

## WINTER DREDGE PROTOCOL

### Version 2, Dated October 2023

(Updated to include new coastal topography, additional high tide SPA roosts and new bird disturbance guidance.)

1. The winter dredge protocol is applicable to the period from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March, inclusive. It will be monitored by the Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW/EnvCoW; Schedule of Mitigation Ref 3) to ensure compliance by the Ardersier Port dredge team. It could also be included as an additional item with the schedule, which remains a live document.
2. The winter dredge area is limited to the area shown on Drawing 676693-GIS005.
3. For all Bird Roost Sites shown on Drawing 676693-GIS005, there will be no dredging activities within the 650m<sup>1</sup> buffer zone during the period within 1.5hr either side of high tide. Buffer zones to roost sites (including point 4 below) will be maintained through toolbox talks and shoreline markers.
4. During the more sensitive mid-winter period (December – January, as previously advised by NatureScot), there will be no routine maintenance or other planned dredging activities in the following zones:
  - a. Within 650m of Bird Roost Site 1;
  - b. Within the green-shaded area having direct line of sight to Bird Roost Site 1 (Drawing 676693-GIS005).

Dredging within these zones during this period may only be undertaken if necessary to ensure continued safe operation of the Port following an unforeseen event, such as an extreme storm, and will not be undertaken during the period within 1.5hr either side of high tide.

5. The dredge plan will be reviewed on a weekly basis with the EnvCoW, taking into account bird activity on site to confirm active dredge cells for the week to minimise bird disturbance.
6. Any unnecessary vessel transit routes/journeys across the harbour that may cause disturbance will be avoided.

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<sup>1</sup> Upper limit of non-breeding season disturbance buffer for Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) from Disturbance Distances in selected Scottish Bird Species – NatureScot Guidance | NatureScot



**Legend**

- Dredge Boundary
- Roost Site
- Roost 650m Buffer
- Visible from Roost 1

**Contour**

- MLWS (0.8 mCD)
- MHWS (4.2 mCD)

Do not scale this map  
**Client**  
 Haventus Limited

**Project**  
 Ardersier Port Dredge

**Title**  
 Winter Dredge Protocol

**Status**  
 FINAL

<b>Drawing No.</b> 676693-GIS005	<b>Revision</b> 1	<b>Date</b> 5 Oct 2023
<b>Drawn</b> CP	<b>Checked</b> EC	<b>Approved</b> HA

**Scale**  
 1:12,500 @A3

Rev	Date	Amendment	Initials
1	11 Oct 2023	1- Post-dredge topography 2- Dredge boundary 2023 3- Addition of Roost 6	MN

**Google Earth**  
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 Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

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