

NIEA
Conservation, Designation & Protection



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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Email: lee.jones@daera-
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Your reference: S0028-01

Our reference: n/a

Date: 18/1/2017

Dear Noeleen,

REF: S0028-01 Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine_Dumping at Sea permit application.

NIEA Conservation Designation and Protection offers the following response:

The proposed development comprises dredging operations and harbour works at Killybeggs Harbour with subsequent disposal of 96,900m³ of sediment at a site previously used for disposal for the harbour works in 2002 (approx 15km from Killybeggs harbour).

CDP has reviewed the application documentation submitted and is of the opinion that impacts to designated sites within N.Ireland are unlikely. However it is recommended that the following points are considered:

- It is recommended that there should be formal consideration of impacts on bird populations within the impact assessment document provided, as there are potential impacts pathways associated with the project through disturbance to, turbidity, pollution and adverse effects on prey populations.
- Although disturbance is likely to be confined to the immediate harbour area, increased turbidity in the vicinity of the dredge disposal site could affect the foraging efficiency of diving seabirds such as Sandwich Terns (EU Birds Directive Annex1). Terns forage in Donegal Bay and breed at Gravel Ridge Island ASSI in Lower Lough Erne. Sediment disposal could also adversely affect benthic habitats supporting prey organisms, as could the deposition of toxic pollutants within sediment which could impact upon birds indirectly through consumption of contaminated prey or reduction in prey abundance.
- The application is accompanied by an Assessment of Impact on the receiving environment report. The potential for a significant adverse impact on bird populations within Northern Ireland, or locally, appears to be very low, provided all mitigation

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measures as laid out within section 5.5 of the document are fully implemented with emphasis that sediments contaminated with toxic substances are not disposed of at sea.

Any queries please contact Lee Jones 02890569812

Yours Sincerely,

Lee Jones

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