

**Subject:** FW: S0013-03 Port of Cork - Maintenance Dredging  
**Attachments:** EPA S001303 Cork Harbour UAU obs.docx

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**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:16:35 PM  
**To:** Licensing Staff <[licensing@epa.ie](mailto:licensing@epa.ie)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** S0013-03 Port of Cork - Maintenance Dredging

S0013-03 Port of Cork - Maintenance Dredging

Dear EPA

Please see attached recommendations of the UAU in relation to the above DaS application.

Is mise le meas,

Cólín

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**CÓILÍN Ó DRISCEOIL**

**Seandálaí - Aonad Seandálaíochta Faoi Uisce**

*Archaeologist-Underwater Archaeology Unit*

**Seirbhís Séadchomharthaí Náisúnta**

*National Monuments Service*

**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**

*Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage*

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DATS Ref: COE-DAFFCKE-A230203-0034

FILE Ref: S0013-03

10 May 2023

**RE: S0013-03 Port of Cork - Maintenance Dredging**

A Chara,

We refer to the above consultation. The submitted application documents have been reviewed by the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, who are charged, on behalf of the Minister, with assessing potential development impacts on underwater archaeology by making recommendations to the relevant planning authorities, consultees and other regulatory bodies on developments which have the potential to impact on underwater archaeology. It is noted that the proponents intend to apply for an EPA Dumping at Sea Permit for Maintenance Dredging to facilitate the maintenance of the port berth, basins and approach channels into Port of Cork. We note and broadly concur with the mitigation proposals as set out in Annex 3 NMS Form 1. We also note the statement contained therein that 'Capital dredging is not planned to be undertaken and only maintenance operations to maintain historical/current levels would be undertaken over the proposed 8 years. Also, the offshore placement site is the same one that has been used for many decades. However, previously the license/permit acquired did not cover the entirety of the navigational channel. For prudence, to allow maintenance of these channels some additional areas, never previously dredged have been added. It is not the Port's intention to ever dredge these areas unless they go above their historically maintained levels and impinge on navigational safety'.

In light of the above and given that the proposed development has the potential to adversely impact on underwater archaeology it is recommended that it should be the subject of an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA). This should be undertaken and submitted to this Department for review and comment in order to inform the potential archaeological impact of the project and to facilitate the formulation of appropriate archaeological mitigation recommendations, as appropriate. It is recommended that the following are attached as CONDITIONS of any DaS Permit that may issue:

**Archaeological Recommendations**

1. No dumping should take place to the northwest external perimeter of the dumpsite where a wreck is recorded as being located. All dumping should keep away from the

previously identified anomaly that lies just outside the edge of the dumpsite at plot 280 (188723.5 54463.1). A 250m radius exclusion zone was implemented.

2. Should any material be recovered (e.g. potential cultural material like timbers, artefacts, etc.) during the course of dredging work, there is a statutory obligation to report same to the National Monuments Service under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014.
3. Where a wreck is discovered or other material recovered from the marine environment, there is also a statutory obligation to report same to the Receiver of Wreck under the Merchant Shipping (Salvage and Wreck) Act 1993.
4. Dredging should be suspended in the area where the cultural material has been recovered until it has been archaeologically assessed, so as to avoid any further potential impact to a site or other archaeological feature or object.
5. All areas that have not been previously subjected to Maintenance Dredging shall be assessed by way of an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) report to be forwarded to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for review and approval. The UAIA shall include the following:
  - a. A desktop assessment that includes a full inventory and mapping of all previously recorded wrecks, archaeological/built/cultural heritage features and structures (including industrial, riverine/marine/vernacular and fishing structures), submerged landscape deposits, and objects within the proposed areas and their environs identified from cartographic, prior underwater archaeological investigations and primary and secondary sources, and a detailed visual walk-over survey.
  - b. A review by a suitably qualified underwater archaeologist of prior geophysical and geotechnical surveys which have been undertaken within the proposed dredge areas for the current application and previous projects aimed at identifying underwater cultural heritage, wrecks, submerged landscapes and objects.
  - c. A UAIA report that contains a detailed Archaeological Impact Statement that addresses all identified and potential impacts on underwater cultural heritage, wrecks, underwater structures, features and objects and submerged landscapes. The impact statement should clearly identify those areas which have not been

previously dredged and potential secondary or indirect impacts from the proposed project, such as those caused by scouring, geotechnical works or access roads or construction works to facilitate access to the waterways. The Archaeological Impact Statement should detail mitigation measures that provide for the avoidance and preservation in situ of all underwater cultural heritage identified.

- d. The impact statement should also make recommendations, to be agreed with and licensed by the National Monuments Service, on further investigations (licensed dive/wade surveys, licensed geophysical surveys, licensed metal detection surveys, licensed archaeological test-excavations) which may be required to inform a comprehensive programme of archaeological mitigation.
- e. The Archaeological Impact Statement should also include mitigation measures that provide for the preservation in situ and complete avoidance of adverse effects on identified or potential underwater cultural heritage sites, wrecks, features, submerged landscapes or objects. Where it is proposed that adverse impacts cannot be avoided by the works, then the UAIA report shall include a comprehensive archaeological mitigation strategy, to be agreed with the National Monuments Service, that sets out the mitigation measures that promote the maximum preservation in situ of underwater cultural heritage through avoidance of impacts, archaeological test-excavations, preservation by record (archaeological excavation) or archaeological monitoring. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the developer. The developer shall be prepared to be advised by the National Monuments Service in this regard or in regard to any subsequent recommendations that may issue.
- f. Where dive surveys are proposed they should be undertaken by a suitably licensed and experienced underwater archaeologist with metal detection experience. All archaeological diving should comply with the Health and Safety Authority's Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Diving) Regulations 2018/2019. A Dive Survey Licence (Section 3 1987 National Monuments Act) and Detection Device consent (Section 2 1987 National Monuments Act) will be required for all of these works. Licence applications, accompanied by Method Statements, shall be sent for vetting to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and no surveys shall be undertaken until licences have been approved.

- g. Where geophysical surveys are proposed at a minimum they should include side scan, sonar, magnetometer and mutibeam echo sounder. The geophysical surveys shall be licenced under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014 (a Dive Survey Licence (Section 3 1987 National Monuments Act) and Detection Device consent (Section 2 1987 National Monuments Act)). Licence applications, accompanied by Method Statements, shall be sent for vetting to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and no surveys shall be undertaken until licences have been approved.
      - h. No dredging works shall commence in those areas that have not been previously dredged until the National Monuments Service have had the opportunity to fully evaluate the findings of the UAIA and our recommendations have been received by the proponent and the EPA.
6. In addition to the above and in order to ensure the preservation of underwater cultural heritage, wrecks, submerged landscape deposits, features and objects, it is recommended that Archaeological Monitoring, as described below, be carried out of all proposed Capital Dredging works to take place as part of this development:
  - a. The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified underwater archaeologist to monitor all Capital Dredging and related works associated with the development. The archaeological monitoring shall be licensed under Section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930. A detailed method statement shall accompany the licence application and shall include details on the proposed works, extent and duration of works, archaeological monitoring team proposed and a finds retrieval strategy.
  - b. The developer shall engage a suitably qualified archaeologist to monitor all dredging works and/or the implementation of agreed preservation in-situ measures associated with the development.
  - c. Should archaeological materials or potential archaeological materials be identified during the course of archaeological monitoring, all works shall cease in the area of archaeological interest pending a decision of the planning authority, in consultation with the National Monuments Service, regarding appropriate mitigation (dive survey, exclusion zones, test-excavations, preservation in-situ/excavation).

- d. The developer shall facilitate the archaeologist in recording any remains identified and undertaking any mitigation recommended by the National Monuments Service. Any further archaeological mitigation requirements specified by the planning authority, following consultation with the National Monuments Service, shall be complied with by the developer.
- e. An archaeological dive team should be retained on standby in the event that archaeological material is uncovered during the dredging works. A dive/survey licence (Section 3 1987 National Monuments Act) and Detection Device consent (Section 2 1987 National Monuments Act) should be obtained in advance of the works commencing to prevent delays to potential archaeological diving work associated with the project.
- f. Following the completion of all archaeological works and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis, the planning authority and the National Monuments Service shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of the monitoring and any subsequent required archaeological investigative work/excavation required. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the developer.

Is mise le meas,

*Cóilín Ó Drisceoil*

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Cóilín Ó Drisceoil  
Underwater Archaeology Unit  
National Monuments Service