI comment on above: The consultant report of 22.3.16 indicated a placement of pipes with total cross-sectional area of 1.5 m^2 . IFI questions if this is an adequate size to take a volume discharge that may be quite variable but that will, during the dredging process, constitute the full volume discharge of the R. Owenavarragh.

The proposal now appears to be to

- (a) dig a trench across the beach to ensure a 'channel' for water flow and fish passage (as opposed to a widely dispersed flow over the beach)
- (b) place culvert pipes/boxes into this channel to accommodate vehicular traffic (?)

IFI would be supportive of (a) but presumably an alteration to the foreshore licence would be required to accommodate this excavation in the foreshore

IFI would not have a problem with (b) provided that the culverting was of sufficient cross-sectional area to accommodate a wide range of flows from the R. Owenavarragh; that the channel and culverts were 'maintained' by the applicant in a manner that permitted unimpeded passage for fish life stages at all times; that culvert components were removed off the foreshore on completion of the dredging works and that the foreshore was re-instated i.e. excavated channel to be re-filled.

Comment of applicant of 28.4.2016 re Item 2 Salvage of fish

We included a methodology for fish fauna handling in the attached document supplied previously. However, if the IFI has preferences on how to carry out handling/salvage of fish we would appreciate their guidance. We have not awarded a contract yet and would like to include the handling/salvage requirements in the tender documents. The full requirements are needed prior to award otherwise the contract will be subject to claims or disputes. By including the methodology in the tender documents the contractor will be fully aware of the project requirements.

IFI comment on above: The applicant should develop an agreed written methodology with IFI southeastern RBD (Clonmel office) in regard to salvage and handling of fish etc. This should be submitted to DECLG and its provision to be a condition of foreshore licence.

James J. King, IFI and MLVC
Inland Fisheries Ireland
13.5.2016

CC Terry Mc Mahon MLVC; David Mc Inerney and Donnachadh Byrne, IFI Southeastern RBD (Clonmel)

Martina Gallagher

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Sent: 28 April 2016 14:53
To: 'Jimmy King'
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging
Attachments: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging

Jimmy

In relation to your recent email requesting further information/clarification regarding the above Foreshore Application. Please see attached response from the applicant in respect of FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging.

May I please have your comments on this further information/clarification as soon as possible but no later than close of business on 13 May 2016.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
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Martina Gallagher

From: Eoin Lucey <Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>
Sent: 28 April 2016 14:34
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Pat Parle
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging

Martina,

Thank you for forwarding on comments from the IFI.

In response to Item 1:

The culvert pipes will be located landward of the HWM as shown on the OSI Map. The pipe invert levels will however be below the sea water level to allow for fish passage within the pipes. A trench will be excavated through the beach to allow for this depth. Culverts will be transported to the location by truck and lifted from the truck and placed in the channel by sling using an excavator. The culvert pipes will be placed directly onto the excavated beach. The pipes will be placed side by side. The beach is comprised of sand and gravel. This material will be replaced over the pipes to a sufficient depth to allow for safe travel of vehicles over the pipes. The pipe culvert are a temporary structure and will be monitored for settlement and blockages throughout the contract. They will be adjusted if required. These works will be carried out in preparation for the harbour blocking. Once the harbour is blocked all river water will enter the sea from the original river mouth location through the temporary culverts.

In response to Item 2:

We included a methodology for fish fauna handling in the attached document supplied previously. However, if the IFI has preferences on how to carry out handling/salvage of fish we would appreciate their guidance. We have not awarded a contract yet and would like to include the handling/salvage requirements in the tender documents. The full requirements are needed prior to award otherwise the contract will be subject to claims or disputes. By including the methodology in the tender documents the contractor will be fully aware of the project requirements.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey

From: Eoin Lucey
Sent: 28 April 2016 14:19
To: Pat Parle
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging

Pat,

Revised draft response to the IFI.

Eoin

"Martina,

Thank you for forwarding on comments from the IFI.

In response to Item 1:

The culvert pipes will be located landward of the HWM as shown on the OSI Map. The pipe invert levels will however be below the sea water level to allow for fish passage within the pipes. A trench will be excavated through the beach to allow for this depth. We estimate that there will be less than 0.5m difference between the river water level and the sea water level at any time. Culverts will be transported to the location by truck and lifted from the

truck and placed in the channel by sling using an excavator. The culvert pipes will be placed directly onto the excavated beach. The pipes will be placed side by side. The beach is comprised of sand and gravel. This material will be replaced over the pipes to a sufficient depth to allow for safe travel of vehicles over the pipes. The pipe culvert are a temporary structure and will be monitored for settlement and blockages throughout the contract. They will be adjusted if required. These works will be carried out in preparation for the harbour blocking. Once the harbour is blocked all river water will enter the sea from the original river mouth location through the temporary culverts.

In response to Item 2:

We included a methodology for fish fauna handling in the attached document supplied previously. However, if the IFI has preferences on how to carry out handling/salvage of fish we would appreciate their guidance. We have not awarded a contract yet and would like to include the handling/salvage requirements in the tender documents. The full requirements are needed prior to award otherwise the contract will be subject to claims or disputes. By including the methodology in the tender documents the contractor will be fully aware of the project requirements.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey"

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]

Sent: 18 April 2016 10:23

To: Eoin Lucey

Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging [Filed 18 Apr 2016 12:04]

Eoin

I refer to the above application made on behalf of Wexford County Council and to my previous correspondence on the matter.

Please see the attached response from the Inland Fisheries Ireland on the additional comments provided by you (dated 22.3.2016) which must be addressed before your application for a Foreshore licence can be progressed.

It is noted by the Department that works for this application are proposed to commence in late autumn 2016.

In order to progress this application in a timely manner and to have the appropriate Foreshore consent in place, could you please advise me as to the progress with the attached request within two weeks of the date of this email.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

 0539117367

Martina Gallagher

From: Jimmy King <Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: 18 April 2016 08:52
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Terry McMahon
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging
Attachments: IFI - comment on additional corres of applicant of 22.3.16.docx

Martina,
Copy of IFI comment/response to additional comments of applicant (dated 22.3.2016) attached.

Jimmy King

Dr. James King
Senior Research Officer

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)1 8842600

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3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, IRELAND.

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie]
Sent: 11 April 2016 10:38
To: Jimmy King
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Hi Jimmy

Just a reminder that your response is now due on the further information/clarification in respect of the above Foreshore Application.

Regards

Martina
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Sent: 22 March 2016 10:39
To: 'Jimmy King'
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Jimmy

In relation to your recent email requesting further information/clarification regarding the above Foreshore Application. Please see attached response from the applicant in respect of the FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging. They have included additional paragraphs on fish handling and the flow path of the Owenavorrhagh River.

May I please have your comments on this further information/clarification as soon as possible but no later than close of business on the 6 April 2016.

Regards

Martina
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Jimmy King [<mailto:Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie>]
Sent: 18 March 2016 08:30
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Terry McMahan
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Martina,

PI see note attached re above. I consider that there are significant issues to be addressed before a foreshore licence can be granted here.

Jimmy King

Dr. James King
Senior Research Officer

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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Email jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie

Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, IRELAND.

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]

Sent: 01 March 2016 14:52

To: Jimmy King

Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Hi Jimmy

Just a reminder that your views are awaited by us in respect of the above application. As outlined below, can you please confirm if you are satisfied with the proposed methodology for the dredging works furnished by the applicant's consultants?

Regards

Martina

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)

Sent: 22 February 2016 12:33

To: 'Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie'

Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Jimmy

Please see the attached email and enclosures from Malachy Walsh and Partners Consultants on behalf of Wexford County Council in respect of above Foreshore Application.

The consultants have indicated that they have been in consultation with the IFI and have addressed the concerns.

Can you please confirm that you are satisfied with the proposed methodology, based on your request, as soon as possible.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher

Marine Planning & Foreshore Section

Department of Environment, Community & Local Government

Newtown Road
Wexford
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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 11:05
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Pat Parle; Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Martina,

Thank you for your email. I apologise for using the incorrect channels.

Please find attached our response to the IFI and our Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment carried out by ADCO Ltd.

I will call you later today just to discuss briefly.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

Eoin Lucey BE MEngSc CEng MIEI
Malachy Walsh and Partners
Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Park House, Mahon Technology Park,
Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251.

Tel: 021 4536400
Fax: 021-4536450
E: eoin.lucey@mwp.ie
W: www.mwp.ie

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:45
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Eoin

I refer to you below mail regarding the above Foreshore Application. As part of our consultation phase we requested the below information from your office and your client, Wexford County Council, on a number of occasions in 2015. The last correspondence rested with your client on 23 June 2015.

Please note that all your responses should have been directed through this Department as we are the consenting authority for Foreshore Applications.

You should now send the responses and report mentioned in your mail below to this section for our consideration.

The consultation phase cannot be completed until this information is furnished to us.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me at the below number.

Yours sincerely

Martina Gallagher
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:04
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Liz M O'Brien - (DECLG); Martina Gallagher - (DECLG); Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Eoin,

I no longer work in the Foreshore Unit. Please refer all future correspondence to LizM.O'Brien@environ.ie ; Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie ; matt.macloughlin@environ.ie

Regards,
Anthony

From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 20 January 2016 16:57
To: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Hello Anthony,

Have there been any updates in the progress of our Foreshore consent?

It is our understanding that the NMI and DAHG have been supplied with an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment Report undertaken by the Archaeological Diving Company Ltd. We have also been in consultation with the IFI in relation to their concerns which we have addressed with them.

Many thanks,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG) [<mailto:Anthony.Doran@environ.ie>]
Sent: 15 April 2015 10:23
To: Pat Parle; Eoin Lucey; postmaster@wexfordcoco.ie; planning@wexfordcoco.ie
Cc: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Dear Mr Parle,

I refer to the above application made on behalf of Wexford County Council and to my previous correspondence of the 5th November 2014 and subsequent reminder of the 23rd January 2015 (attached) seeking further information in the form of an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment and other specific clarifications made by Inland Fisheries Ireland, both of which must be addressed before your application for a Foreshore licence can be progressed.

It is noted by the Department that works for this application are proposed to commence in the summer of this year.

In order to progress this application in a timely manner and to have the appropriate Foreshore consent in place, could you please advise me as to the progress with the attached requests which have been resting with you since the 5th of November 2014.

Regards,

Anthony Doran
Marine Planning and Foreshore
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford

Tel: 0539117465



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Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvíorais chun víorais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE:

Re: DECLG file ref FS0006403 Application on behalf of Wexford Co. Council for maintenance dredging of the basin area within Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford.

Response to additional documentation submitted by applicant (22.3.2016), addressing IFI observations of 18.3.2016, via Ms. Martina Gallagher (DECLG).

IFI reviewed documentation re FS0006403 and made observations in corres. of 18.3.2016. Two particular issues were of concern to IFI:

1. Flow of Owenavarragh over the beach north of Courtown, if flow through the town is blocked off for dredging
2. Salvage of fish

The applicant has responded to the IFI observations on 22.3.2016 and the reply purports to address both issues.

For Item 1 the applicant states:

“2.2 Flow path of the River Owenavarragh and migratory routes for fish

The River Owenavarragh has two mouths. The original and natural mouth discharges into the sea over the beach North of Courtown. An offshoot canal was constructed that fed the river into the harbour and out the harbour mouth. Today the River predominantly discharges through the harbour however at certain times when discharge levels are high or when the beach levels are low or a combination of both the river also discharges over the beach. In order to facilitate free passage of fish fauna into and out of the river during the works it is being proposed to Place pipes with a total cross sectional area of 1.5m² to allow the free flow of water to and from the river. It is anticipated that the cross sectional area will be sufficient for fish to enter and leave the river.”

It is not explained where this pipe is to be located or how it is to be placed. Would this work be on the foreshore and be additional to the current foreshore licence – requiring a revised application? IFI requires a clear understanding on this issue of re-routing of the river and of free access for fish.

As stated previously, IFI requires free passage for all life stages of all relevant fish species at all times during the proposed works.

For Item 2 on fish salvage, it appears that the contractors propose to be responsible for handling/salvage of the fish and returning them to safe waters, under overall direction of IFI. If so then a method statement must be developed and agreed in writing with IFI Southeastern RBD (Clonmel office) covering detailed plan for rescue, salvage and transfer of fish. Copy of such agreement to be a condition of licencing.

IFI welcomes the overall thrust of this application in regard to working in the 'dry' and in regard to proposed recycling/ beneficial re-use of dredged material.
However, IFI must be satisfied in regard to the access issue for fish into/ out of the freshwater channel of the R. Owenavaragh at all stages of the proposed works.

James J. King, IFI and MLVC
Inland Fisheries Ireland
18.3.2016

CC Terry Mc Mahon MLVC;

Martina Gallagher

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Sent: 22 March 2016 10:39
To: 'Jimmy King'
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging
Attachments: 15193-Courtown Dredging-Project Methodology Outline-Response to IFI Queries-Rev C.PDF

Jimmy

In relation to your recent email requesting further information/clarification regarding the above Foreshore Application. Please see attached response from the applicant in respect of the FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging. They have included additional paragraphs on fish handling and the flow path of the Owenavorrhagh River.

May I please have your comments on this further information/clarification as soon as possible but no later than close of business on the 6 April 2016.

Regards

Martina
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Jimmy King [mailto:Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie]
Sent: 18 March 2016 08:30
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Terry McMahon
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Martina,

PI see note attached re above. I consider that there are significant issues to be addressed before a foreshore licence can be granted here.

Jimmy King

Dr. James King
Senior Research Officer

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)1 8842600

Mob +353 (0) 87 6468608

Fax +353 (0)1 8360060

Email jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie

Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, IRELAND.

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]

Sent: 01 March 2016 14:52

To: Jimmy King

Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Hi Jimmy

Just a reminder that your views are awaited by us in respect of the above application. As outlined below, can you please confirm if you are satisfied with the proposed methodology for the dredging works furnished by the applicant's consultants?

Regards

Martina

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)

Sent: 22 February 2016 12:33

To: 'Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie'

Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Jimmy

Please see the attached email and enclosures from Malachy Walsh and Partners Consultants on behalf of Wexford County Council in respect of above Foreshore Application.

The consultants have indicated that they have been in consultation with the IFI and have addressed the concerns.

Can you please confirm that you are satisfied with the proposed methodology, based on your request, as soon as possible.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford

Y35 AP90

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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 11:05
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Pat Parle; Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Martina,

Thank you for your email. I apologise for using the incorrect channels.

Please find attached our response to the IFI and our Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment carried out by ADCO Ltd.

I will call you later today just to discuss briefly.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

Eoin Lucey BE MEngSc CEng MIEI
Malachy Walsh and Partners
Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Park House, Mahon Technology Park,
Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251.

Tel: 021 4536400
Fax: 021-4536450
E: eoin.lucey@mwp.ie
W: www.mwp.ie

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:45
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Eoin

I refer to you below mail regarding the above Foreshore Application. As part of our consultation phase we requested the below information from your office and your client, Wexford County Council, on a number of occasions in 2015. The last correspondence rested with your client on 23 June 2015.

Please note that all your responses should have been directed through this Department as we are the consenting authority for Foreshore Applications.

You should now send the responses and report mentioned in your mail below to this section for our consideration.

The consultation phase cannot be completed until this information is furnished to us.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me at the below number.

Yours sincerely

Martina Gallagher
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:04
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Liz M O'Brien - (DECLG); Martina Gallagher - (DECLG); Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Eoin,

I no longer work in the Foreshore Unit. Please refer all future correspondence to LizM.O'Brien@environ.ie ; Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie ; matt.macloughlin@environ.ie

Regards,
Anthony

From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 20 January 2016 16:57
To: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Hello Anthony,

Have there been any updates in the progress of our Foreshore consent?

It is our understanding that the NMI and DAHG have been supplied with an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment Report undertaken by the Archaeological Diving Company Ltd. We have also been in consultation with the IFI in relation to their concerns which we have addressed with them.

Many thanks,
Eoin Lucey

For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG) [<mailto:Anthony.Doran@environ.ie>]
Sent: 15 April 2015 10:23
To: Pat Parle; Eoin Lucey; postmaster@wexfordcoco.ie; planning@wexfordcoco.ie
Cc: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Dear Mr Paryle,

I refer to the above application made on behalf of Wexford County Council and to my previous correspondence of the 5th November 2014 and subsequent reminder of the 23rd January 2015 (attached) seeking further information in the form of an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment and other specific clarifications made by Inland Fisheries Ireland, both of which must be addressed before your application for a Foreshore licence can be progressed.

It is noted by the Department that works for this application are proposed to commence in the summer of this year.

In order to progress this application in a timely manner and to have the appropriate Foreshore consent in place, could you please advise me as to the progress with the attached requests which have been resting with you since the 5th of November 2014.

Regards,

Anthony Doran
Marine Planning and Foreshore
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford

Tel: 0539117465



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Martina Gallagher

From: Eoin Lucey <Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>
Sent: 21 March 2016 15:44
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Pat Parle
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging
Attachments: 15193-Courtown Dredging-Project Methodology Outline-Response to IFI Queries-Rev C.pdf; RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging; 2016.03.18 IFI-comment on documents of 2.2016_3.16.docx

Hello Martina,

Thank you for sending on those further comments.

We accept the comments of the Department of Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht with regards to the Archaeological requirements. These will be met during the works. A method statement with the archaeological licence application will propose a scaled model for the archaeological monitoring to be agreed as part of the licensing process in consultation with the Underwater Archaeology Unit.

Please see attached our response to further comments from the IFI. We hope that they will be to the satisfaction of the IFI.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]
Sent: 18 March 2016 09:47
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging [Filed 21 Mar 2016 12:28]

Eoin

I refer to the above application made on behalf of Wexford County Council and to my previous correspondence of the 11 February 2016.

Please see the attached email dated 10 March 2016 from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht which have further recommendations of the Underwater Archaeology Unit (UAU). Inland Fisheries Ireland are seeking further clarifications on the above application, response dated 18 March 2016 attached, both of which must be addressed before your application for a Foreshore licence can be progressed.

It is noted by the Department that works for this application are proposed to commence in late autumn 2016.

In order to progress this application in a timely manner and to have the appropriate Foreshore consent in place, could you please advise me as to the progress with the attached requests within two weeks of the date of this email.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 17 February 2016 08:57
To: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Cc: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG); John Lambe; Pat Parle
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging

Hello again Mathew,

Related to a separate foreshore application in Courtown, Co. Wexford (FS006403), is there anything further required from us at this stage?

Am I correct in saying the Foreshore Licence will be granted based on the conditions set out in the attachments to last Thursdays email?

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]
Sent: 11 February 2016 17:47
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour Basin Maintenance Dredging [Filed 11 Feb 2016 17:53]

Eoin

Please find attached covering letter and consolidated Prescribed Bodies Consultation's observations and recommendations for the above application for your attention.

Regards

Martina
Martina Gallagher

Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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Malachy Walsh and Partners

Engineering and Environmental Consultants

Cork | Tralee | Limerick | London



**Project Methodology Outline –
Response to IFI Queries**

Project: Courtown Harbour Dredging

Client: Wexford County Council

**Project No.: 15193
Document No.: 6008-B
Date: 06/01/2016**

PROJECT TITLE: Courtown Harbour Dredging

DOCUMENT TITLE: Project Methodology Outline – Response to IFI Queries

DOCUMENT No.: 15193-6008-B

CLIENT: Wexford County Council

PROJECT LOCATION: Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford.

Rev	Date	Issue Description			By	Checked	Approved
A	18/11/2015	Issued for Information			EL	PP	PP
B	06/01/2016	Issued for Information			EL	PP	PP
C	21/03/2016	Issued for Information			EL	PP	PP
This Document Comprises of:		DCS	TOC	Text	Tables	Figures	Appendices

DOCUMENT ISSUED FOR:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Entire Document Issued this Revision	<input type="checkbox"/>	In-House Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tender
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revised Pages Only Issued this Revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Client Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Final Issue

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1.0 Introduction

This document has been prepared in response to queries presented by Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to the application by Wexford County Council for a foreshore licence to carry out maintenance dredging works within Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford. It outlines the Project Methodology and includes proposed methods of handling fish fauna.

It is proposed to conduct the dredging of Courtown harbour primarily in the dry. This will have a number of advantages in terms of the project programme and in the minimising of potential environmental impact due to the works.

Drying of the harbour will be achieved by blocking the harbour channel with sand and dewatering the basin. Blocking of the channel is occasionally conducted by the Harbour Authority to protect the basin area from the ingress of wave action during storms and in the past it has been used to undertake dredging of the basin and works to the harbour walls.

This document includes a written description of the methodology and is accompanied by descriptive drawing (15193-5005) identifying locations of proposed activities.

2.0 Outline Methodology

1. The Owenavorrhagh River offshoot is to be blocked at junction between it and the original river way. This blockage point is shown as "Owenavorrhagh River Barrier No.1" on the accompanying drawing. The temporary barrier is to be constructed of one tonne sand bags wrapped with PVC liner.
2. An agreed flow will be allowed through the barrier. This flow will be provided by means of over-pumping. This flow will prevent the water behind "Owenavorrhagh River Barrier No.2" from becoming stagnant and will allow fish fauna to survive behind the barrier during the dredging works. All pump suction heads will be fitted with suitable fish screen to prevent entrance by fish fauna into the pump system.
3. A second barrier will be constructed at entrance of the Owenavorrhagh offshoot to the Harbour basin. This blockage point is shown as Owenavorrhagh River Barrier No. 2". Barrier No. 2 will be constructed similarly to Barrier No.1. Barrier No.2 will fully seal the harbour from the Owenavorrhagh river waters. A second pumping operation will be set up in front of Barrier No.2. It will be set to pump when the river reaches an agreed level behind the barrier. Similarly, this pump will be fitted with a fish screen to protect fish within the offshoot.
4. The pumps will be routinely inspected and maintained for the duration of the works to ensure constant flow of fresh water into the off-shoot.
5. Measures will be put in place to secure the river from the public for the duration of the works. The concerns of the IFI are understood in relation to members of the public taking fish from this section. This element will be included in the contract.
6. A contingency plan will be developed by the contractor for situations where the barrier to the harbour overflows to rescue any fish that overflow. This will include a water level alert system to notify the contractor that water levels are approaching the top level of the barrier. This will allow the contractor to take action to reduce water levels behind the barrier. A sump will be constructed on the harbour side of the barrier. This will be of sufficient size to capture overflowing fish and allow for manual extraction.
7. A 5x50m sump will be excavated at the location shown at the entrance of south westerly stream to the harbour basin. The sump will be used as a point for fish trapped in the harbour to migrate to during the drying out process. From here they can be extracted. The sump level is to be 0.2m below the proposed dredge level of -2.8mODM. The side slopes of the sump will have a gradient of 1:2 on all sides.

8. A third pumping point will be set up within the sump for the duration of the works. The sump will be used to over pump incoming stream water out of the harbour. This pump will be fitted with a fish screen to protect fish within the sump.
9. A 5m x 15m sump will be excavated on the Southern boundary of the harbour. This area has the lowest bed level in the harbour. It will be excavated to a depth of -3.5mODM. The side slopes of the sump will have a gradient of 1:2 on all sides. The sump will be used a recovery location for fish trapped in the harbour to be removed during the dewatering process. A permanent pump will be located at this location for any additional dewatering required during the works.
10. It is a possibility that low point pockets may collect fish within them. If this occurs fish will be extract immediately from these locations.
11. Once the harbour is prepared as described above, the harbour mouth will be blocked with a barrier constructed of sand excavated at the mouth.
12. The contractor is to liaise with the IFI on the pump start date and to facilitate the IFI in the removal of fish.
13. Once agreed with the IFI the pumping operations will then commence to dry out the harbour.
14. When the harbour has dried out sufficiently and all fish are safely removed in line an agreed methodology the dredging operations will commence.
15. Dredging operations are expected to take 6-8 weeks.
16. Dredge spoil will be moved to the south western corner of the harbour within reach of a long reach excavator.
17. It is proposed to use bulldozers to move dredge spoil to the south western corner of the harbour within reach of a long reach excavator positioned on the quayside. The spoil will be piled up in this area. It is then proposed to create a containing boundary around the spoil using large bulk bags filled with dredge spoil to contain the dredge spoil within a small area for removal into trucks for transport to the land disposal site.
18. With the harbour dewatered it will be possible to inspect the structural soundness of the existing harbour quay walls. Repairs will be carried out as required during this period.
19. Once this temporary storage area is constructed and the material placed in this area the harbour channel sand embankment and the northern stream blockade can be removed allowing water back into the harbour and use of the harbour to resume. Removal of the dredge spoil can be conducted using a long reach excavator from the quayside adjacent the spoil build up area. Once the loose spoil is removed the bags will be lifted from the harbour and the material inside disposed of similarly.

2.1 Fish Fauna Handling

Trapped or stranded fish are to be 'handled' or 'processed' with a view to moving them to safety in the following manner:

- Fish are to be collected either by hand or by knotless fishing nets as directed by IFI personnel;
- When collected by hand or when taken from a net by hand, personnel are to use wet towels or wet hands;
- Fish fauna are to be stored in containers containing locally sourced water. Sea or fresh as directed by the IFI. The volume of the containers will be fish box size or otherwise agreed with the IFI. The duration of storage before releasing the fish into the sea is to be agreed with the IFI;
- Fish fauna are to be released into the sea with care. The box can be placed in the sea with the water surface above the top of the box, allowing fish to swim free;
- Handling is to be carried out by the contractor under the contract and under the supervision of the IFI.

2.2 Flow path of the River Owenavarragh and migratory routes for fish

The River Owenavarragh has two mouths. The original and natural mouth discharges into the sea over the beach North of Courtown. An offshoot canal was constructed that fed the river into the harbour and out the harbour mouth. Today the River predominantly discharges through the harbour however at certain times when discharge levels are high or when the beach levels are low or a combination of both the river also discharges over the beach.

In order to facilitate free passage of fish fauna into and out of the river during the works it is being proposed to Place pipes with a total cross sectional area of 1.5m² to allow the free flow of water to and from the river. It is anticipated that the cross sectional area will be sufficient for fish to enter and leave the river.

3.0 Drawing

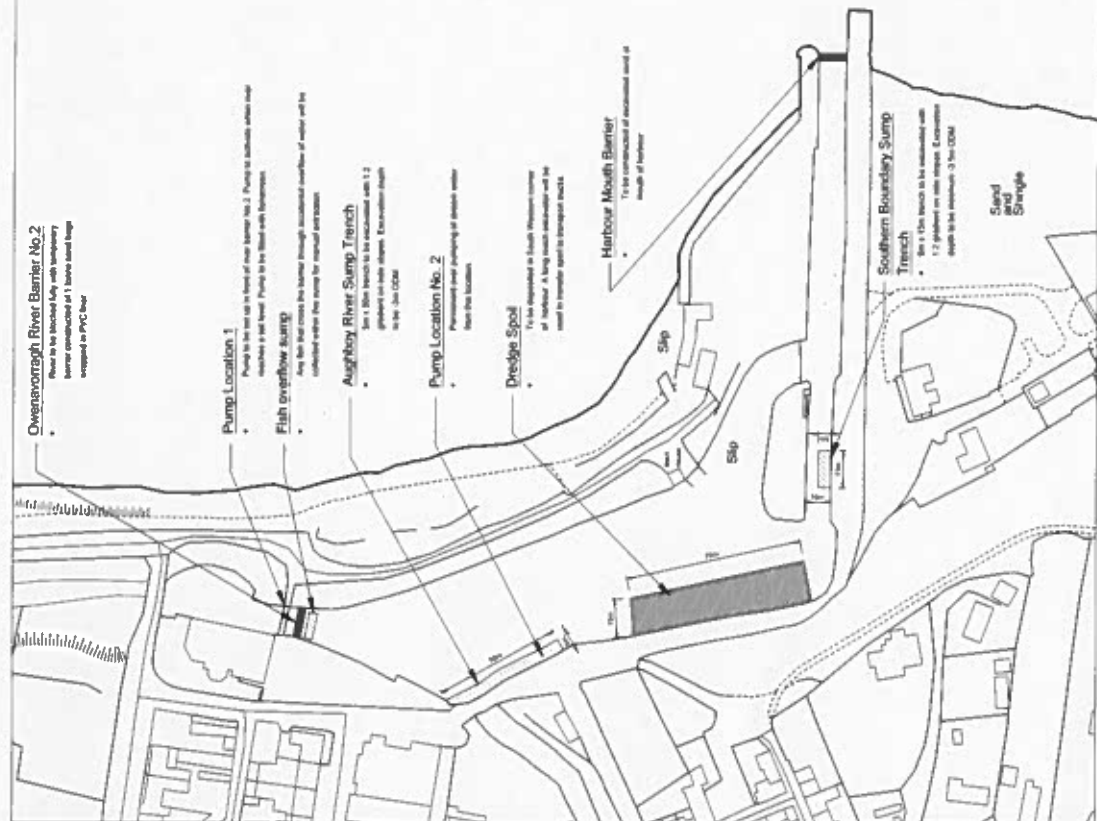
Dwg 15193-5005-B attached.

**Dredging and Handling of Fish Fauna
Outline Methodology**

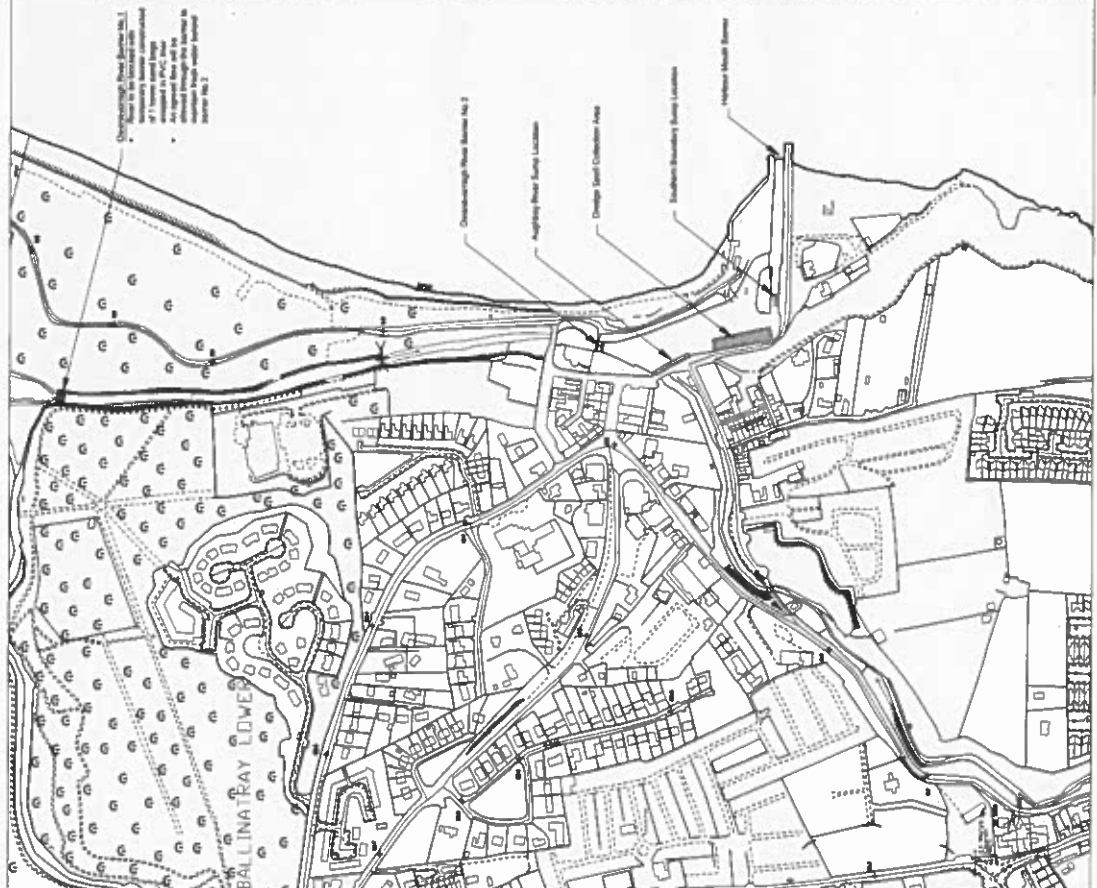
1. The Owenavonagh River effluent is to be treated at Barrier Location No. 1 as shown. The temporary barrier is to be constructed at 11 metres and topped with PVC liner. An 800mm diameter pipe is to be installed through the barrier to provide the water level barrier No. 2 from the barrier during the summer months.
2. Barrier No. 2 is to be constructed at the location as shown. The barrier is to be constructed with a 100mm diameter pipe and topped with PVC liner.
3. Pumping operations are to be set up to Pump of Barrier No. 2. The pump is to be set up to pump water from the barrier to the treatment plant.
4. A facility is to be constructed at the location as shown to receive water from the barrier. The pump is to be set up to pump water from the barrier to the facility.
5. The water is to be pumped to the facility and the water is to be treated at the facility.
6. The barrier is to be removed and the water is to be pumped to the treatment plant.
7. The barrier is to be removed and the water is to be pumped to the treatment plant.
8. The barrier is to be removed and the water is to be pumped to the treatment plant.
9. The barrier is to be removed and the water is to be pumped to the treatment plant.
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13. The barrier is to be removed and the water is to be pumped to the treatment plant.
14. The barrier is to be removed and the water is to be pumped to the treatment plant.
15. All barriers are to be removed and the water is to be pumped to the treatment plant.

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3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
7	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
10	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
11	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
12	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
13	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
14	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
15	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Project: Owenavonagh River
 Client: Malachy Walsh and Partners
 Date: 15/03/2005
 Scale: 1:500
 Drawing No: 15/03-5005-B
 Author: [Name]
 Check: [Name]
 Date: [Date]
 Scale: 1:500
 Drawing No: 15/03-5005-B



Plan Outline - Harbour Area
Scale: 1:500



Plan Outline - Harbour to Owenavonagh River
Scale: 1:500

Martina Gallagher

From: Jimmy King <Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: 18 March 2016 08:30
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Terry McMahon
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging
Attachments: IFI- comment on documents of 2.2016_3.16.docx

Martina,

Pl see note attached re above. I consider that there are significant issues to be addressed before a foreshore licence can be granted here.

Jimmy King

Dr. James King
Senior Research Officer

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)1 8842600

Mob +353 (0) 87 6468608

Fax +353 (0)1 8360060

Email jimmy.king@fisheriesireland.ie

Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, IRELAND.

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie]
Sent: 01 March 2016 14:52
To: Jimmy King
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Hi Jimmy

Just a reminder that your views are awaited by us in respect of the above application. As outlined below, can you please confirm if you are satisfied with the proposed methodology for the dredging works furnished by the applicant's consultants?

Regards

Martina

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Sent: 22 February 2016 12:33
To: 'Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie'
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Jimmy

Please see the attached email and enclosures from Malachy Walsh and Partners Consultants on behalf of Wexford County Council in respect of above Foreshore Application.

The consultants have indicated that they have been in consultation with the IFI and have addressed the concerns.

Can you please confirm that you are satisfied with the proposed methodology, based on your request, as soon as possible.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

☎ 0539117367



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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 11:05
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Pat Parle; Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Martina,

Thank you for your email. I apologise for using the incorrect channels.

Please find attached our response to the IFI and our Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment carried out by ADCO Ltd.

I will call you later today just to discuss briefly.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

Eoin Lucey BE MEngSc CEng MIEI
Malachy Walsh and Partners
Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Park House, Mahon Technology Park,
Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251.

Tel: 021 4536400

Fax: 021-4536450
E: eoin.lucey@mwp.ie
W: www.mwp.ie

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:45
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintainence dredging (#15193)

Eoin

I refer to you below mail regarding the above Foreshore Application. As part of our consultation phase we requested the below information from your office and your client, Wexford County Council, on a number of occasions in 2015. The last correspondence rested with your client on 23 June 2015.

Please note that all your responses should have been directed through this Department as we are the consenting authority for Foreshore Applications.

You should now send the responses and report mentioned in your mail below to this section for our consideration.

The consultation phase cannot be completed until this information is furnished to us.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me at the below number.

Yours sincerely

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Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:04
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Liz M O'Brien - (DECLG); Martina Gallagher - (DECLG); Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintainence dredging (#15193)

Eoin,

I no longer work in the Foreshore Unit. Please refer all future correspondence to LizM.O'Brien@environ.ie ; Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie ; matt.macloughlin@environ.ie

Regards,
Anthony

From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 20 January 2016 16:57
To: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Hello Anthony,

Have there been any updates in the progress of our Foreshore consent?

It is our understanding that the NMI and DAHG have been supplied with an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment Report undertaken by the Archaeological Diving Company Ltd. We have also been in consultation with the IFI in relation to their concerns which we have addressed with them.

Many thanks,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG) [<mailto:Anthony.Doran@environ.ie>]
Sent: 15 April 2015 10:23
To: Pat Parle; Eoin Lucey; postmaster@wexfordcoco.ie; planning@wexfordcoco.ie
Cc: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Dear Mr Parle,

I refer to the above application made on behalf of Wexford County Council and to my previous correspondence of the 5th November 2014 and subsequent reminder of the 23rd January 2015 (attached) seeking further information in the form of an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment and other specific clarifications made by Inland Fisheries Ireland, both of which must be addressed before your application for a Foreshore licence can be progressed.

It is noted by the Department that works for this application are proposed to commence in the summer of this year.

In order to progress this application in a timely manner and to have the appropriate Foreshore consent in place, could you please advise me as to the progress with the attached requests which have been resting with you since the 5th of November 2014.

Regards,

Anthony Doran
Marine Planning and Foreshore
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford

Tel: 0539117465



Comhshool, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

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MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE:

Re: DECLG file ref FS0006403 Application on behalf of Wexford Co. Council for maintenance dredging of the basin area within Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford.

Response to additional documentation submitted by applicant, addressing IFI initial observations of 3.11.14, via Ms. Martina Gallagher (DECLG) dated 22.2.2016

This most recent documentation is a continuation of correspondence that commenced in 2014.

The underlying proposals to dredge Courtown harbour "in the dry" and to remove the dredge spoil for land fill or for beneficial re-use remain positive.

The documentation provides a detailed account of measures to dewater Courttown Harbour in preparation for dredging while at the same time allowing for removal of fish that may become trapped in the dewatering.

Issues:

1. Flow path of the R. Owenavarragh and migratory routes for fish:

An underlying problem in this situation is the outfall from the River Owenavarragh. Maps and aerial imagery (current and historical to 1800s) available on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland website show a major channel running essentially south from the R. Owenavarragh into Courtown Harbour. The river is also shown as having a course continuing in a north-easterly direction from the major channel take-off but this channel is not shown as discharging to the sea.

This creates a real problem as it would appear that the majority of the flow of the R. Owenavarragh, at present, discharges via the harbour at Courtown. Blocking of this channel, as proposed in the dredging plan, assumes (IFI is surmising here) that the bulk of the Owenavarragh flow will now run in the north-easterly channel and discharge over the beach area into the sea to the north of Courtown.

The river hosts a series of migratory fish species, in addition to resident species. The migratory species include Atlantic salmon, sea trout, river lamprey and eel. The various life stages of these species move up- or down the Owenavarragh and any works programme must cater for this requirement of free passage at all times for all life stages. This can only be assured if it is a certainty that the flow in the river, after installation of Barrier Number 1, will follow the course on the maps and discharge to the sea over the beach area. This beach area may not contain a recognisable channel and fish may have problems of stranding etc. at times of low flow or low tides. This issue was raised previously by IFI in correspondence relating to this application. It remains of major significance and does not appear to have been addressed by the applicant.

2. Isolation of the harbour area for dredging:

In a situation where the issues contained in Item 1 above were resolved to the satisfaction of IFI then the proposals of the applicant in regard to isolation of the harbour area and approach to dredging are broadly sound and acceptable to IFI, in generality.

The proposals in regard to sumps have been drawn up with personnel from IFI's Southeastern River Basin District and this liaison is welcomed.

3. Harbour works additional to dredging:

The current document from the applicant indicates that inspection of quay walls, and necessary repairs etc. would be undertaken when the harbour is dewatered. This is a sound proposal. No mitigations are proposed, in context of use of cements and grouts etc. and applicant should develop and agree such contingency mitigations with IFI Southeastern RBD as part of this application process.

4. Fish issues:

Apart from the key issue of the retention of migratory passage for fish, fish exposure to the works proposal is identified by the applicant at a number of places and mitigation measures are proposed. These include:

- Overpumping of water in the channel lying between river barrier no. 1 and no. 2.
- Excavation of sumps in strategic locations in the harbour

These measures are positive.

However, it is not identified how trapped or stranded fish are to be 'handled' or 'processed' with a view to moving them to safety. This could be an ongoing / intermittent/ demanding on time and resources / low staffing requirement. It is not possible to estimate the elements of mandays, gear and costs that may arise from fish transfer. Equally, it is not identified what party would undertake this. This would require to be addressed clearly in context of foreshore licence.

I believe these issues must be clarified fully prior to granting of foreshore licence.

James J. King, IFI and MLVC
Inland Fisheries Ireland
18.3.2016

CC Terry Mc Mahon MLVC;

Martina Gallagher

From: Foreshore EPA Marine
Sent: 10 March 2016 09:13
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: foreshore
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

Re: Proposed maintenance dredging at Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford.

A Chara

On behalf of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I refer to the above.

Outlined below please find the Underwater Archaeology & Nature Conservation observations.

Having considered the submitted Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) Report, the following are the further recommendations of the Underwater Archaeology Unit (UAU):

Archaeological recording and monitoring:

1. Wexford County Council shall engage the services of a suitably qualified underwater archaeologist to carry out the archaeological monitoring, under licence to this Department.
2. The monitoring can be on an agreed scaled basis, with full monitoring to begin with and then, based on what the nature and extent of the material being removed is, it can be scaled back accordingly.
3. The UAU agrees with the recommendation made in the UAIA Report for archaeological recording of the quay structure. This can be by way of photographic and descriptive survey carried out by the underwater archaeologist during the course of the monitoring.
4. No impact shall take place to the quay structures, and measures to ensure this (e.g. by way of a buffer zone) shall be implemented to ensure there is no damage to the quays during the course of the dredging works.
5. A finds retrieval strategy to focus on the areas that retain the deepest silts to form part of the monitoring methodology, which may include assessing the dredge spoil in advance of it being dumped. This can be done on a percentage basis if amounts of spoil being removed prove to be of high quantities and again, can then be on an agreed scaled basis depending on the results from the finds retrieval strategy.

Where archaeological material/features are shown to be present, this Department may make further archaeological recommendations. This may include preservation *in situ* (avoidance), preservation by record (archaeological excavation) or archaeological monitoring.

The submitted method statement with the licence application can propose a scaled model for the archaeological monitoring to be agreed as part of the licencing process. The Underwater Archaeology Unit shall be on hand to discuss this and agree on the proposed monitoring brief.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either *in situ* or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

Mise le meas,

Simon Dolan
Development Applications Unit
Department of Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht
Newtown Road
Wexford

tel: 0539117377



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*
*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Sent: 01 March 2016 14:56
To: Foreshore EPA Marine
Cc: Simon Dolan - (DAHG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Simon

Just a reminder that your views on the below report are awaited in respect of the Foreshore Application for the Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging.

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Sent: 22 February 2016 14:05
To: Foreshore EPA Marine
Cc: Simon Dolan - (DAHG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Simon

Further to your email of 5 November 2014 requesting that a detailed Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) be carried out in advance of the licence/permit being granted in respect of the above Foreshore Application.

The consultants have indicated that they have been in consultation with DAHG on this matter.

Can you please confirm that you are satisfied with the proposed report as soon as possible.

Regards

Martina

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Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 11:05
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Pat Parle; Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Martina,

Thank you for your email. I apologise for using the incorrect channels.

Please find attached our response to the IFI and our Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment carried out by ADCO Ltd.

I will call you later today just to discuss briefly.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

Eoin Lucey BE MEngSc CEng MIEI
Malachy Walsh and Partners
Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Park House, Mahon Technology Park,
Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251.

Tel: 021 4536400
Fax: 021-4536450
E: eoin.lucey@mwp.ie
W: www.mwp.ie

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:45
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Eoin

I refer to you below mail regarding the above Foreshore Application. As part of our consultation phase we requested the below information from your office and your client, Wexford County Council, on a number of occasions in 2015. The last correspondence rested with your client on 23 June 2015.

Please note that all your responses should have been directed through this Department as we are the consenting authority for Foreshore Applications.

You should now send the responses and report mentioned in your mail below to this section for our consideration.

The consultation phase cannot be completed until this information is furnished to us.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me at the below number.

Yours sincerely

Martina Gallagher
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

☎ 0539117367



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From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:04
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Liz M O'Brien - (DECLG); Martina Gallagher - (DECLG); Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Eoin,

I no longer work in the Foreshore Unit. Please refer all future correspondence to LizM.O'Brien@environ.ie ; Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie ; matt.macloughlin@environ.ie

Regards,
Anthony

From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 20 January 2016 16:57
To: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Hello Anthony,

Have there been any updates in the progress of our Foreshore consent?

It is our understanding that the NMI and DAHG have been supplied with an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment Report undertaken by the Archaeological Diving Company Ltd. We have also been in consultation with the IFI in relation to their concerns which we have addressed with them.

Many thanks,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG) [<mailto:Anthony.Doran@environ.ie>]
Sent: 15 April 2015 10:23
To: Pat Parle; Eoin Lucey; postmaster@wexfordcoco.ie; planning@wexfordcoco.ie
Cc: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging

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It is noted by the Department that works for this application are proposed to commence in the summer of this year.

In order to progress this application in a timely manner and to have the appropriate Foreshore consent in place, could you please advise me as to the progress with the attached requests which have been resting with you since the 5th of November 2014.

Regards,

Anthony Doran
Marine Planning and Foreshore
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford

Tel: 0539117465



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
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Registered Office: Park House, Mahon Technology Park Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, Ireland.
Registered in Ireland. No. 133445
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Martina Gallagher

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Sent: 22 February 2016 14:05
To: Foreshore EPA Marine
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Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)
Attachments: ADCO_Courtown Basin_15D0047.pdf

Simon

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Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
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Regards,

Anthony Doran
Marine Planning and Foreshore

Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
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Tel: 0539117465



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.....



**COURTOWN HARBOUR BASIN DREDGING
BALLINTRAY LOWER, CO. WEXFORD
UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT
15D0047, 15R0055**

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIVING COMPANY LTD.

**COURTOWN HARBOUR BASIN DREDGING
BALLINTRAY LOWER, CO. WEXFORD
UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT
15D0047, 15R0055**

14 October 2015

Project Director

Dr. Niall Brady

Brehon House, Kilkenny Road, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

info@adco-ie.com

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIVING COMPANY LTD.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADCO	The Archaeological Diving Company Ltd
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
E	Easting
MWP	Malachy Walsh and Partners
N	Northing
NGR	National Grid Reference
OPW	Office of Public Works
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeological Diving Company Ltd (ADCO) was appointed by Malachy Walsh and Partners, Civil Engineers to Wexford County Council, to undertake an underwater archaeological impact assessment of Courtown Harbour Basin, as part of a pre-development requirement for a dredging proposal of the Basin area.

The proposed area for dredging is located in the lagoon within the harbour basin at Courtown, and extends to approximately 200m North/South x 50-100m East/West in size. Water depths are on average 2-2.5m deep but in places reach 3.3m deep.

Archaeological assessment has reviewed available data sources, including Ordnance Survey maps, Admiralty Charts, the National Museum of Ireland's topographical files, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Sites and Monuments Record and History Shipwreck and related archives. The study area retains features associated with the construction of the harbour by the renowned 19th-century engineer Alexander Nimmo.

The harbour basin is fed by two channels; a canalized stream enters from the north and another stream enters from the west. The basin was dredged in the 1980s when the harbour was drained. The seabed today is silted up but retains some evidence of the 1980s' dredging. Silt accumulating in the northern half of the basin includes red-brick and ceramic debris, and this is thought to be deposited from the outflow of the incoming river channels. The central and southern part of the basin has a clean sandy bottom that is in places scoured by the movement of fishing vessels. Bedrock outcrops at the very southwestern part of the basin. The bedrock retains clear evidence of being cut into or quarried to facilitate Nimmo's design. The Quay which is part of Nimmo's design is built from stone blocks that are recessed somewhat from the rock outcrop, which in turn acts as a lintel to the stonework above.

The remnants of Nimmo's harbour works remain of interest and all impacts with these elements should be avoided during dredging works.

There are no known archaeological features observed exposed on the basin sediments examined.

There is no archaeological reason why the development proposal should not proceed.

All impacts, direct and indirect, should be avoided with the quay island that is at the heart of the 19th-century harbour design. Consideration should be given to erecting a fenceline close the base of the quayside to ensure protection against impacts.

When the basin is drained for the current dredging proposal, the opportunity should be taken to record archaeologically the fabric of the historic quay walls that will be exposed down to their lintels.

Subject to the approval of the National Monuments Section at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, there are no further archaeological mitigations considered necessary for this project.

Recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Section at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

The Archaeological Diving Company Ltd (ADCO) was appointed by Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP), consulting engineers to Wexford County Council, to undertake an underwater archaeological impact assessment associated with dredging proposals within Courtown Harbour basin, in Ballintray Lower townland, Co. Wexford.

Site work was carried out on 29th May 2015, under licence from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 15D0047, 15R0055.

The assessment sets out the existing information from an archaeological perspective by considering the natural topography of the study area and the known and potential archaeological features within the study area. It assesses the proposed impacts arising from the dredging works being considered, and makes recommendations for archaeological mitigations associated with the project.

1.2 Location

The proposed works area is located in the lagoon within the harbour basin at Courtown (Table 1, Figures 1-2). The lagoon is linear in shape and aligned North-South, measuring approximately 200m long by 50-100m wide.

Reference	Easting ING	Northing
North point	320021	156264
Centre point	320042	156177
South point	320100	136099

Table 1: Coordinates that define the survey area at Courtown. Coordinates in Irish National Grid.

The lagoon is enveloped in quay walling, with a substantial quay island on the south side that separates the main basin area from a canal that gives access to the sea. The basin is shallow water, where depths are on average 2-2.5m but in places reach 3.3m deep OS Malin (Figure 3).

2.0 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT¹

The area proposed for dredging occupies 1.026ha. It extends from the north end of the basin to the quay island. It does not extend into the canal used to gain access to the sea. The dredge depths will be shallow (Figure 4). It is proposed to dredge to a design depth of -2.8m ODM. In the northern half of the lagoon, this will require the dredging of up to 1.2m deep of material. In the southern half of the lagoon, this will require the dredging of between 20cm and 70cm of material.

3.0 SOURCES

The following sources were examined to inform the project from existing desktop information: Ordnance Survey maps; National Museum of Ireland's topographical files; and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Sites and Monuments Record and History Shipwreck and related archives. The results are presented in section 8, Gazetteer, and are discussed in section 4. There are no known features or objects of archaeological interest associated with the harbour basin, apart from the harbour itself.

4.0 THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Courtown Harbour is an artificial creation resulting from works begun in the first half of the 19th century, when the engineer, Alexander Nimmo, was commissioned to design an appropriate harbour. The project took longer to complete than expected and the design was adapted over time.² In effect, however, Nimmo's vision has been maintained.

While considered an appropriate location for a harbour, seabed levels were habitually shallow, and a sandbar close inshore presented additional navigational obstacles. Nimmo's solution was to design an artificial lagoon or basin inside an outer breakwater. The lagoon would be fed by the two local rivers. A canal was constructed from the Owenvorragh River to the north of the harbour to bring the waters south. The water levels inside the lagoon would be controlled to ensure a build-up of water that could be released through sluice gates on an ebb tide and so flush out the basin area, thereby maintaining water depth for shipping to berth inside the lagoon.

¹ Details provided by MWP.

² Noel Wilkins, *Alexander Nimmo Master Engineer 1783-1832. Public works and civil surveys*, Irish Academic Press, 2009, pp 254-257.

The ambition was partly successful, and infilling has remained a challenge to the present day. Various works on the seaward side have been pursued to enhance the scouring action of the outflowing waters. These have included extending a pier out from the sluice gates. Early efforts have washed away and a modern concrete construction appears to continue this ambition (Plate 1).

The Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition 6-inch map of 1841 provides a record of the progress made some 15 years after construction had begun (Figure 5). There is little to indicate formal quayside construction, but the elements that become faced with stonework are clearly present. The canal from the Owenvorragh River is constructed, leading water into the basin from the north, while the outlet for the Glen Aoibhinn river entering from the west is also defined. The linear shape of the basin is shown with a confidence that suggests a formal construction, while the south side of the basin includes an island that was a key element in Nimmo's design. The island funnels the headwaters from the basin seawards, and a series of sluice gates are recorded across the narrow channel that leads from the basin.

Later editions of the Ordnance Survey maps show the formalization of these essential elements, as well as the construction of more buildings around the harbour (Figure 6). A sluice controls water flow from the Glen Aoibhinn river. The island becomes a formal quay. The sluice gates to the sea are no longer positioned within the long channel but appear to have been replaced by formal lock gates on the island quay. A barrier wall was built across the basin on the east side of the island, curtailing access to the navigation channel at this point. This might have helped to focus the ebb waters along a single route seaward, and may have assisted the scouring effect of the waters to maintain the approach channel.

5.0 SITE INSPECTION

5.1 Methodology

The harbour area and the harbour basin were inspected visually, and photographs were taken to support a written account. A hand-held underwater metal-detector was used while diving the basin to assess the potential of the basin silts to retain material of archaeological interest. Dive-work was carried out in shallow water during Low Water on 29th May 2015. Niall Brady and Rex Bangerter carried out the dive work supported by Cameron Brady as dive-tender.

5.2 Observations, harbour area

The spit of land indicated on the seaward side of the harbour has been progressively reclaimed and armoured, to become a sturdy embankment against the open sea (Plate 2). It remains largely open for pedestrian and light vehicular access, except at its southern part, where the Lifeboat station has become a small complex of buildings. Two elements of quay furniture decorate the embankment; one being a large brass propeller, the other an Admiralty anchor (Plates 3-4). Neither retains labels of provenance.

Three further elements of quay furniture exist on the west side of the basin, on the angle of the road junction where a small green is developed. A second and smaller Admiralty anchor is displayed (Plate 5). There is also a stone bollard lying recumbent, and an atmospheric pressure gauge that is housed within a small timber structure. A memorial stone displayed on one side of the structure records its donation to the RNLI station at Courtown in 1926 by the local fishermen.

None of these features are recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) but represent artefacts of local interest and of direct relevance to the maritime heritage of Courtown.

The harbour is for the most part lined with a stone-built façade. There are several modern additions. In the northeast sector of the basin, a reinforced concrete facing extends for a distance of 15-20m and is extruded from the former quayside (Plate 6). It serves to widen the area that is today a car park but which was recorded as an area of 'Mooring Posts' on the 25-inch OS map (Figure 6). The former stone-built quay wall that continued north from this small-scale reclamation is evident but its uppermost levels close to the reclaimed piece are built in concrete, suggesting some level of repair work.

The footbridge that crosses the harbour basin at the north end of the proposed dredge area is a single-span modern construction (Plate 7). A footbridge is indicated here on the 25-inch OS map but it is likely that the current structure is a modern replacement. To its north, the western side has been reclaimed and developed (Plate 8), and one can see a clear termination of the older stone-work and the recent building.

A modern concrete lintel is added to the base of harbour walls on both its east and west sides throughout the northern half of the basin (Plates 9-10).

The seaward terminus to the harbour has been subject to modern works (Plate 11). Two reinforced concrete extensions lengthen the en-quayed portion. Both elements are weathered, with cracking concrete on the terminus of the north pier revealing a series of steel piles that inhabit its core. Steel shuttering provides a rugged façade to both extensions, while rock armouring is added to the toe of the south pier.

These modern embellishments aside, Courtown Harbour retains good stonework that is a testimony to the skill of its Victorian-period builders. Much of the harbour walls are well-built and tall. A pair of stone steps provide access to the water level on the west side, while a slipway provides access from the RNLI station on the west side. It is however the island on the south side of the harbour that is of greatest interest. It is indicated as a natural feature on the 1841 OS map, but later maps show it as a formal quay and refer to it as such.

The Tara View Hotel has a series of photographs displayed in one of its bars that show the harbour drained for dredging works in 1981, and this provides a useful benchmark from which to describe the harbour (Plates 12-14).

5.3 Observations, harbour basin

The results of the assessment completed in 2015 are summarized on Figures 7 and 8 (the plates referred to on Figure 8 are presented in Plate 15). The seabed today is silted up but can be divided into two distinct areas. The northern half of the basin is covered in a coarse silt, with river cobbles forming a dominant surface at the narrow north end, and sands and gravels included more generally in the middle section. This appears to result from a natural gradation in material that is associated with the outflow from the Owenvorragh River to the north, where a constant flow creates little opportunity for siltation until the basin widens in the middle section, and flow dissipates. A second force acting in the middle section is the inflow from the Glen Aoibhinn river, entering from the west. Among the finer sand and silt in the middle section are fragments of ceramic (modern in date) and also metal debris. These are considered to be present as a result of discharge from both river channels. To the north of the Glen Aoibhinn river, it was possible to observe cut marks in the silt, which are determined to be dredge scars from the 1980s' open-cut dredging. The ceramic and modern material lies on top of such scars, indicating the more recent date of deposition. Such material can therefore be considered to be quite mobile and to have been deposited within the basin since the 1980s.

The second area within the basin is the central and southern sections. Here there is less evidence of debris, apart from abandoned tyres. The seabed has an otherwise clean sandy bottom that is in places scoured by the movement of fishing vessels, exposing a sterile clay. The presence of the tyres reflects abandoned fenders used by boats. Bedrock outcrops at the very southwestern part of the basin (Plate 15.4853). The bedrock retains clear evidence of being cut into or quarried to facilitate Nimmo's design. The presence of the bedrock both limits the depth of potential future dredging, and is part of a wider artefact that is associated with the harbour's principal construction. The Quay which is part of Nimmo's design is built from stone blocks that are recessed somewhat from the rock outcrop, which in turn acts as a lintel to the stonework above. These details deserve recording, and should be surveyed in fuller detail archaeologically when the opportunity to do so is presented by the proposed draining of the basin for the new dredging campaign.

6.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The design depth for dredging at -2.8m ODM requires deeper dredging in the northern half of the basin than in the south. 1.2m deep of material is to be removed from the northern half, while between 20cm and 70cm of material will be removed in the southern half, on the north side of the Quay island (Figure 4).

The impact from dredging will remove the siltation in the northern half, where small debris has accumulated. The dredging will also remove the loose sand that has accumulated in the southern half

Bedrock should be avoided.

7.0 MITIGATION PROPOSALS

There is no archaeological reason why the development proposal should not proceed.

7.1 Pre-construction Measures

None.

7.2 Construction Phase Measures

AVOIDANCE. All impacts, direct and indirect, should be avoided with the quay island that is at the heart of the 19th-century harbour design. Consideration should be given to erecting a fence line close to the base of the quayside to ensure protection against impacts. Should avoidance of impacts not be possible, all impacts on and around the quay island and associated features would require a reasoned justification to be made to the DAHG, and would be subject to the Department's consideration. It is likely that such impacts, if permitted, would require archaeological monitoring, with the proviso to record fully all impacts that may occur.

RECORDING OF HISTORIC QUAYSIDE. When the basin is drained for the current dredging proposal, the opportunity should be taken to record archaeologically the fabric of the historic quay walls that will be exposed down to their lintels. Such recording would aim to produce metrically accurate scaled records of the stone fabric and its construction techniques, and would be achieved using a combination of photogrammetry and Total Station measurements. Such work should be done by qualified and experienced maritime archaeologists.

Subject to the approval of the National Monuments Section at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, there are no further archaeological mitigations considered necessary for this project.

PLEASE NOTE: All of the above observations and conclusions are based on the archaeological information and information supplied for the Courtown Harbour dredging project. Should any alteration occur, further assessment would be required.

PLEASE NOTE: Recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Section at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

8.0 GAZETTEER OF KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND FEATURES

8.1 Artefacts/isolated finds

Source: National Museum of Ireland topographical files

There are no artefacts or features of archaeological interest recorded in the Topographical Files associated with the harbour basin at Courtown. The nearest objects are generally provenanced to Courtown only.

Reg No	Findplace	Townland	Type	Distance to development
RSAI 291	Courtown	Courtown	Ceramic Urn fragment, may also be provenanced to Piltown, Co. Westmeath	unknown
2014:171, IA/38/2008	Courtown	Courtown	Human mandible, given to the NMI by the State Pathologist's office as part of a larger collection of human remains from across Ireland	unknown

8.2 Monuments/structures

Source: Sites and Monuments Record files

There are no sites or features of archaeological interest recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record files associated with the harbour basin at Courtown. The nearest recorded archaeological monument is a fragment of a High Cross located in 1.1km NW in Ballinrath Lower townland, WX12-006.

8.3 Recorded Shipwreck sites

Source: Historic Shipwreck Inventory

There are no recorded shipwreck sites recorded in the Historic Shipwreck Inventory associated with the harbour basin at Courtown. There are however two sites provenanced generally to Courtown, but their locations cannot be refined further.

Name	Location	Observations	Distance to development
<i>Idalia</i>	at Courtown	A ship <i>en route</i> from New Orleans to Liverpool was on 13/01/1873	unknown
<i>Ullswater</i>	at Courtown	A ship carrying general cargo that wrecked on 13/01/1868	unknown

8.4 Known Shipwreck sites

Source: Historic Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland, detail recorded in the Littoral Archaeology Project database, 2008.

See also <http://www.infomar.ie/data/ShipwrecksMap.php>

There are no known shipwreck sites recorded in the Historic Shipwreck Inventory associated with the harbour basin at Courtown. The nearest known shipwreck lies 18km east of the harbour, and is the wreck of the South Arklow light ship, which was lost after being sunk by a German submarine on 28/03/21917, and lies in 50m of water.

8.5 Licensed excavations/interventions

Source: Excavations Bulletin. <http://www.excavations.ie/>

There has been no licensed archaeological intervention work associated with the harbour basin at Courtown. The nearest licensed work has been an intertidal survey on the north beach, extending north of the harbour (04D115). That work did not reveal any material of archaeological interest.

Reg No	Easting	Northing	Observations	Distance to development
98E0341	319500	154499	Inspection of engineering test-trenches and pits along the proposed route of the Courtown Drainage Scheme. No archaeological inclusions were noted	1.7km South of development
98E0341 ext	304791	121651	Monitoring of specified groundworks associated with the Courtown-Riverchapel Main Drainage Scheme. No archaeological material was encountered.	80m West of development
00E0952	319152	158170	Monitoring of groundworks associated with the Courtown-Riverchapel Main Drainage Scheme. Topsoil-stripping at the wastewater treatment plant site revealed a number of discrete areas of burning. One feature was a pit, cut into the natural, sandy subsoil. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from this layer, and it is possible that the feature represents a disturbed cremation pit.	2km Northeast of development
98E0341 ext.	319901	156270	Monitoring of groundworks recovered a number of flint artefacts and some flint waste.	80m West of development
04D115	319948	156280	The north beach between Courtown Harbour and Duffcarrick Rocks was surveyed at low tide. Nothing of archaeological interest was recorded	70m East of development

8.6 Architectural heritage

Source: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of Ireland,
<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>

Reg No	Easting	Northing	Type	Distance to development
15611015	320035	156349	Single-arch road bridge over canal, built 1841-74; extant 1904. Semi-coursed random rubble stone walls with dressed granite string-courses supporting parapets having squared granite coping. Single round or segmental arch with dressed granite voussoirs, and red brick(?) soffits. Sited spanning canal to north end of harbour basin with unkempt banks to canal. Recognised as an integral component of the 19th-century civil engineering legacy of Courtown.	50m North of development
15611016	320045	156165	Courtown Harbour. An artificial harbour recognised as a particularly important component of the 19th-century maritime architectural legacy of coastal Co. Wexford. Description pending.	Within
15611018	320143	156124	Courtown Lifeboat station. Detached single-bay (three-bay deep) double-height gable-fronted lifeboat house, built 1911.	4m West of development
15611019	320006	156192	Cast iron water hydrant. Seamount td	13m North of development



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Notes
 Source: OSI Discovery Series Mapping

Title
 Figure 1- Extract from OS mapping showing location of Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford.

Client
 Malachy Walsh & Partners/ Wexford County Council

A4

Project
 Courtown Harbour Archaeological Assessment

Job/Exc No.
 15D00xx

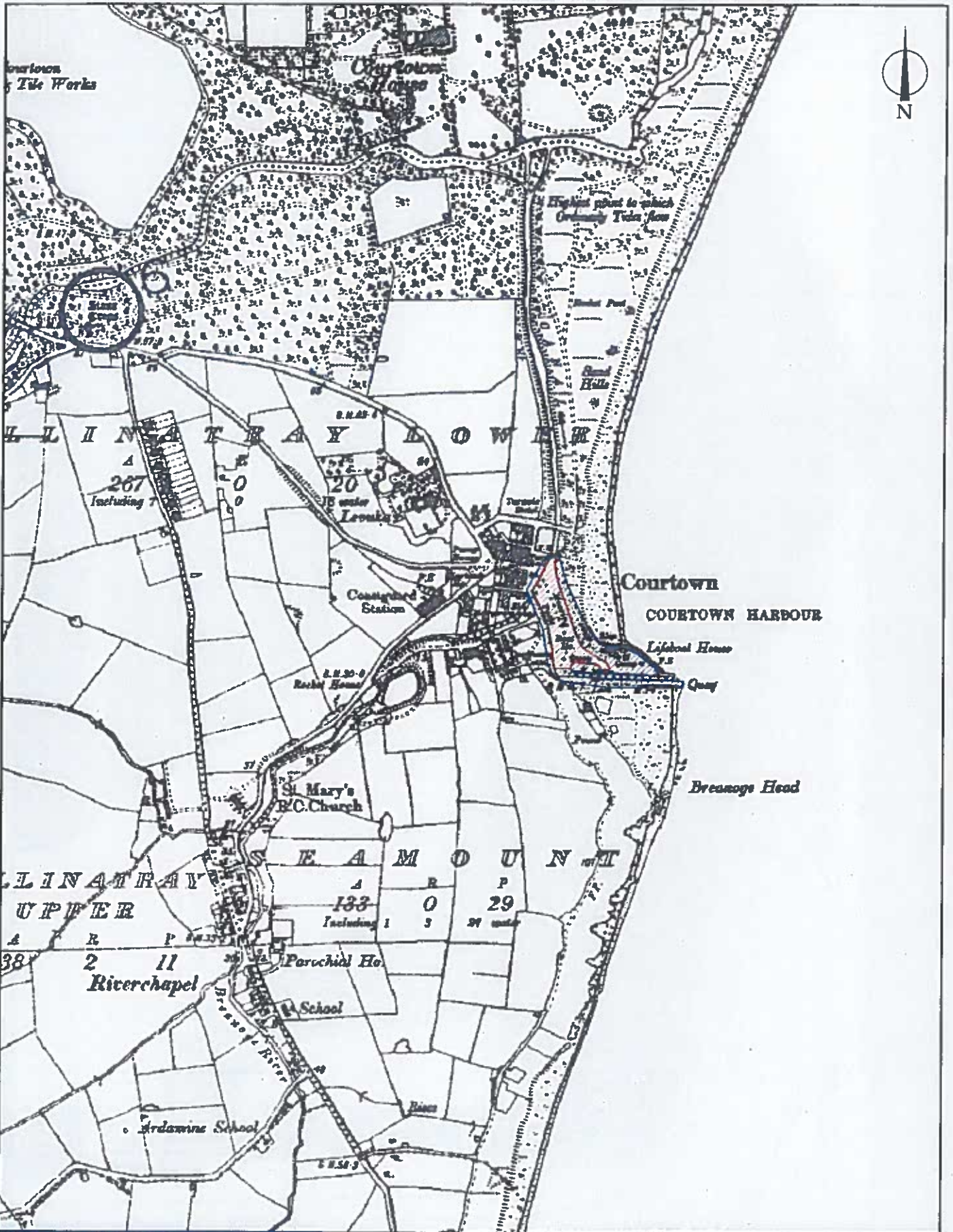
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CAD reference
 Courtown

Date
 09.08.15

Scale
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Drawing No.
 Figure 1



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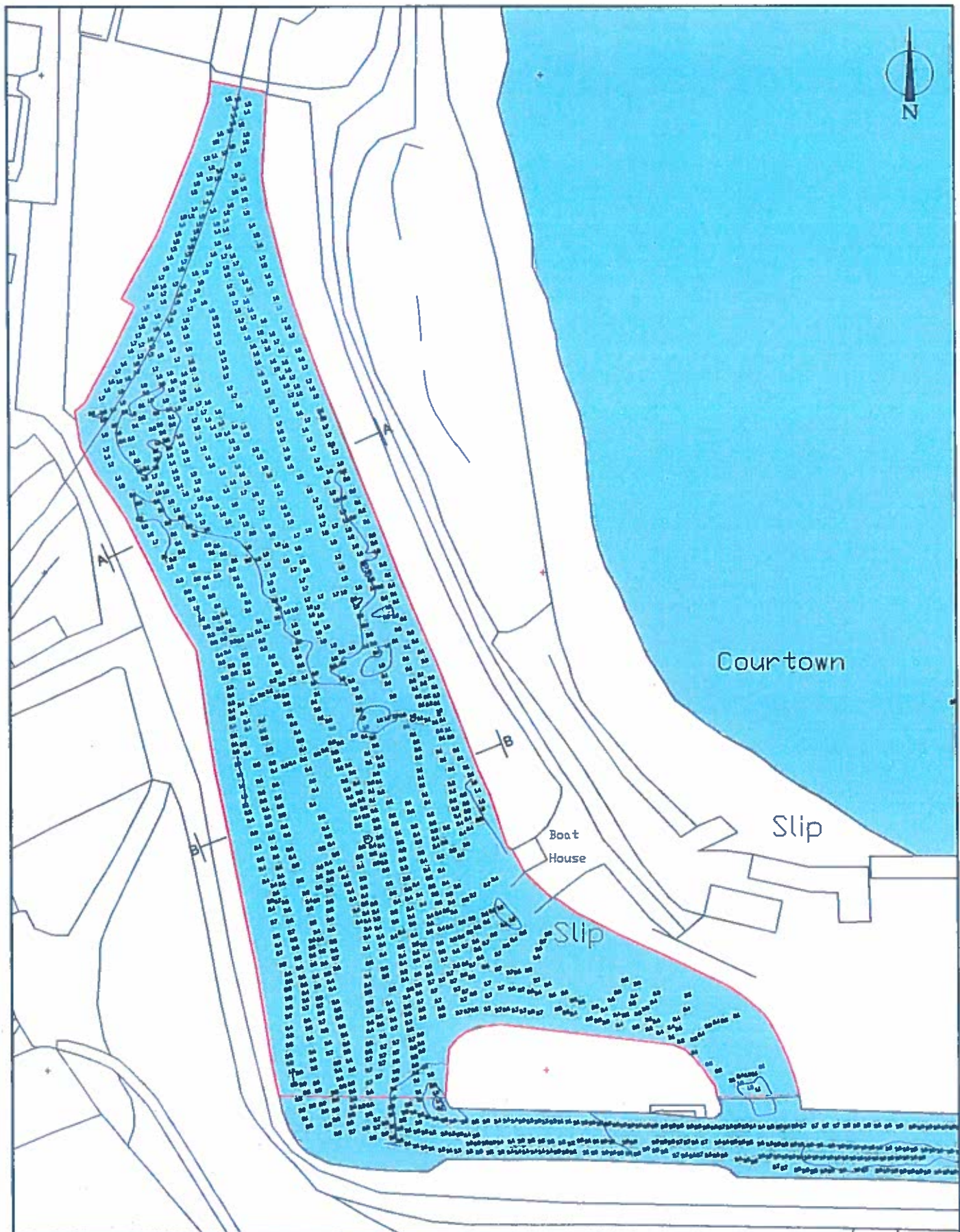
Client
 Malachy Walsh & Partners/ Wexford County Council

Notes
 Source: RMP Archaeological Mapping, Wexford Sheet: 012

- Proposed Dredge Area
- Extent of ADCO Underwater Survey and harbour side field-walking

Title
 Figure 2- Extract from RMP Archaeological Mapping showing Courtown Harbour with extent of proposed dredging and ADCO Survey Area superimposed.

Project Courtown Harbour Basin Dredging	Job/Exc No. 15D0047	Compiled by R.Bangerter	CAD reference Courtown	Date 09.06.15	Scale 1:30,000	Drawing No. Figure 2
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Notes
 Source: Figure adapted from Project Drawing.
 (Hydrographic data gathered by Hydrographic Surveys Ltd.)
 — Proposed Dredge Area

Title
 Figure 3- Project Drawing showing proposed dredge area and hydrographic survey data [see Figure 4 for cross-section A-A & B-B].

Client
 Malachy Walsh & Partners/ Wexford County Council

A4

Project
 Courtown Harbour Basin Dredging

Job/Exc No.
 15D0047

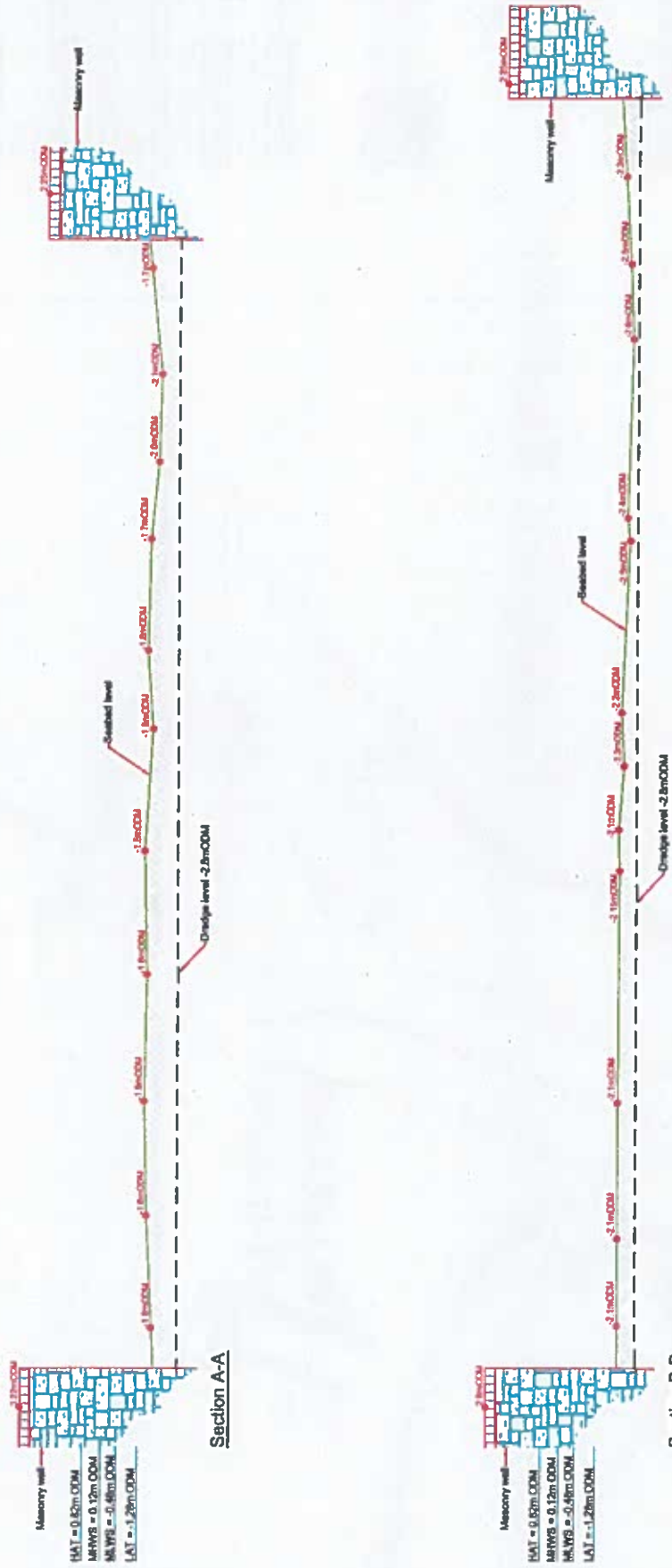
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 R.Bangertor

CAD reference
 Courtown

Date
 09.06.15

Scale
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Drawing No.
 Figure 3



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Notes
 Source: Melachy Walsh & Partners Ltd.

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Date
08.08.15

Scale
1:250

CAD reference
Courtown

Drawing No.
Figure 4

Client
Melachy Walsh & Partners/ Westford Co. Council

Project
Courtown Harbour Beach Dredging

Title
Figure 4- Project drawing showing existing bed level and proposed dredge profiles across Courtown Harbour (see Figure 3 for section locations).

ITM CENTRE PT COORDS
720006.656204

DESCRIPTION

MAP SHEETS

6 inchBIE1
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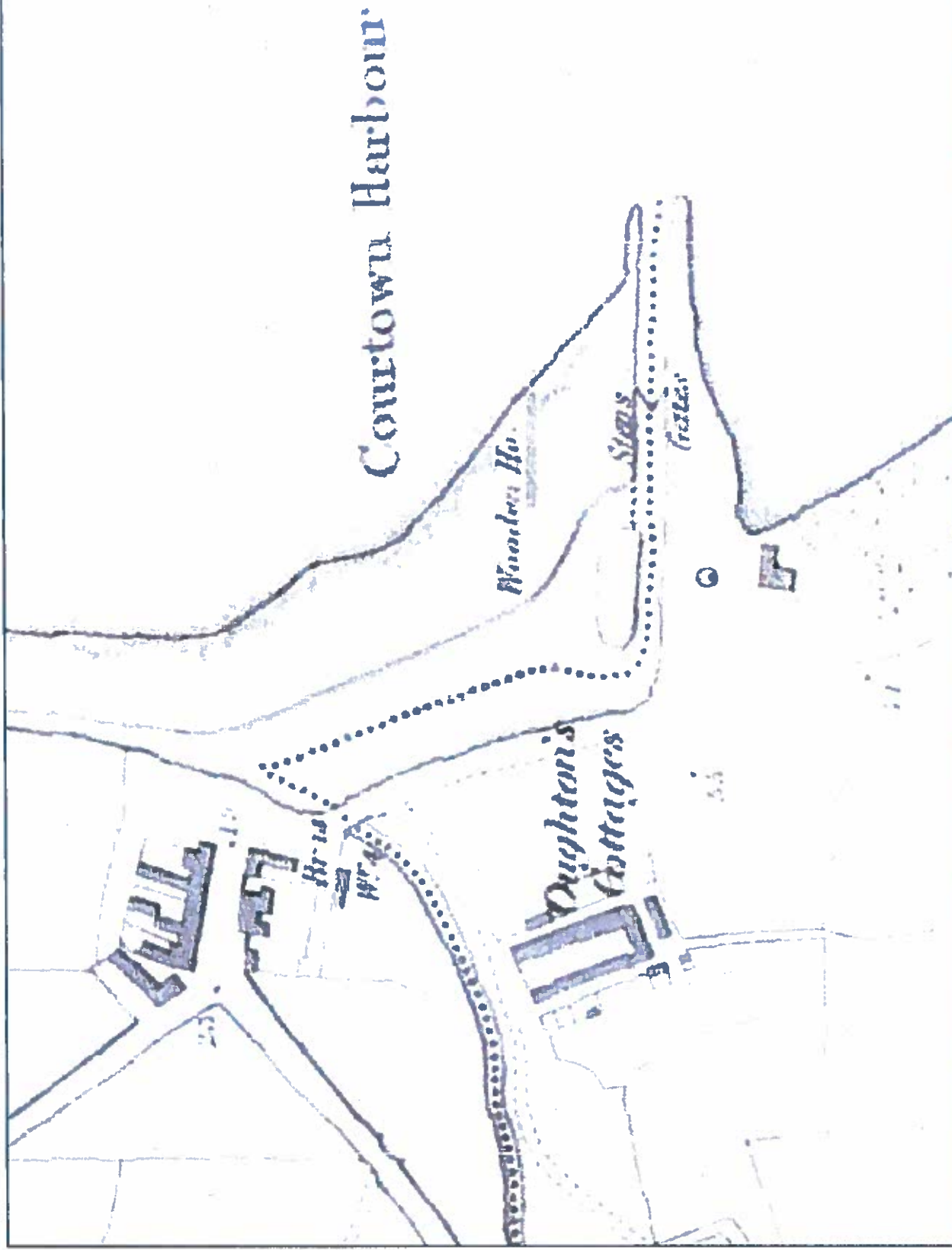
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DESCRIPTION

MAP SHEETS

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WX012-06 WX012-07



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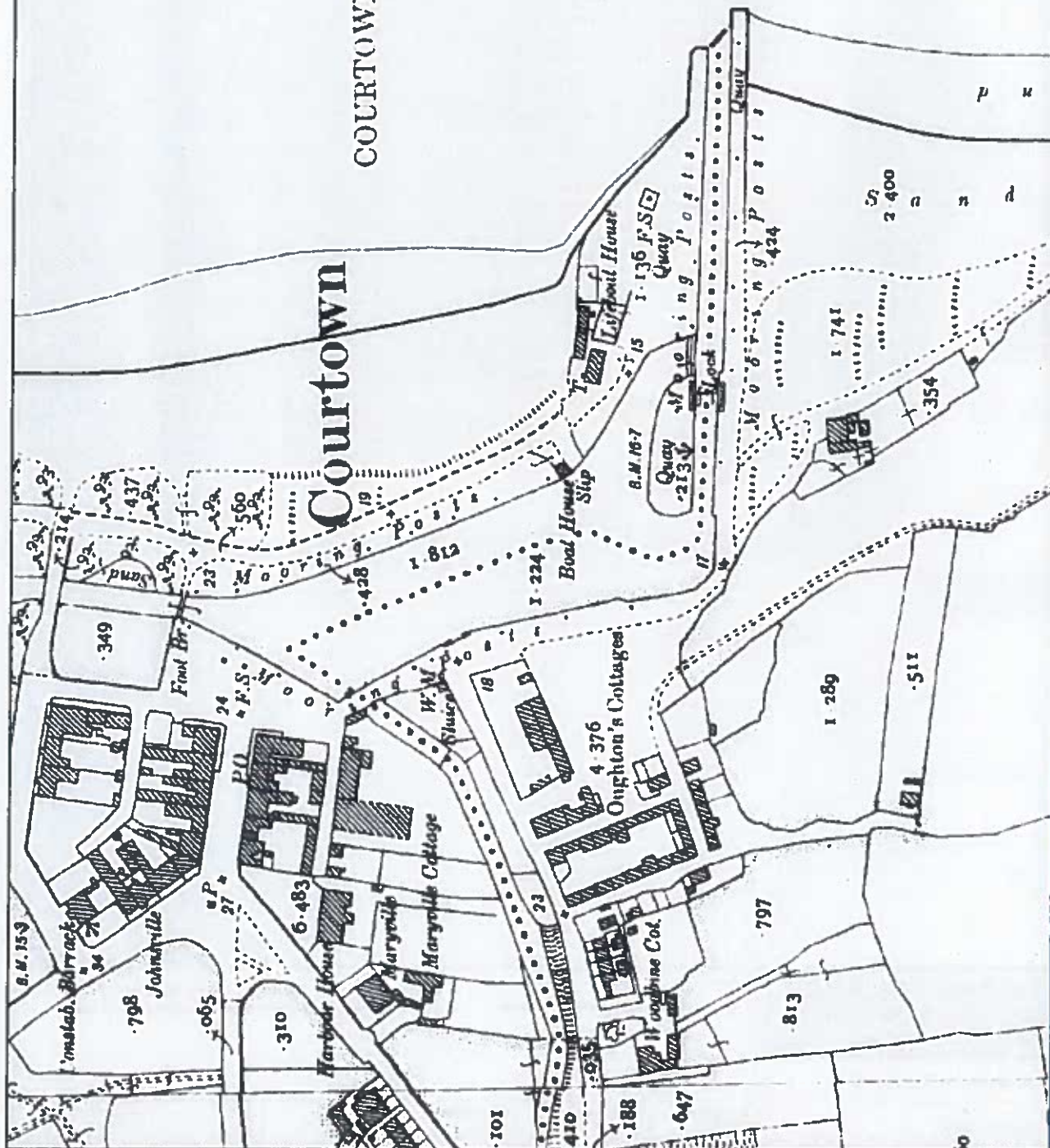
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COURTOWN HARBOUR



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1500047

Date
09.08.15

Scale
1:2500

Compiled by
R. Bangerter

Scale
1:2500

CAD reference
Courtown

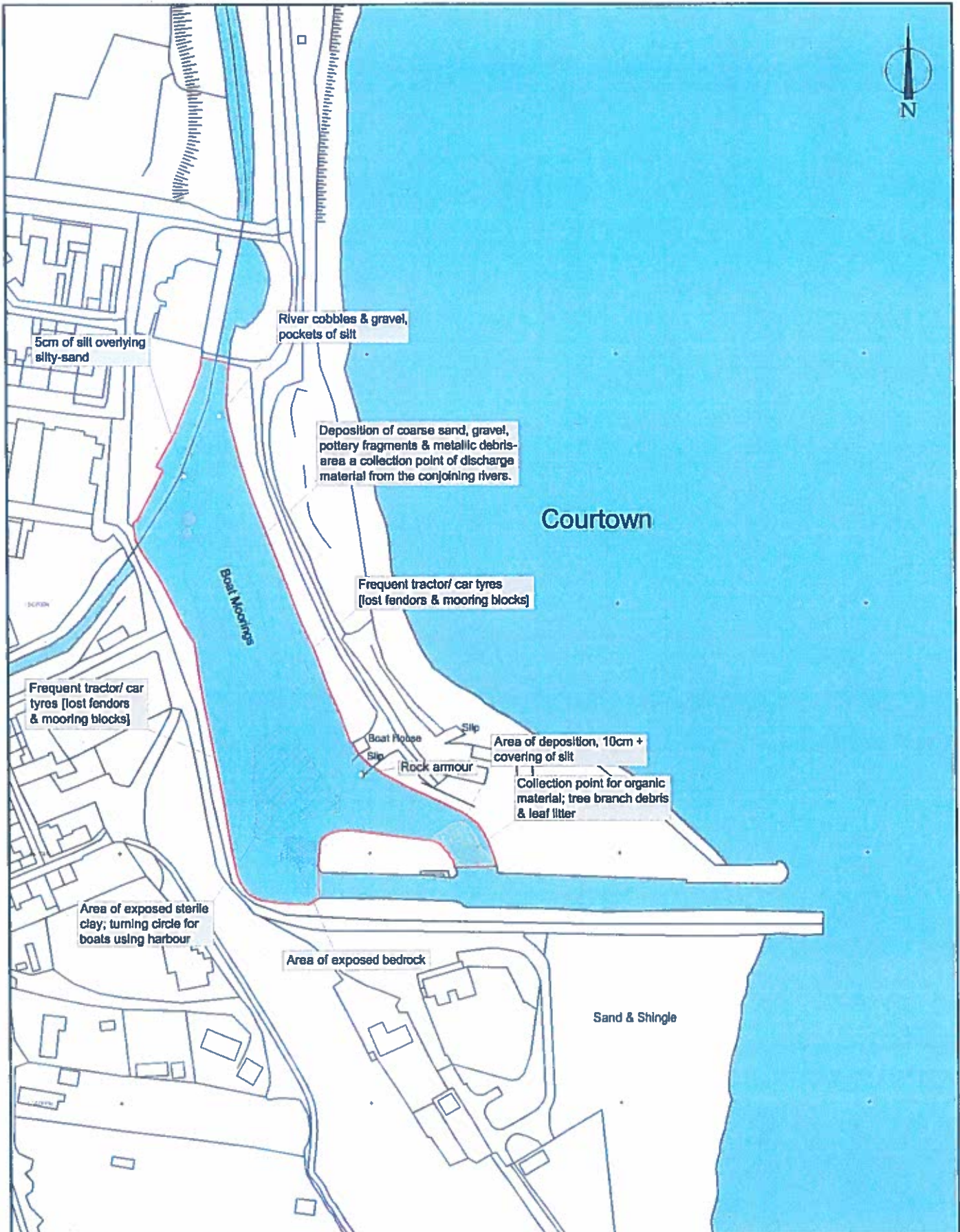
Drawing No.
Figure 6

Client
Malachy Walsh & Partners/Woodford Co. Council

Project
Courtown Harbour Basin Dredging

Title
Figure 6 - Extract from First Edition (1940) OS
Map depicting Courtown Harbour in the mid-
twentieth century.

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Client
 Malechy Walsh & Partners/ Wexford County Council

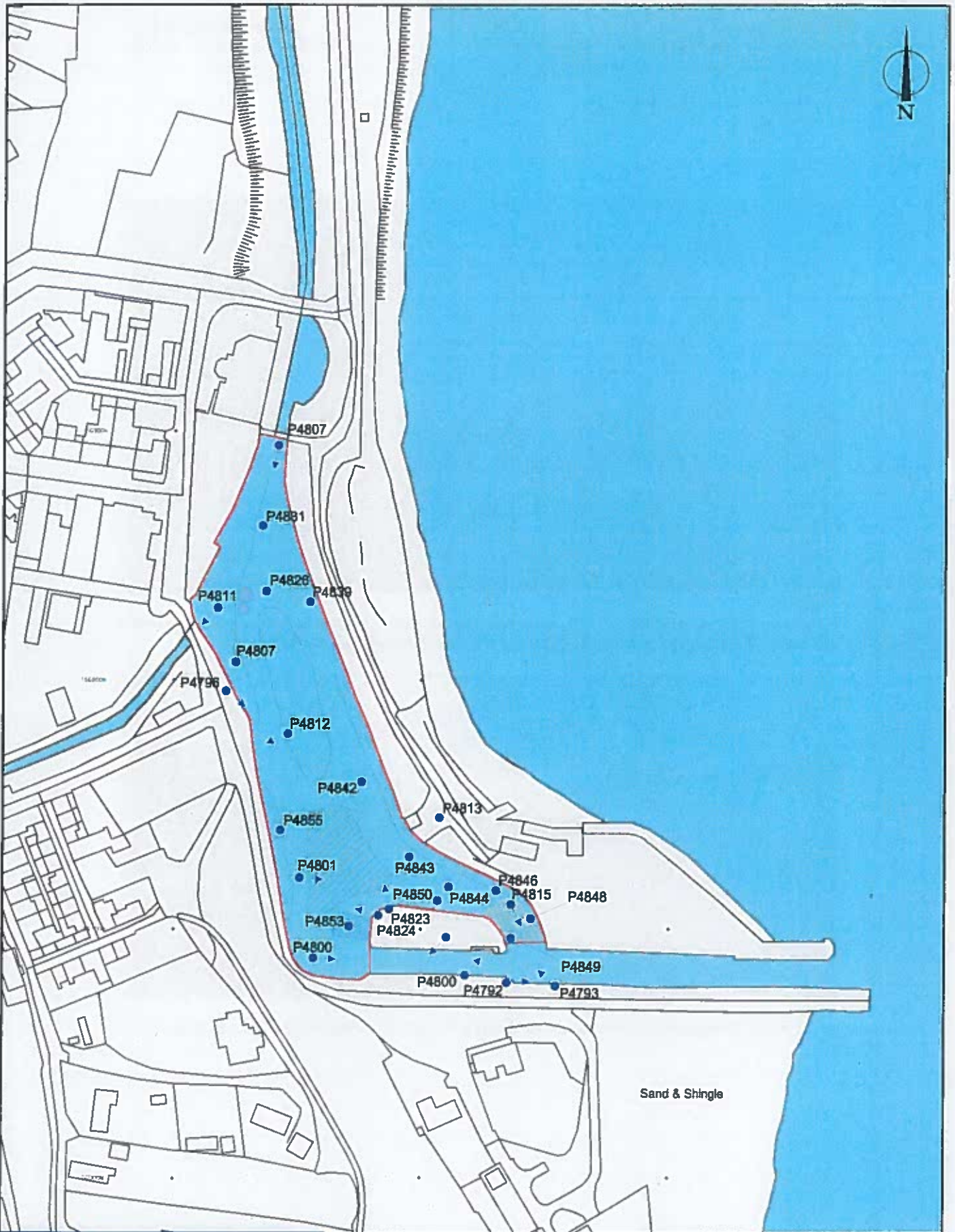
Project
 Courtown Harbour Basin Dredging

Notes
 Source: Figure adapted from Project Drawing.
 — Extent of Underwater Survey Area
 Dredge Scars

Job/Exc. No. 15D0047
 Compiled by R. Bangerter
 CAD reference Courtown

Title
 Figure 7- Project Drawing with extent of ADCO Survey Area and observations superimposed.

Date 09.08.15
 Scale 1:2000
 Drawing No. Figure 7



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Client
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Project
 Courtown Harbour Basin Dredging

Notes
 Source: Figure adapted from Project Drawing.
 — Extent of Underwater Survey Area
 ● Plate Location/ Direction

Job/Exc No. 15D0047
 Compiled by R.Bangert
 CAD reference Courtown

Title
 Figure 7- Project Drawing with Plate locations superimposed.

Date 09.06.15
 Scale 1:2000
 Drawing No. Figure 7

A4



Plate 1: Aerial view of Courtown Harbour taken in the 1980s, showing the canalised nature of the channel connecting the harbour basin to the sea. Source: Tara View Hotel.



Plate 2: View looking south along spit of reclaimed land that forms the eastern side of the basin.



Plate 3: Brass propeller mounted as quayside furniture on the east side of the basin.



Plate 4: Admiralty anchor mounted as quayside furniture on the east side of the basin.



Plate 5: Admiralty anchor mounted as quayside furniture on the west side of the basin.

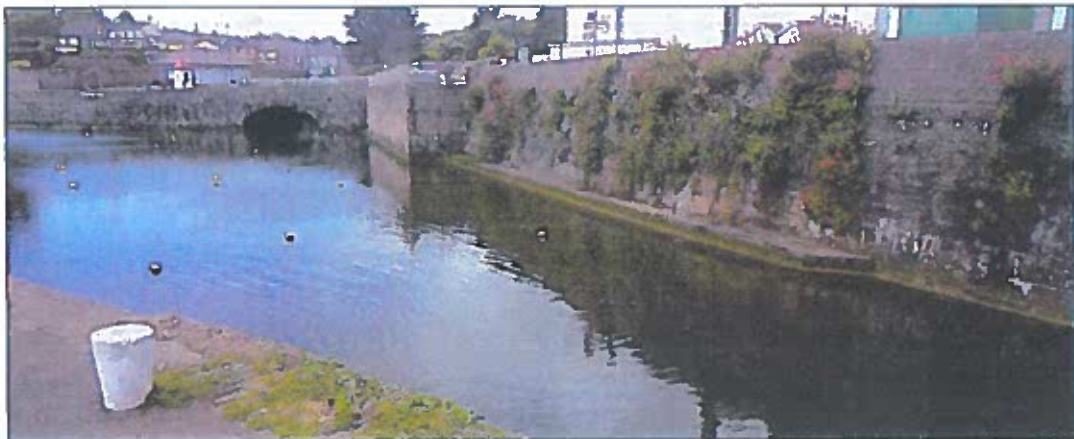


Plate 6: View looking southwest across to the section of quayside on the Northeast angle of the basin that has been reclaimed in the recent past and accommodates parking.



Plate 7: Modern footbridge at north end of basin. This marks the most northerly point of proposed dredging.



Plate 8: View looking west at the reclaimed and developed area to the north of the footbridge.

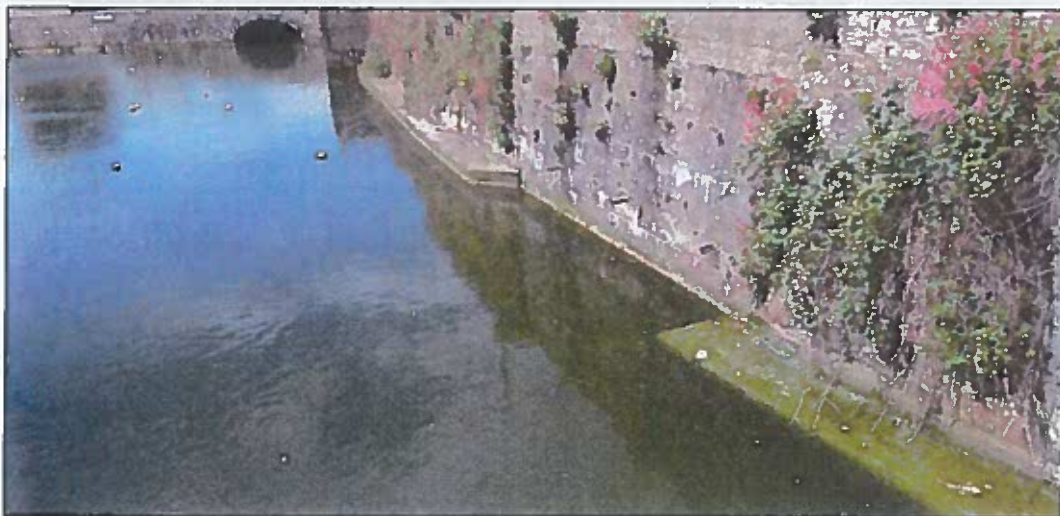


Plate 9: View looking southwest, highlighting the modern concrete lintel that is added to the base of the quay walls,

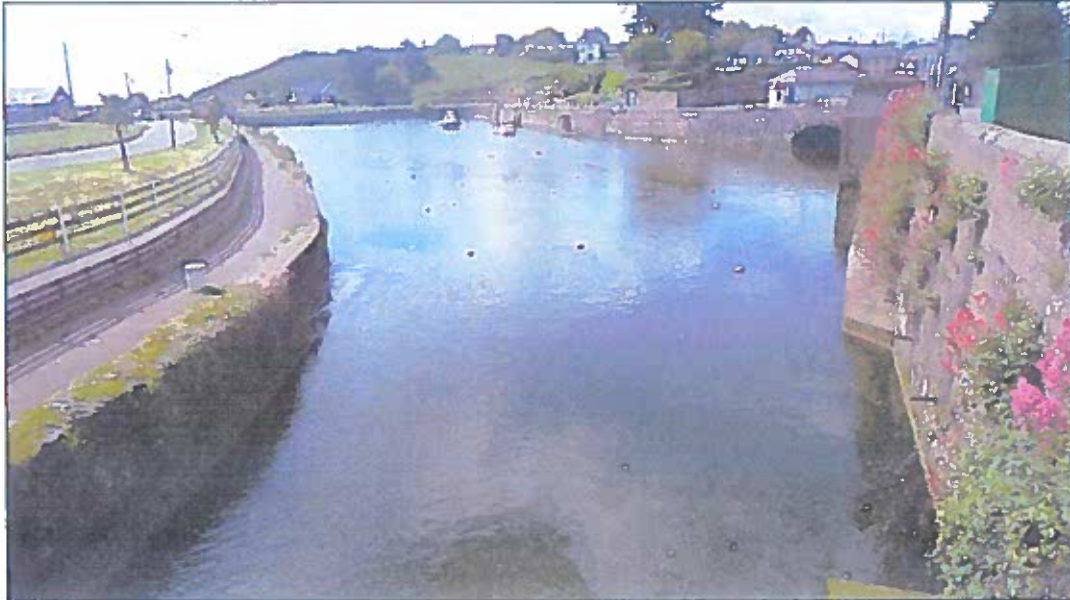


Plate 10: View looking south into the larger basin, highlighting the concrete lintels that run along the base of the quay walls.

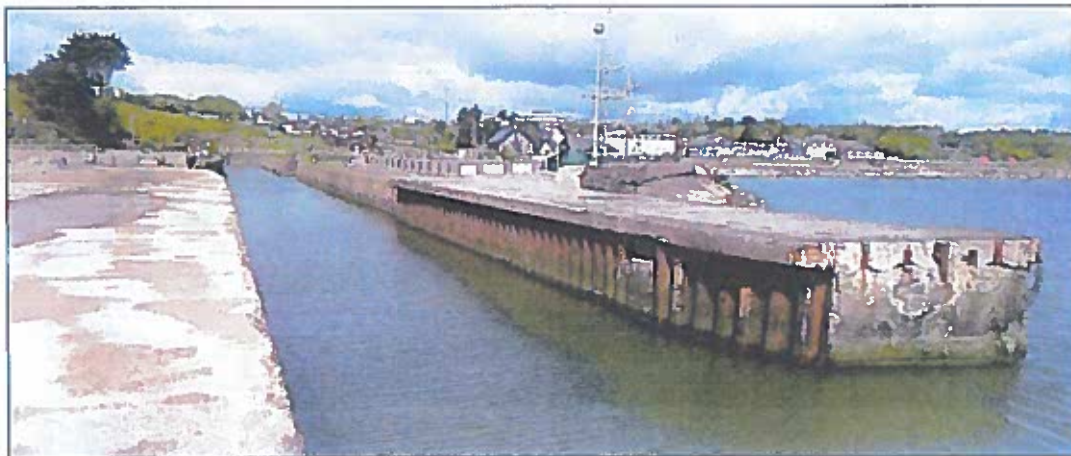


Plate 11: View looking northeast across the modern pier ends at the seaward entrance to the Harbour, showing its steel-and-concrete construction, and highlighting the weathered nature of these works.



Plate 12: Detail from 1980s' photograph showing the basin drained. Source: Tara View Hotel.

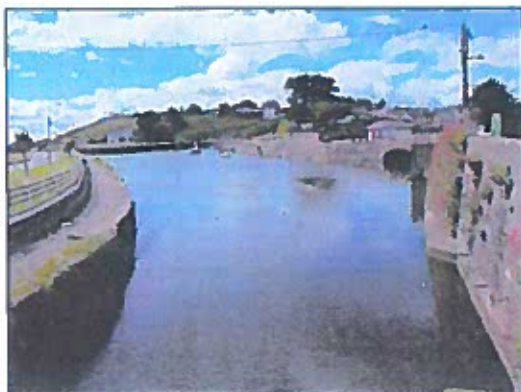


Plate 13: Detail from 1980s' photograph showing dredging within the basin. Source: Tara View Hotel.



Plate 14: Detail from 1980s' photograph showing repair work to quayside stonework while the basin was drained. Source: Tara View Hotel.

Plate 15: Sequence of photographs showing further results of underwater assessment conducted. The photograph numbers are keyed to Figure 8, which shows the view direction of each image.



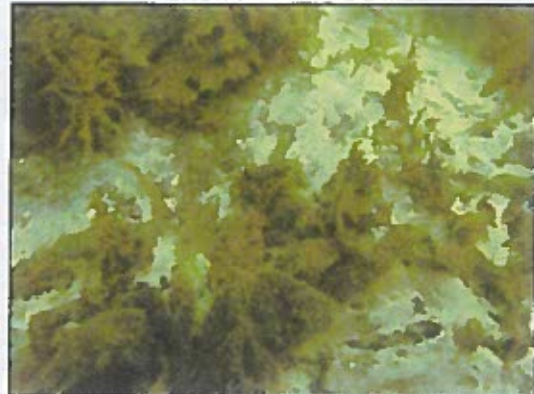
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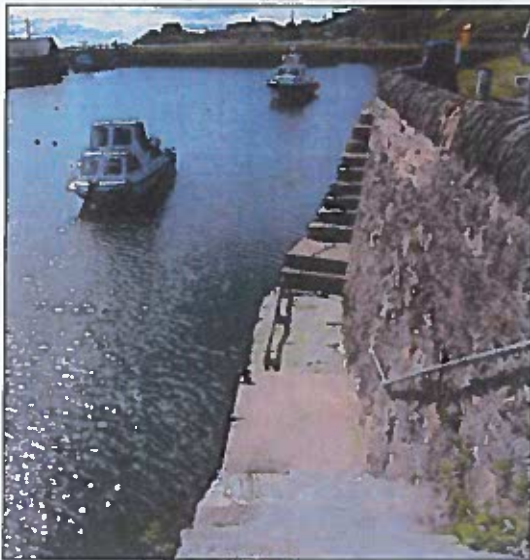
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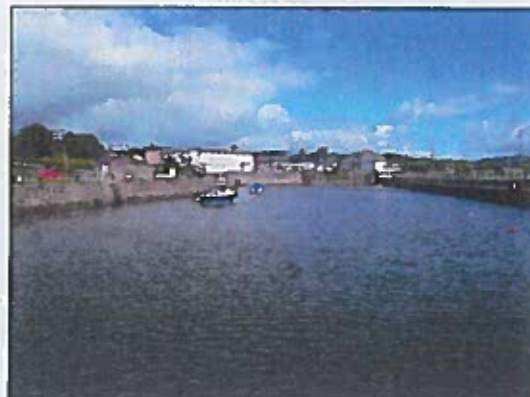
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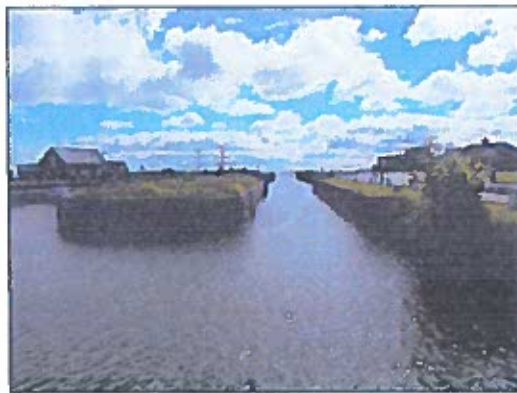
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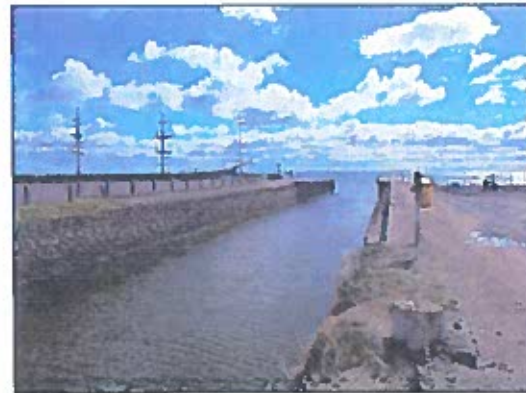
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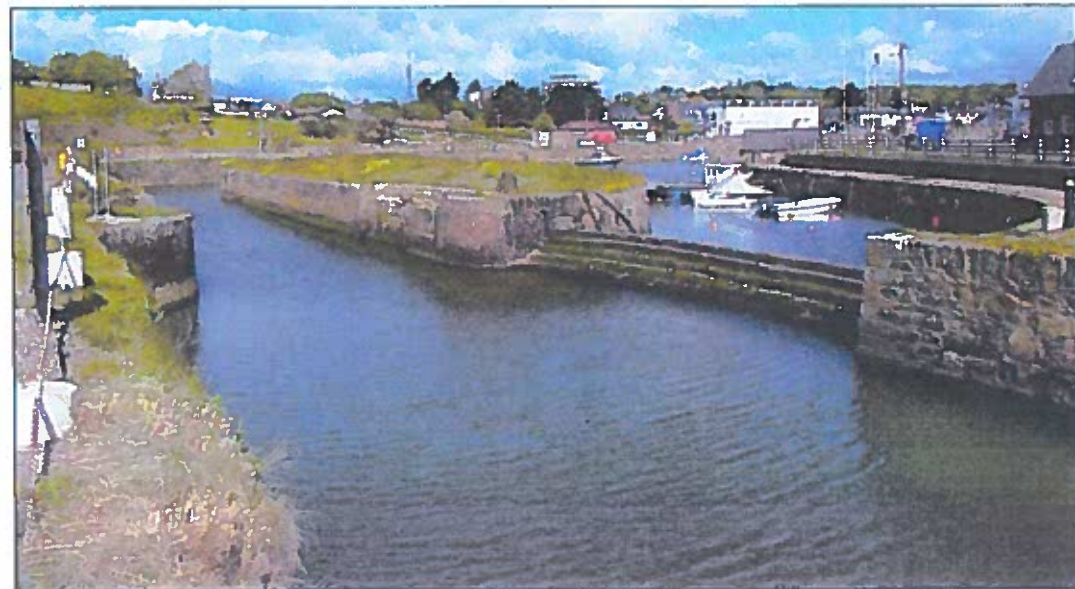
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Archaeological Consultancy

Recording prehistoric logboat at
Gormanston, Co. Meath
GAS 2025 Irish Sea
Interconnector



Underwater elevation of bridge pier collapsed in
1763. River Nore Flood Alleviation Scheme



Iron cannon on site of 17th-century
timber wreck discovered during
dredging programme
Waterford Harbour



Martina Gallagher

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Sent: 22 February 2016 12:33
To: 'Jimmy.King@fisheriesireland.ie'
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging
Attachments: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193; 15193-Courtown Dredging-Project Methodology Outline-Response to IFI Quer....pdf

Jimmy

Please see the attached email and enclosures from Malachy Walsh and Partners Consultants on behalf of Wexford County Council in respect of above Foreshore Application.

The consultants have indicated that they have been in consultation with the IFI and have addressed the concerns.

Can you please confirm that you are satisfied with the proposed methodology, based on your request, as soon as possible.

Regards

Martina

Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

☎ 0539117367



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From: Eoin Lucey [mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie]
Sent: 21 January 2016 11:05
To: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Cc: Pat Parle; Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Martina,

Thank you for your email. I apologise for using the incorrect channels.

Please find attached our response to the IFI and our Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment carried out by ADCO Ltd.

I will call you later today just to discuss briefly.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

Eoin Lucey BE MEngSc CEng MIEI
Malachy Walsh and Partners
Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Park House, Mahon Technology Park,
Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251.

Tel: 021 4536400
Fax: 021-4536450
E: eoin.lucey@mwp.ie
W: www.mwp.ie

From: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG) [<mailto:Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie>]
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:45
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintenance dredging (#15193)

Eoin

I refer to you below mail regarding the above Foreshore Application. As part of our consultation phase we requested the below information from your office and your client, Wexford County Council, on a number of occasions in 2015. The last correspondence rested with your client on 23 June 2015.

Please note that all your responses should have been directed through this Department as we are the consenting authority for Foreshore Applications.

You should now send the responses and report mentioned in your mail below to this section for our consideration.

The consultation phase cannot be completed until this information is furnished to us.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me at the below number.

Yours sincerely

Martina Gallagher
Martina Gallagher
Marine Planning & Foreshore Section
Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

☎ 0539117367



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From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Sent: 21 January 2016 10:04
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Liz M O'Brien - (DECLG); Martina Gallagher - (DECLG); Matthew McLoughlin - (DECLG)
Subject: RE: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintainence dredging (#15193)

Eoin,

I no longer work in the Foreshore Unit. Please refer all future correspondence to LizM.O'Brien@environ.ie ;
Martina.Gallagher@environ.ie ; matt.macloughlin@environ.ie

Regards,
Anthony

From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 20 January 2016 16:57
To: Anthony Doran - (DECLG)
Subject: FW: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintainence dredging (#15193)

Hello Anthony,

Have there been any updates in the progress of our Foreshore consent?

It is our understanding that the NMI and DAHG have been supplied with an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment Report undertaken by the Archaeological Diving Company Ltd. We have also been in consultation with the IFI in relation to their concerns which we have addressed with them.

Many thanks,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Anthony Doran - (DECLG) [<mailto:Anthony.Doran@environ.ie>]
Sent: 15 April 2015 10:23
To: Pat Parle; Eoin Lucey; postmaster@wexfordcoco.ie; planning@wefordcoco.ie
Cc: Martina Gallagher - (DECLG)
Subject: FS006403 Courtown Harbour maintainence dredging

Dear Mr Paryle,

I refer to the above application made on behalf of Wexford County Council and to my previous correspondence of the 5th November 2014 and subsequent reminder of the 23rd January 2015 (attached) seeking further information in the form of an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment and other specific clarifications made by Inland Fisheries Ireland, both of which must be addressed before your application for a Foreshore licence can be progressed.

It is noted by the Department that works for this application are proposed to commence in the summer of this year.

In order to progress this application in a timely manner and to have the appropriate Foreshore consent in place, could you please advise me as to the progress with the attached requests which have been resting with you since the 5th of November 2014.

Regards,

Anthony Doran
Marine Planning and Foreshore

Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford

Tel: 0539117465



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Check out our website at <http://www.mwp.ie>

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Registered in Ireland. No. 133445
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Martina Gallagher

From: Eoin Lucey <Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>
Sent: 06 January 2016 15:21
To: Donnachadh Byrne
Cc: Pat Parle
Subject: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193
Attachments: 15193-Courtown Dredging-Project Methodology Outline-Response to IFI Queries-Rev B.pdf

Hi Donnachadh,

I've updated our methodology to take into account your comments. Those being; the location of fish recovery sump, the depth of fish recovery sump and the contingency plan for overflow of water and fish over Barrier No.2 into the harbour.

I hope that the edits are to your satisfaction.

I look forward to your response.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Donnachadh Byrne [mailto:Donnachadh.Byrne@fisheriesireland.ie]
Sent: 06 January 2016 10:10
To: Eoin Lucey
Subject: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193 [Filed 06 Jan 2016 10:29]

Hi Eoin,

Apologies for the delays on this.

Please re-submit the methodology and drawings including the edits as suggested suggested by me. The contingency arrangements referred to at the end of the e-mail are important.

If fish re-enter the site while the works are ongoing they will need to be removed.

Kind regards,

Donnachadh Byrne

Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)1 8842600
Email donnachadh.byrne@fisheriesireland.ie
Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, Ireland.

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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 05 January 2016 12:52
To: Donnachadh Byrne
Cc: Pat Parle
Subject: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193

Hi Donnachadh,

I haven't heard from Alan in relation to the proposed works in Courtown.

If I re-submit the methodology and drawing including the edits you have suggested below do you think that would be sufficient?

Many thanks,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Donnachadh Byrne [<mailto:Donnachadh.Byrne@fisheriesireland.ie>]
Sent: 02 December 2015 12:23
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Alan Cullagh
Subject: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193 [Filed 05 Jan 2016 09:41]

Hi Alan,

Just in from Eoin Lucey.

I sent an e-mail before I went on annual leave, (copied it to you) relating to the locations of the sumps and the general areas where fish are likely to end up while draining the harbour.
I think Eoin was in agreement.

Best regards,

Donnachadh Byrne

Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)1 8842600
Email donnachadh.byrne@fisheriesireland.ie
Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, Ireland.

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From: Eoin Lucey [mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie]
Sent: 02 December 2015 12:06
To: Donnachadh Byrne
Subject: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193

Hi Donnachadh,

Are there any other conditions you would like us to include in our methodology before re-submitting to you?

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partner

From: Donnachadh Byrne [mailto:Donnachadh.Byrne@fisheriesireland.ie]
Sent: 19 November 2015 10:39
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Alan Cullagh; Pat Parle
Subject: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193 [Filed 19 Nov 2015 17:28]

Hi Eoin,

I have reviewed project methodology and a concern that I would have is the proposed location of the sump trench, from which it is proposed to remove the majority of the fish.

Looking at the bathymetric survey there is a deepening of the water levels within the harbour from north to south and I would suggest that the most appropriate site for the sump for fish retrieval would be in the south western corner of the harbour. As water levels drop within the harbour this is the area that fish would drop into naturally. The proposed sump location in the NW corner is naturally at a higher level than most of the rest of the harbour and without regrading most of the entire harbour area only a small number of fish are likely to seek refuge here.

The deepest section of Courtown Harbour is along the southern boundary, making this the most location for a sump for fish retrieval.

One other point that needs to be addressed is that much of the channel running out towards the Irish Sea is deeper than depth proposed for the sump (-3mODM) and this will also need to be taken into account as all the fish will need to be removed from this section also.

Once fish have been removed I would have no problem with the proposal to deposit the dredge spoil along the harbour wall in the south-western corner as laid out in drawing 15193-5005.

The Aughboy River enters the harbour at the proposed location of the sump in the northwestern corner of the harbour, but it does not appear to have scoured out any channel of note. This isn't surprising given that the Aughboy is subject to minimal flows during the Summer months. The Aughboy is not a salmonid channel and is seriously polluted and I would have no issue in a dam here with overpumping to the sea.

The report refers to contingency plans if the barrier to the harbour overflows and fish re-enter the harbour area. It is important that such contingency plans exists for the Owenavorrhagh River Barrier no.2 and for the harbour mouth barrier.

Yours sincerely,

Donnachadh Byrne

Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

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Inland Fisheries Ireland**

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Email donnachadh.byrne@fisheriesireland.ie
Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, Ireland.

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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 18 November 2015 10:01
To: Donnachadh Byrne
Cc: Alan Cullagh; Pat Parle
Subject: FW: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193

Donnachadh,

Please find attached our response to your below queries dated the 17th of August.

I look forward to your comments.

Feel free to contact me by telephone on 021 4536400 if you would like to discuss the proposed methodology.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Eoin Lucey
Sent: 24 August 2015 12:10
To: 'Donnachadh Byrne'
Cc: Pat Parle
Subject: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193

Donnachadh,

The attached is a useful graphic illustrating the varying bed levels in Courtown Harbour.

Regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Eoin Lucey
Sent: 17 August 2015 15:20
To: 'Donnachadh Byrne'
Cc: Pat Parle; 'Alan.Cullagh@fisheriesireland.ie'
Subject: RE: RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193 [Filed 17 Aug 2015 15:20]

Donnachadh,

Thank you for your comments. We will respond to you fully shortly.

For the time being, attached are copies of the latest bathymetric survey in AutoCAD and PDF. The levels are to OD Malin. Positive values shown are negative.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

From: Donnachadh Byrne [mailto:Donnachadh.Byrne@fisheriesireland.ie]
Sent: 17 August 2015 15:03
To: Eoin Lucey
Cc: Alan Cullagh
Subject: [pending]RE: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193

Hi Eoin,

I have reviewed what you sent on to us and we would need some additional information/agreement.

We would request an expanded method statement be written up in a step by step separate document.

The issue of the volume of water coming through barrier no. 1 and how it is proposed to do this still needs to be agreed. If this is by gravity then fish would need to be excluded, and the potential of this being blocked and a reduction in the water flow be addressed also.

Being able to guarantee that this water keeps flowing is critical to the survival of fish in the section of channel between barrier 1 & 2.

The same applies to the pump at pump location 1, as if this overflows into the harbour which has been dried out the fish may end up being stranded.

We hope to remove most of the larger fish from the canal section but numbers of smaller fish are likely to remain and we would also have concerns re people illegally taking fish from this section while the works are underway.

We request that measures be put in place that would ensure that the water flow through the canal section is maintained as required 24hrs a day over the duration of the scheme and to prevent access by members of the public to the site at the lower end of the canal.

A method for the removal of the fish from the harbour area still needs to be agreed, of concerns is that most fish are likely to end up in the sump from which the water is being pumped and we would have concerns that fish might become entrained in the pumps here.

I hope to chat to Alan, re the proposed method for fish removal from the large harbour area and the best way to ensure that the majority of fish there are directed towards one location while water levels are being lowered.

Do you have a bathymetric survey for the harbour area as this would be crucial in working out the best method to retrieve the maximum numbers of fish in the smallest area.

Yours sincerely,

Donnachadh Byrne

Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

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Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)1 8842600

Email donnachadh.byrne@fisheriesireland.ie

Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

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From: Eoin Lucey [<mailto:Eoin.Lucey@mwp.ie>]
Sent: 11 August 2015 14:38
To: Donnachadh Byrne; Alan Cullagh
Cc: Pat Parle
Subject: Courtown Dredging - Methodology - 15193

Donnachadh,

As discussed, I've attached a drawing which outlines our proposed methodology for the dredging works in Courtown Harbour including our proposals for handling and removing fish fauna during the works.

Please let me know if you would like any further details or amendments to our proposals.

Best regards,
Eoin Lucey
For Malachy Walsh and Partners

Malachy Walsh and Partners
Engineering and Environmental Consultants
Park House, Mahon Technology Park,
Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork
Tel: 021 4536400
Fax: 021-4536450
E: eoin.lucey@mwp.ie
W: www.mwp.ie

Check out our website at <http://www.mwp.ie>

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Malachy Walsh and Partners

Engineering and Environmental Consultants

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**Project Methodology Outline –
Response to IFI Queries**

Project: Courtown Harbour Dredging

Client: Wexford County Council

**Project No.: 15193
Document No.: 6008-B
Date: 06/01/2016**

PROJECT TITLE: **Courtown Harbour Dredging**

DOCUMENT TITLE: **Project Methodology Outline – Response to IFI Queries**

DOCUMENT No.: **15193-6008-B**

CLIENT: **Wexford County Council**

PROJECT LOCATION: **Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford.**

Rev	Date	Issue Description			By	Checked	Approved
A	18/11/2015	Issued for Information			EL	PP	PP
B	06/01/2016	Issued for Information			EL	PP	PP
This Document Comprises of:		DCS	TOC	Text	Tables	Figures	Appendices

DOCUMENT ISSUED FOR:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Entire Document Issued this Revision	<input type="checkbox"/>	In-House Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tender
	Revised Pages Only Issued this Revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information Only	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Client Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Final Issue

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1.0 Introduction

This document has been prepared in response to queries presented by Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to the application by Wexford County Council for a foreshore licence to carry out maintenance dredging works within Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford. It outlines the Project Methodology and includes proposed methods of handling fish fauna.

It is proposed to conduct the dredging of Courtown harbour primarily in the dry. This will have a number of advantages in terms of the project programme and in the minimising of potential environmental impact due to the works.

Drying of the harbour will be achieved by blocking the harbour channel with sand and dewatering the basin. Blocking of the channel is occasionally conducted by the Harbour Authority to protect the basin area from the ingress of wave action during storms and in the past it has been used to undertake dredging of the basin and works to the harbour walls.

This document includes a written description of the methodology and is accompanied by descriptive drawing (15193-5005) identifying locations of proposed activities.

2.0 Outline Methodology

1. The Owenavorrhagh River offshoot is to be blocked at junction between it and the original river way. This blockage point is shown as "Owenavorrhagh River Barrier No.1" on the accompanying drawing. The temporary barrier is to be constructed of one tonne sand bags wrapped with PVC liner.
2. An agreed flow will be allowed through the barrier. This flow will be provided by means of over-pumping. This flow will prevent the water behind "Owenavorrhagh River Barrier No.2" from becoming stagnant and will allow fish fauna to survive behind the barrier during the dredging works. All pump suction heads will be fitted with suitable fish screen to prevent entrance by fish fauna into the pump system.
3. A second barrier will be constructed at entrance of the Owenavorrhagh offshoot to the Harbour basin. This blockage point is shown as Owenavorrhagh River Barrier No. 2". Barrier No. 2 will be constructed similarly to Barrier No.1. Barrier No.2 will fully seal the harbour from the Owenavorrhagh river waters. A second pumping operation will be set up in front of Barrier No.2. It will be set to pump when the river reaches an agreed level behind the barrier. Similarly, this pump will be fitted with a fish screen to protect fish within the offshoot.
4. The pumps will be routinely inspected and maintained for the duration of the works to ensure constant flow of fresh water into the off-shoot.
5. Measures will be put in place to secure the river from the public for the duration of the works. The concerns of the IFI are understood in relation to members of the public taking fish from this section. This element will be included in the contract.
6. A contingency plan will be developed by the contractor for situations where the barrier to the harbour overflows to rescue any fish that overflow. This will include a water level alert system to notify the contractor that water levels are approaching the top level of the barrier. This will allow the contractor to take action to reduce water levels behind the barrier. A sump will be constructed on the harbour side of the barrier. This will be of sufficient size to capture overflowing fish and allow for manual extraction.
7. A 5x50m sump will be excavated at the location shown at the entrance of south westerly stream to the harbour basin. The sump will be used as a point for fish trapped in the harbour to migrate to during the drying out process. From here they can be extracted. The sump level is to be 0.2m below the proposed dredge level of -2.8mODM. The side slopes of the sump will have a gradient of 1:2 on all sides.

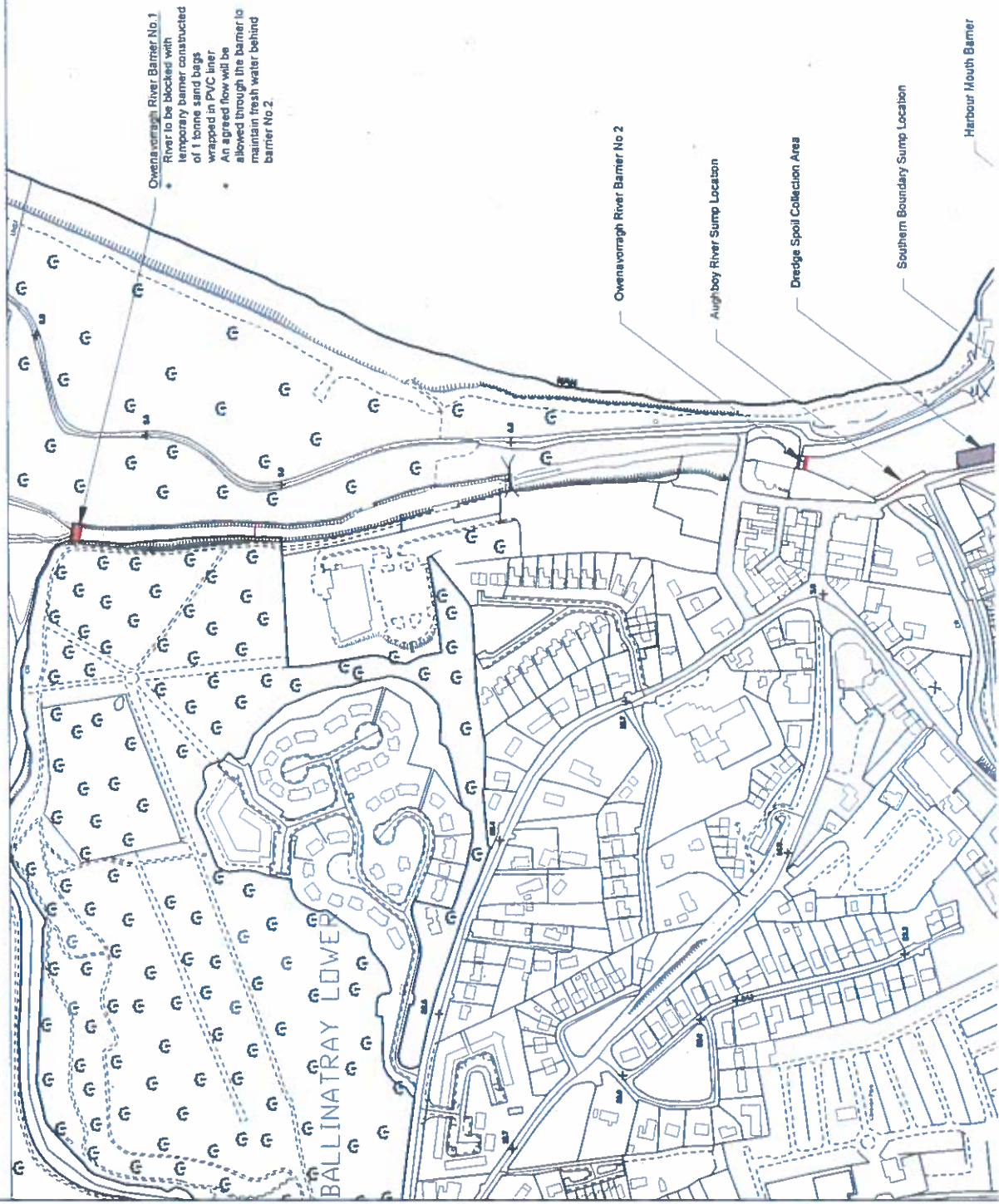
8. A third pumping point will be set up within the sump for the duration of the works. The sump will be used to over pump incoming stream water out of the harbour. This pump will be fitted with a fish screen to protect fish within the sump.
9. A 5m x 15m sump will be excavated on the Southern boundary of the harbour. This area has the lowest bed level in the harbour. It will be excavated to a depth of -3.5mODM. The side slopes of the sump will have a gradient of 1:2 on all sides. The sump will be used a recovery location for fish trapped in the harbour to be removed during the dewatering process. A permanent pump will be located at this location for any additional dewatering required during the works.
10. It is a possibility that low point pockets may collect fish within them. If this occurs fish will be extract immediately from these locations.
11. Once the harbour is prepared as described above, the harbour mouth will be blocked with a barrier constructed of sand excavated at the mouth.
12. The contractor is to liaise with the IFI on the pump start date and to facilitate the IFI in the removal of fish.
13. Once agreed with the IFI the pumping operations will then commence to dry out the harbour.
14. When the harbour has dried out sufficiently and all fish are safely removed in line an agreed methodology the dredging operations will commence.
15. Dredging operations are expected to take 6-8 weeks.
16. Dredge spoil will be moved to the south western corner of the harbour within reach of a long reach excavator.
17. It is proposed to use bulldozers to move dredge spoil to the south western corner of the harbour within reach of a long reach excavator positioned on the quayside. The spoil will be piled up in this area. It is then proposed to create a containing boundary around the spoil using large bulk bags filled with dredge spoil to contain the dredge spoil within a small area for removal into trucks for transport to the land disposal site.
18. With the harbour dewatered it will be possible to inspect the structural soundness of the existing harbour quay walls. Repairs will be carried out as required during this period.
19. Once this temporary storage area is constructed and the material placed in this area the harbour channel sand embankment and the northern stream blockade can be removed allowing water back into the harbour and use of the harbour to resume. Removal of the dredge spoil can be conducted using a long reach excavator from the quayside adjacent the spoil build up area. Once the loose spoil is removed the bags will be lifted from the harbour and the material inside disposed of similarly.

3.0 Drawing

Dwg 15193-5005 attached.



Owensvagh River Barrier No 1
 River to be blocked with
 temporary barrier constructed
 of 1 tonne sand bags
 wrapped in PVC liner
 An agreed flow will be
 allowed through the barrier to
 maintain fresh water behind
 barrier No 2.



BALLINATRAY LOWER

Owensvagh River Barrier No 2

Aughboy River Sump Location

Dredge Spoil Collection Area

Southern Boundary Sump Location

Harbour Mouth Barrier

**Consolidated PBC Observations on FS006403 on Wexford County Council
Maintenance Dredging at Courtown Harbour Basin**

OBSERVATIONS OF THE MARINE INSTITUTE

The reason for the proposed works is to remove sediments that have accumulated in the area in order to provide additional water depths for all users. The applicant has advised that currently there is insufficient water depth available within the harbour area for some users.

It is intended to dredge circa 7,300m³ of material from within the harbour area and dispose to the material on land in a licenced site. The area to be dredged is shown on the Drawing No. 15193-5003 Rev A and Drawing No. 15193-5001 Rev A submitted by the applicant.

It is proposed to conduct the dredging of the harbour primarily "in the dry". This will involve the blocking of the harbour channel with sand and subsequently dewatering the basin. A proposed dredging methodology is described in Section 4.3 of the document entitled Courtown Harbour , Co. Wexford, Basin Dredging Licence Application – Interim Report, dated march 2014 prepared Malachy Walsh and Partners, Consulting Engineers on behalf of the applicants and submitted in support of the application.

Analysis of samples taken from the harbour area has shown the sediments consist of 5% silt, 55% fine sand and 35% medium sand. Chemical analysis of the material has shown that it is suitable for disposal on land, as proposed.

On the basis of the information provided by the applicant and considering the nature, scale and location of the proposed works the Marine Institute is of the view that the works as proposed are not likely to have significant adverse impacts on the marine environment or on other legitimate uses / users of the area and has no objections to a licence being granted.

It is recommended that the following Conditions should be attached to any licence that may issue.

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the Foreshore the subject matter of this licence for the purposes as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.
2. The Licensee shall consult with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and agree a Method Statement for all activities on, or adjacent to, the foreshore prior to the commencement of the works.
3. The Licensee shall adopt appropriate methods of operation to ensure that no spillages of fuel or other leakages occur to foreshore during the works.

OBSERVATIONS OF DECLG WATER SERVICES ADVISOR

In relation to the above an application for a foreshore licence has been received from Wexford County Council in order to carry out maintenance dredging within the confines of Courtown Harbour with the dredged material to be disposed of on land to a licenced site.

The primary purpose of the proposed maintenance dredging is to maintain a safe navigational water depth within the harbour. The works will be undertaken in consultation with harbour users in order to minimise disturbance to users.

SUBMITTED DOCUMENTATION

The following documents were submitted in support of this application:

- Completed Foreshore Licence Application Form dated 17/04/2014
- Drawings: Drg. No 15193-5001 entitled 'Foreshore Licence Map' dated Feb 2014
Drg. No 15193-5002 entitled 'Admiralty Chart 1787' and dated Feb 2014
Drg. No. 15193-5003 entitled 'Site Location Map' dated April 2014
Drg. No. 15193-5004 entitled 'Dredge Profile' dated April 2014
- 'Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford, Basin Dredging Licence Application – Interim Report' dated March 2014.
- Additional information in response to IFI Queries dated 06/01/2016

PROPOSED WORKS

The primary purpose of the proposed maintenance dredging is to maintain a safe navigational water depth within the harbour. The depth of dredging varies from 0.3m to 1.3m with the proposed dredge volume estimated at 7,300m³. Sediment analysis determined that dredge spoil from the Harbour is suitable for disposal on land. The plan area of the dredging is approximately 1.0261Ha. It is not anticipated that there will be no disturbance to the foreshore outside the immediate harbour basin.

It is intended to block the seaward entrance to the harbour and the streams entering the harbour to facilitate the drying out of the harbour for part of the duration of the dredging works. In this way little material to be dredged will escape outside the harbour basin. To facilitate both the dewatering of the harbour and protection of fish, a number of sumps are required to enable pumping. Once sufficiently dewatered, it is proposed to use bulldozers and quay based long reach excavators to stockpile the dredge spoil in the Southwest corner of the basin. It is then proposed to create a containing boundary around the stockpile using large bulk bags, filled with dredge spoil, to contain the dredge spoil within a stockpile for loading into trucks and onward transfer to the land disposal site.

Once this stockpile and containing boundary is constructed the blockages to the harbour can be removed allowing water back into the harbour and use of the harbour to resume. Removal of the stockpiled dredge spoil can be conducted using a long reach excavator from the quayside.

FISHERIES

It is proposed to conduct the dredging of Courtown Harbour primarily in the dry. Drying of the harbour will be achieved by blocking water entering the harbour from the main channel, the Owenavorrhagh River and the Aughboy River (stream). This can have obvious consequences for fisheries. To this end IFI have been consulted and the applicant has submitted 'Project Methodology Outline' in response to IFI queries. It is important that this document is sent to IFI for their comments/approval.

ENVIRONMENT

As part of the duties as a consent authority, DECLG through the MLVC are to prepare an Appropriate Assessment screening report for this application in accordance Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011

LICENCE MAP

Drg. No 15193-5001 entitled 'Foreshore Licence Map' dated Feb 2014 illustrates in red the works area on foreshore. The total area is 1.026 hectares. This map should be attached to any foreshore licence issued.

CONCLUSION

I have no objection to the granting of a Foreshore Licence for the maintenance dredging operations subject to the following conditions:

- The Licensee shall notify the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government at least 14 days in advance of the commencing of any works on the foreshore.
- The works must be programmed so as to minimise impacts to harbour users.
- All dewatering sumps must be backfilled with suitable clean engineering fill to allow the foreshore to return its natural condition.
- Within two months of completion of the works, the applicant shall provide a certified statement by a chartered Engineer that the works have been completed in accordance with drawings submitted.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

This Department has no observations to make.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE SEA FISHERIES PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Please note with regards to this application that the SFPA has no observations to make.

OBSERVATIONS OF INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND (including further information request sent to applicant on the 5 November 2014)

This application is in respect of maintenance dredging within sheltered confines at Courtown Harbour.

It is proposed to undertake the dredging in the dry and to dispose of the dredge material to landfill.

The harbour area to be dredged has water inflows from the south-west and also from the north, an artificial offshoot of the Owenavarragh River. The application proposes to block the northern channel at the overflow point from the river. The inflow from the west cannot be blocked but pumping will be used to remove water flows from this source.

Documentation provided with the application indicates that ***“Once sufficiently dewatered it is proposed to use bulldozers and quay based long reach excavators to pile the dredge spoil into one area of the basin. It is then proposed to create a containing boundary around the spoil using large bulk bags filled with dredge spoil to contain the dredge spoil within a small area for removal into trucks for transport to the land disposal site.*”**

Once this temporary storage area is constructed and the material placed in this area the harbour channel sand embankment and the northern stream blockade can be removed allowing water back into the harbour and use of the harbour to resume. Removal of the dredge spoil can be conducted using a long reach excavator from the quayside adjacent the spoil build up area.”

IFI welcomes the concept of dredging ‘in the dry’ and also that of disposal of dredge material to land fill (or of beneficial re-use). However, there may be fisheries issues arising from the proposed dredging in the dry in the present case. The technical report provided with documentation (Malachy Walsh and Partners) indicates that **“The stream to the north is manmade and is an offshoot of the Owenavarragh River which enters the sea north of Courtown...”**. Reference to aerial photography indicates that the Owenavarragh River flows to the sea through the harbour area, to be dredged, at Courtown. IFI visited the area, on foot of receipt of the notification of the licence application and confirmed the indications from the aerial photography. A blocking of the channel in the manner proposed in the foreshore application would force the river to discharge across the beach area north of Courtown.

The Owenavarragh River is an important fisheries channel with runs of Atlantic salmon, sea trout and river lamprey, as well as a resident brown trout population. The migratory species travel from sea into the river, and *vice versa*, depending on life cycle stages. The river lamprey is known to migrate from sea into freshwater from late summer through the winter and into the spring, immediately prior to spawning. This has been recorded by IFI in the adjacent River Slaney. A rerouting of the Owenavarragh River may create difficulties for fish migrating from the sea, in regard

to finding the new river mouth and in migrating over beach area, in the absence of a clearly-defined river channel through the beach material.

IFI has also received anecdotal reports of substantial numbers of fish becoming stranded on a previous occasion when the harbour area was de-watered to permit dredging.

The proposed area of works lies adjacent to **Courtown Dunes and Glen**, a designated NHA (code no. 000757) listed by NPWS. This is not a SAC or SPA and no screening document is provided. The NHA includes that portion of the Owenavarragh River that flows within the bounds of the NHA. It is apparent that the NHA would be impacted if the flow path of the Owenavarragh River were altered during dredging, leading to the river discharging to the sea across the beach area that forms part of the NHA. DECLG should satisfy itself in regard to opinion of NPWS in regard to this impact on the NHA.

Prior to any licence being granted, IFI would wish to see

- clarification from applicant in regard to how fish passage issues will be accommodated ineth Owenavarragh River in preparation for and during the dredging process
- a method statement and liaison to be developed, to IFI's satisfaction, that mitigated for any stranding of fish during a dewatering process to facilitate dredging

IFI has identified fish passage issues in relation to the lower reaches of the Aughboy Stream, entering from the west. While not directly concerned with the proposed dredging application, IFI would encourage Wexford Co. Council to examine weir mitigation measures e.g. removal or provision of fish passage facility, for this channel.

3.11.2014

Response to Request for clarification, on IFI initial observations of 3.11.2014.

The applicant's documentation states that the Owenavarragh River discharges to the sea to the north of Courtown Harbour.

The documentation also indicates that the channel flowing due south into the harbour at Courtown is an overflow from the Owenavarragh.

In this context, the applicant proposes to block this overflow and dewater or dry out the harbour area to the greatest possible extent to enable dredging to be done in the dry.

The applicant proposes to remove the dredge spoil for landfill disposal.

All of the above are reasonable and IFI would not have difficulty with the application if the situation were as described above.

However, IFI has visited the area in question and identified that the flow from the Owenavarragh, in full, was discharging through the channel that is proposed to be blocked off. Reference to aerial images on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland website confirm this. No surface flow to the sea to the north of Courtown was observed.

If this is the situation, then blocking the channel entering the harbour from the north would impede passage of migratory fish. The blockage would not be sustainable and is likely to force the Owenavarragh discharge across the beach north of Courtown. This new, albeit short-term, channel would not be flowing in a channel bed, as such, and may be dispersed widely across the beach area. Migrating fish may have difficulty finding this new channel and water depth may not permit fish to use it.

One may understand that IFI have difficulties if the river is re-routed or forced across the beach area, even in the short-term.

IFI would also require an understanding as to how the applicant would propose to deal with fish, of whatever species, that become stranded as a result of the draining out process in the harbour itself.

It is on these two issues – the fate of the Owenavarragh discharge during proposed dredging in the dry and plan to deal with stranded fish – that IFI is seeking clarification.

IFI is identifying these potential issues to DECLG at this stage and suggests that a granting of a foreshore licence, in absence of such clarifications, would be problematic for all parties.

4.11.2014

OBSERVATIONS OF ARTS, HERITAGE AND THE GAELTACHT (including further information request sent to applicant on the 5 November 2014)

Outlined below are the observations and recommendations of the Department in relation nature conservation & underwater archaeology.

Nature Conservation

Courtown Harbour is neither a pNHA nor a SAC and the river Owenavarragh that flows out through the harbour is not a pSAC or pNHA. However the river Owenavarragh hosts a large population of a number of Annex II species, among them Salmon, Brook & River Lamprey, Otter and Sea Trout. Consideration must be given to how these species are going to be protected in the closure of the harbour so as their welfare is not compromised. There is a high probability that annex species

will be compromised when the harbour is closed off from the river and the sea and the water is pumped out of the harbour. Details should be submitted as to what provisions will be made to safeguard these protected species.

There was a major fish kill a few Kilometres upstream of this area on the Owenavarragh approx. 10 yrs. ago resulting in the death of thousands of lamprey, hundreds of sea trout, and 30+ salmon. It is therefore safe to assume that these species are going to be present in the harbour/estuary where the proposed dredging will be carried out.

Courtown Dunes & Glen Site is close to this proposed development but it will not impact on the protected site.

Underwater Archaeology

This Department recommends that a detailed Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) be carried out in advance of the licence/permit for this being granted. It is unclear if any UAIA has been done previously as no information has been supplied with the application. Neither is it clear what the nature and extent of the proposed dredging works are with the absence of any attached maps or location details for the works. The following are the details for the UAIA:

Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA)

1. Wexford County Council shall engage the services of a suitably qualified underwater archaeologist to carry out an underwater archaeological assessment of the areas to be impacted.
2. The underwater archaeologist shall carry out any relevant documentary research including consulting with the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland Database and the Archive of Ports and Harbours, both held by the National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht; relevant Annalistic, historical and local sources shall be consulted as shall relevant cartographic and photographic material; the Topographical Files held in the National Museum of Ireland.
3. If the area to be dredged is large, then a geophysical survey carried out for archaeological purposes shall be done, with a suitably qualified archaeo-geophysicist engaged to interpret the results. Any identified anomalies that may be cultural shall be the subject of archaeological diver survey if they cannot be avoided by the proposed works.
4. If the area is discreet, then the underwater archaeologist shall undertake an underwater dive and/or wade survey, if areas to be impacted are constantly below the low water tide mark. These surveys to be accompanied by a metal detection survey.

5. The above surveys to be done in conjunction with foreshore surveys if areas of the foreshore are also due to be impacted above the low water mark.
6. The UAIA including all surveys shall be licensed under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 and it is advised that all diving be undertaken to the Health and Safety Authority's Safety in Industry (Diving Operations) Regulations 1981, SI422.
7. Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report to to be included in any EIA and a copy of the report shall be forwarded to the Underwater Archaeology Unit for consideration and further comment.. The report shall include a detailed Impact Statement and shall put forward further archaeological mitigation requirements if thought necessary.
8. Where archaeological material/features are shown to be present, this Department may make further archaeological recommendations. This may include preservation *in situ* (avoidance), preservation by record (archaeological excavation) or archaeological monitoring.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either *in situ* or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

Observations of the Marine Survey Office

Marine Survey Office,
Abbey View House,
Ballyshannon,
Co. Donegal
Ireland.

Tel: 353-071-9822400

Fax: 071-9822439

Memorandum to	ECLG Foreshore section.
Attention	Anthony Doran
Fax No	
From	Nick Cantwell
No of Pages	1
Date	07 October 2016
Reference	FS006403 Maintenance dredging Courtown Harbour. Co. Wexford
CC	

- This office has no objections from a navigational viewpoint to the above application.
- **The applicant is required** to arrange with the maritime Safety Directorate the publication of a Marine Notice prior to commencement of operations.
- In addition, the Port Authority should also promulgate a Port Marine Notice.
- Certification for vessels to be considered for the above should be forwarded to this office in ample time for assessment regarding compliance with national and international legislation. In addition, any vessel operating outside the Harbour limits must apply for an Irish Load Line Certificate to the M.S.O. Dublin and where necessary a passenger boat licence.

Yours faithfully

N.W.Cantwell (Capt.)
Nautical Surveyor

