



Peterhead Smith Quay Extension

Pre-application Consultation Report

Peterhead Port Authority (PPA)

Date: 24 October 2025

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1. Introduction

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report has been prepared by NIRAS Group UK Ltd (NIRAS) on behalf of Peterhead Port Authority (PPA), (the 'Applicant'). The applicant will be submitting two marine licence applications, a marine construction licence application, and a marine dredging and disposal licence application to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) in relation to the extension of the Smith Quay, Peterhead (the 'Proposed Development').

The PAC Report presents the stakeholder engagement and consultation undertaken, and will be submitted to support the Marine Construction licence application in line with the requirements of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and Marine (Scotland) Act 2010: Section 24.

The intention to apply for a marine licence was conveyed through a request for an EIA Screening Opinion. On 18th July 2024, Marine Directorate provided a Screening Opinion under the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. In formulating the Screening Opinion, MD-LOT consulted with:

- Aberdeenshire Council
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- NatureScot, and
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

The screening opinion has also been made publicly available through the [Marine Scotland Information](#) website.

2. Pre-application consultation report

2.1 Proposed Licensable Marine Activity

Please describe below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form the proposed licensable marine activity, including its location.

Peterhead Port Authority (PPA) propose an up to 85 m extension to the western end of the existing 120 m long Smith Quay, Peterhead Port (see location in Appendix 1 - Project location). The works planned for this extension comprise:

- Demolition of the concrete deck of an existing berthing dolphin, with the dolphin's supporting tubular steel piles cut-off at bed level and removed;
- Partial demolition of a concrete wing wall at the west end of the existing quay;
- Removal and re-use of revetment rock armour adjacent to the west end of the existing quay;
- Quay extension comprising a concrete deck supported on tubular steel piles;
- Rock revetment beneath the quay extension;
- New mooring dolphin comprising a concrete deck supported on tubular steel piles;
- New/repurposed steel access bridge spanning between quay extension and new dolphin;
- Deck furniture;
- Area of reclamation; and
- Capital dredging to enlarge the existing berth pocket.

2.2 Applicant Details

Title	Initials	Surname
Mr	S	Paterson

**Trading Title
(if appropriate)**

Peterhead Port Authority

Address

Harbour Office, West Pier
Peterhead, AB42 1DW
Scotland, UK

**Name of contact
(if different)**

--

**Position within Company
(if appropriate)**

Chief Financial Officer

**Telephone No.
(incl. dialing code)**

[Redacted]	
------------	--

**Fax No.
(incl. dialing code)**

Company Registration No.**Email**

	[Redacted]
--	------------

Is this prospective applicant the proposed licensee?

YES NO

If NO, please complete Section 3 below.

2.3 Proposed Licensee Details

Title**Initials****Surname**

--	--	--

**Trading Title
(if appropriate)**

--

Address

--

**Name of contact
(if different)**

--

**Position within Company
(if appropriate)**

--

Telephone No.**Fax No.**

--

(incl. dialing code)

(incl. dialing code)

--	--

Company Registration No.

Email

--	--

2.4 Pre-application Consultation Event

Please describe below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form the pre- application consultation event.

In line with Regulation 7 of the of the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations, PPA published in a local newspaper a Public Notice detailing the licensable marine activity for which the licence is to be sought and the pre-application consultation event. The Public Notice was published in the Buchan Observer on 2nd September 2025 and a copy is provided at Appendix 2 - Public Notice. To enhance publicity for the event, the notice was issued to two additional regional newspapers: The Ellon Times and Inverurie Herald, and Fraserburgh Herald.

On 2nd September 2025, notification of the Pre-application Consultation was additionally given to:

- Aberdeenshire Council;
- Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB);
- The Maritime and Coastguard Agency;
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
- NatureScot; and
- Peterhead Community Council.

Each recipient was provided with an information package (see Appendix 3 – Information package) , and a copy of the Public Notice, which explained when and how to engage and provide feedback. A copy of the notification emails and the NLB response received is included at Appendix 4 – Notification letters and responses.

The Pre-application Consultation event was held at the Palace Hotel, Prince Street, Peterhead, AD42 1PL between 16:00-19:00 on Wednesday 15th October 2025. Two representatives from the PPA and three from NIRAS represented the project to address potential engineering, environmental, and other queries.

No members of the local community or stakeholders attended the event.

Images from the event are available at Appendix 5 – Pre-application Consultation images.

2.5 Information provided by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of any information provided by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre-application consultation event.

Information on the site and proposals were made available to view at the Harbour Office reception or by email by contacting marineUK@niras.com.

During the event, project information were available in the form of hard copies and screen presentation. Specifically, information regarding the proposed extension of Smith Quay at Peterhead Port (Appendix 3 – Information package) were available, including its current limitations and the planned infrastructure improvements. The strategic role of the port, and details on construction activities and timelines were outlined, while associated community programmes and employment initiatives were also described. Information was provided on the environmental impact assessments and supporting studies completed, as well as regulatory and licensing requirements.

2.6 Information received by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of any comments and objections received by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre-application consultation event.

There were no attendees from the local community or stakeholders at the event, and no comments or objections were received through other channels such as post or email (to the email address provided or any other email address). NLB was the only stakeholder to respond and confirmed they would not be able to attend, and that they will formally respond to the Marine Licence application.

2.7 Amendments made to the Application for a Marine Licence by the Prospective Applicant following their Consideration of Comments and/or Objections received at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Where any amendments are made, or are to be made, by the prospective applicant for a marine licence to the marine licence application as a direct result of their consideration of comments and/or objections received at the pre-application consultation event, please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of such amendments.

There were no comments or objections submitted regarding the proposed development; therefore, no amendments are planned.

2.8 Explanation of Approach taken by the Prospective Applicant where, following Relevant Comments and/or Objections being received by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event, no Relevant Amendment is made to the Application for a Marine Licence

Where, following comments and/or objections having been received by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre-application consultation event, no relevant amendment is made to the application for a marine licence by the prospective applicant, then please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form an explanation for the approach taken.

There were no comments or objections submitted regarding the proposed development; therefore, no amendments are planned.

CERTIFICATION

Insert name	Stephen Paterson
Insert Address	Harbour Office, West Pier
Town	Peterhead
County	Aberdeenshire
Postcode	AB42 1DW

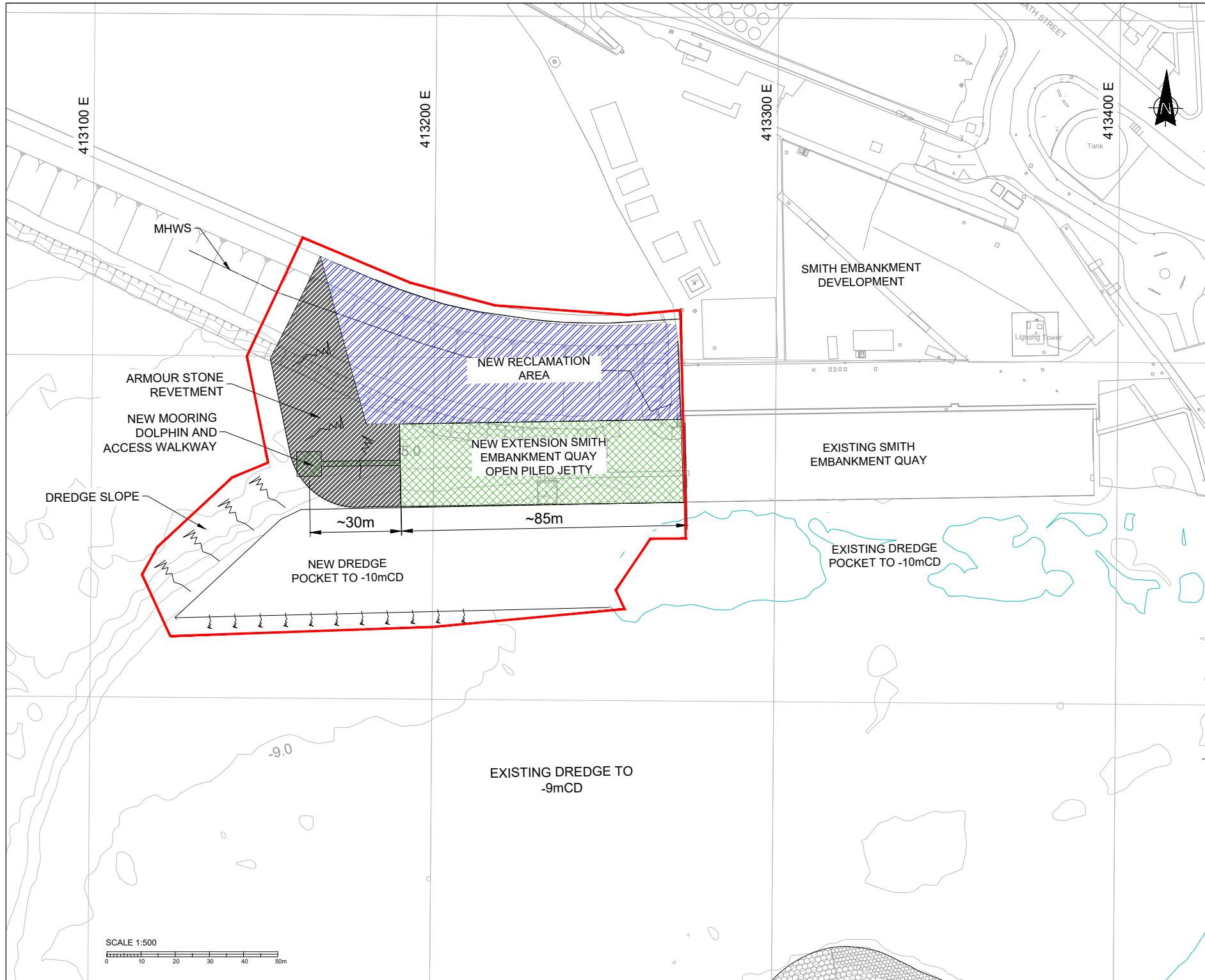
I certify that I have complied with the legislative requirements relating to pre-application consultation and that the pre-application consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements.

[Redacted]

Signature

Date _____

Appendix 1 - Project location



NOTES

1. ALL LEVELS TO CHART DATUM.
2. TIDE LEVELS AS FOLLOW:
 - MEAN HIGH WATER SPRINGS (MHWs) - +3.80m CD
 - MEAN LOWER WATER SPRINGS (MLWS) - +0.50m CD

22-05-25	FOR INFORMATION	ACW
Rev.	Date	Description

Client :



Title :
SMITH QUAY EXTENSION
LOCATION PLAN

EDINBURGH OFFICE
PENTLANDS SCIENCE PARK
BUSH LOAN PENCURK
NR. EDINBURGH
EH26 0PL, SCOTLAND
Tel: +44131 440 5500
marineUK@nirras.com
www.nirras.com.uk

Project No: 81400408

Drawn Checked Approved Scale (at A1): 1:500

MAAO MFAU ACW Date: Sept 2025

Drg No: 81400408-064 Location Plan SQ Rev -

81400408-064 Location Plan SQ Rev -

Appendix 2 - Public Notice



The Buchanie SINCE 1863

The new name for the *Buchan Observer*

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Trial road closure

See page 4



Trivia quiz is a big hit

See page 6

Twenty is the limit from this month

Permanent 20mph speed limits are being introduced in built-up areas in Aberdeenshire



See pages 8 & 9



See pages 10 & 11

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Proposed Marine Works at Peterhead –
Smith Quay extension construction project.

Notice is hereby given that Peterhead Port Authority (Harbour Office, West Pier, Peterhead AB42 1DW) intends to apply to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) for a marine licence under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to carry out the following works: extension of the existing Smith Quay; installation of a new mooring dolphin; dredging, land reclamation; and revetment with rock armour. The works will take place within Peterhead Bay, at and adjacent to the existing Smith Quay (position 57°30'8.39" N, 1°46'44.47" W).

Peterhead Port Authority intends to hold a public consultation drop in event. The event will be at the Palace Hotel, Prince Street, Peterhead, AB42 1PL between 16:00-19:00 on Wednesday, 15th October 2025.

Details of the project will be available at the event and representatives of the project will be present to answer any questions. Members of the public are invited to attend and provide comments on the proposed works. Comments should be submitted by Thursday, 16th October 2025 to: marineUK@niras.com or in writing to Harbour Office, West Pier, Peterhead AB42 1DW between Tuesday, 2nd September and Wednesday, 15th October 2025.

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Shop plans thrown out

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Fishing fleet



Unrest over wind farms

See page 4

Aden Festival



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See pages 10 & 11

Energy sector



Insight for local pupils

See pages 16 & 17

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REGULATIONS 2015, Regulation 8

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be viewed using the online Planning Register at <https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

Comments may be made quoting the reference number and stating clearly the grounds for making comment. Comments can be submitted using the Planning Register when viewing the application. Alternatively, comments can be addressed to Aberdeenshire Council, Planning and Economy Service, Viewmount, Arduthie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ. Please note that any comment, where considered valid, will be published on the Planning Register.

Please note that even if you have made comments to the applicant prior to this application being submitted, or to the Council regarding a similar application that has been made on this site before, you will still need to make your comments to the Council on the current application.

Comments must be received by 24 September 2025

Address: 73 Main Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9RT

Proposal: Demolition of Dwellinghouse - APP/2025/1394

Address: 73 Main Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9RT

Proposal: Demolition of Dwellinghouse - APP/2025/1395

Address: 73 Main Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9RT

Proposal: Demolition of Dwellinghouse and Erection of Replacement Dwellinghouse - APP/2025/1322

Address: Alloch House, Inverallochy, AB43 8YT

Proposal: Erection of Replacement Dwellinghouse, Summerhouse and Outbuilding (Amended Design to Planning Permission Reference APP/204/1072) - APP/2025/1349

GENERAL NOTICES

PETERHEAD PORT AUTHORITY

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Appendix 3 – Information package



Peterhead Smith Quay
Extension

Peterhead Port is the ultimate North Sea gateway, strategically positioned to drive the future of Scotland's maritime and energy sectors.



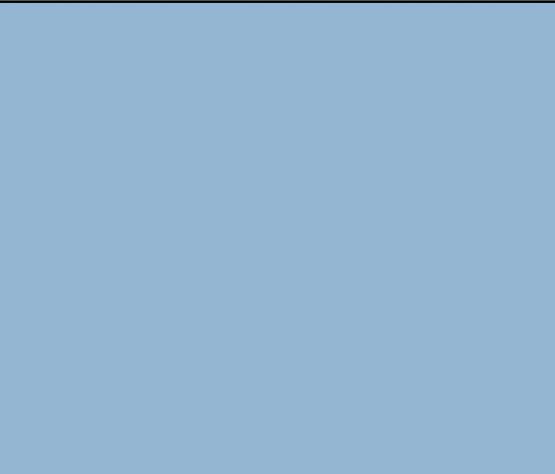


Smith Quay (ringed in yellow) has been operational since 2010, with a 120m long quay and adjacent working area. The Port Authority has proposed extending the western end of Smith Quay by up to 85m.

The current Smith Quay is limited in its ability to berth larger vessels and handle the heavier operating equipment used today.

The port redevelopment has the potential to bring a range of benefits to people in the Aberdeenshire area

- Bringing new jobs during its construction and operation, including graduate recruitment opportunities.
- Establishment of apprenticeships and National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) development programmes.
- Partnering with the Aberdeenshire council to identify local skill gaps, ensure training and alignment with community needs.
- Delivery of the "You Matter: Employment Academy", an award-winning initiative aimed at removing barriers to employment, supporting disadvantaged minority groups, improving local labour skills and raising aspirations among young people.



- Delivering STEM activities to Primary and Secondary schools.
- Support for women in STEM and Women in Property initiatives.
- Site visits for career advisors and employment support professionals.
- Delivery of 'Be Your Best' 8-week employability programme – covering CV writing, job searching, interview skills and personal development.

Smith Quay Extension

The extension will:

- Add additional space for vessels to dock and load/unload.
 - Increase heavy lift capacity.
 - Accommodate larger vessels.
- Support offshore energy construction and operations activities
 - Improve safety and efficiency for port operations.
 - Future-proof the port for evolving needs.



Smith Quay (above) and the proposed design (below)

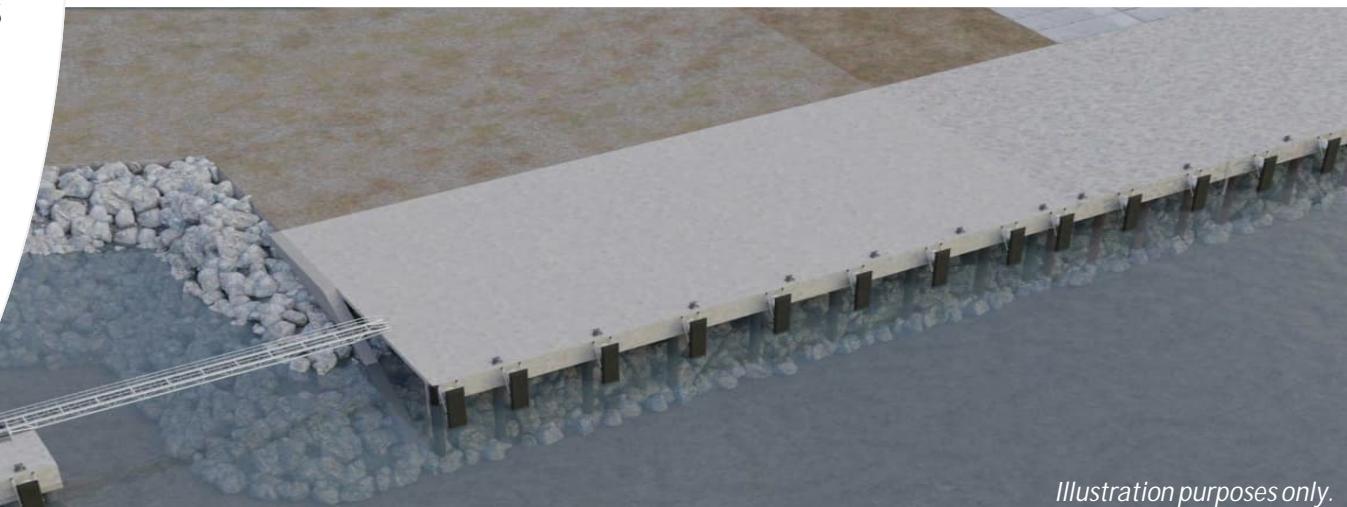
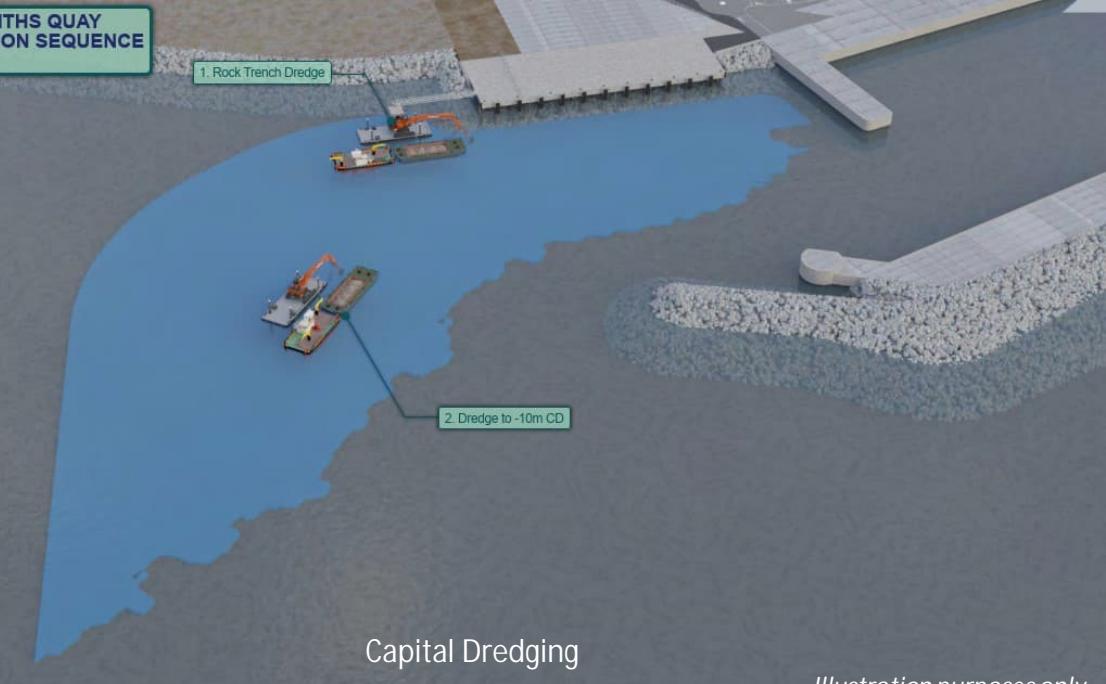


Illustration purposes only.



Rock Armour Revetment



Capital Dredging

Illustration purposes only.

Construction Activities

- Partial demolition of berthing dolphin and west wing wall
- Capital dredging to expand berth pocket
- Installation of rock revetment and reusing existing rock armour

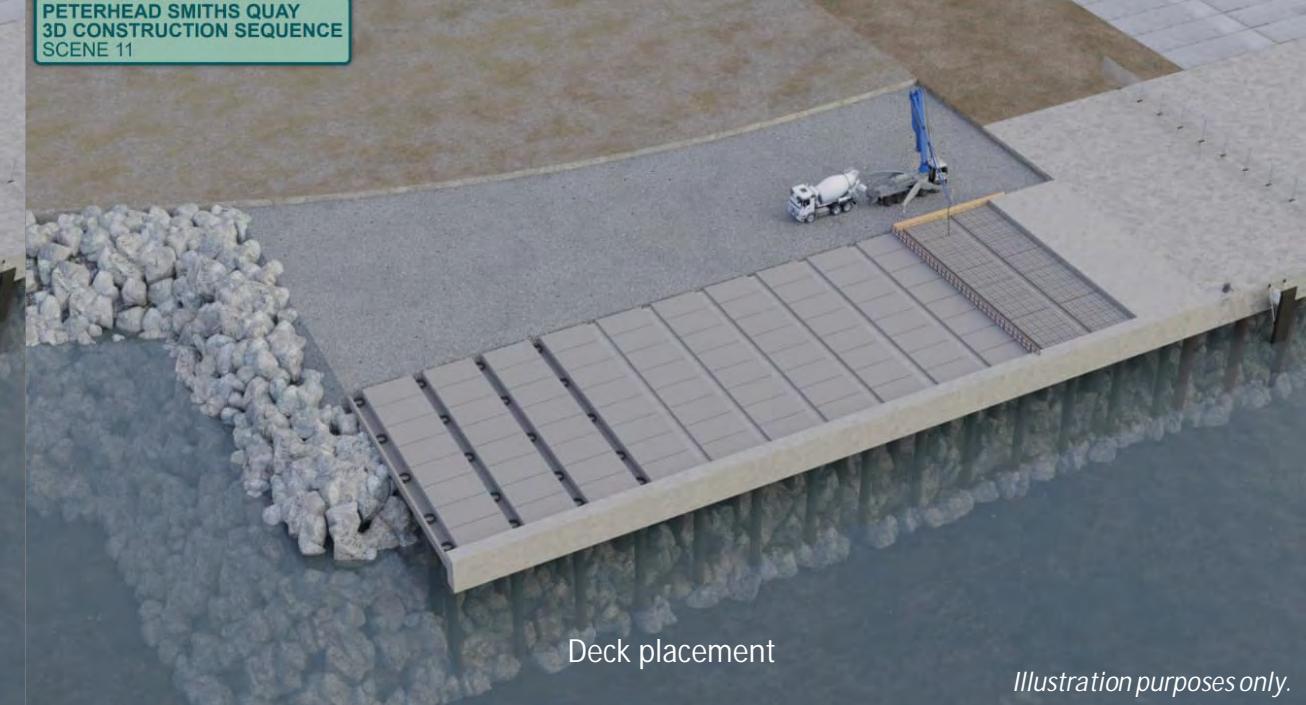


Illustration purposes only.

Construction Activities

- Piling installation
- Deck construction



- Construction of a new mooring dolphin and steel access bridge
- Installation of Deck furniture and reclamation works

Project activities are scheduled between January 2026 and December 2027





Protecting the
Environment – impact
assessment and
supporting studies



Marine Mammals

Construction activities like dredging, piling, and vessel movement create underwater noise. Underwater noise modelling was completed, and an impact assessment undertaken. The construction activities may temporarily disturb marine mammals, but the effects will be short-term and minor.

The harbour is already a busy area, although seals are familiar visitors. The impact assessment has concluded that the level of disturbance will be small and localised to the immediate area of the harbour, with no expected impacts to the wider marine area.

The activity with the highest potential to affect marine mammals is piling. Precautionary measures will be applied to ensure that disturbance is minimised and any risk of injury avoided (see right).



We're Reducing Risks to Marine Mammals

Protected cetacean species such as porpoise and dolphins are unlikely to occur in the harbour, but to avoid impacts we will:

- Monitor a safety zone before any piling works start.
- Use soft start to gradually increase underwater noise from piling to give animals time to move away.
- Record all observations and report to statutory authorities.



Seabirds



A number of seabird species regularly or occasionally visit and make use of the harbour for feeding or resting, but the area of works does not support any known nesting habitat. Although birds are used to a busy port environment, some short term and localised disturbance is expected. However, the project site is a small proportion of the harbour area and negligible compared to the overall foraging ranges of seabird species. No significant impacts are expected.



The sea and its bed



A remotely operated vehicle (ROV) was used to inspect the seabed within and around the proposed work site.

The seabed here consists of a combination of stony and finer sandy sediments, along with some larger rocks, likely remnants of previous construction and rock revetment activities. The area is quite disturbed and supports limited epifauna (animals living on the seabed).

There will be some habitat loss and disturbance beneath the quay expansion itself. Most of this area comprises artificial structures and sandy sediments, which are considered to have low ecological value.

Dredging works will mobilise finer sediments into suspension. There is no significant contamination present in these sediments and although disturbed sediments will temporarily settle on nearby habitats these areas are not highly sensitive and are expected to recover quickly.

Bathing Water and Marina Use

The works will take place about 1 km away from the marina and Lido area. Most sediment stirred up by dredging will settle back to the seabed well before it could reach the marina/lido area, and the enclosed entrance will limit the amount of finer (silty) sediments which enter.

Low levels of contamination, potentially originating from fuel or lubricant, were detected in one surface sediment sample from the dredging area. There was no contamination in the sub-surface samples, and the impact assessment concluded that dredging will only mobilise contaminants that could be disturbed under natural events, e.g., storms.

Noise from construction and dredging works may be heard from the marina/lido and surrounding areas, but given the distance and location within a busy harbour environment, this is not expected to cause significant disturbance or loss of amenity.

A construction Environmental Management Plan will be in place to minimise the impact of the project activities.

Licencing and Regulation



To ensure legal compliance and that environmental impacts are understood and minimised, the following are being undertaken in support of, or in parallel with, the Marine Licence application:

- Habitats Regulations Assessment for European Protected Sites
 - Environmental Appraisal (impact assessment)
 - Marine Planning and Policy statement
 - Marine Noise Registry application
 - Dredging and disposal licence

Other permissions, such as a Harbour Revision Order, as necessary.

We'd love to hear your thoughts.

Please share your feedback or ask any questions via email or post.
Your input will help shape the next steps of the project.

Email: marineUK@niras.com

Post: Harbour Office, West Pier,
Peterhead AB42 1DW



Appendix 4 – Notification letters and responses

Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)

From: Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)
Sent: 02 September 2025 15:42
To: Harbours Admin
Cc: Andrew Walker (ACW)
Subject: Notification of pre-application consultation
Attachments: PAC_Project_Information_Smith_Quay.pdf; Pre-application Consultation Notice.pdf

Dear Sir / Madam,

Pre-Application Consultation Notice – Proposed Extension of Smith Quay, Peterhead

I am writing on behalf of Peterhead Port Authority to give notice of the Marine Licence Pre-Application Consultation that will take place in respect of the proposed extension of Smith Quay, in accordance with the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

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The pre-application consultation drop in event will be held at the Palace Hotel, Prince Street, Peterhead, AD42 1PL between 16:00-19:00 on the 15th of October, 2025.

If you are unable to attend, but still wish to provide feedback, please submit your comments by the 16th of October, 2025. You can send your feedback via email to marineUK@niras.com or by post to the Harbour Office, West Pier, Peterhead AB42 1DW, between the 2nd of September, 2025, and the 15th of October, 2025.

Please note that comments made to Peterhead Port Authority in relation to this pre-application consultation are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. An opportunity to make formal representation to the Scottish Ministers via Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) will be available through consultation on the marine licence application in due course.

Best Regards

Arhontia Athanasiou (pronounced: *Arh-hod-ia*)

Principal Project Manager (Marine)



Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan,
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T: +44 131 440 5500
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Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)

From: Gillian Burns [Redacted]
Sent: 14 October 2025 08:34
To: Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)
Cc: Andrew Walker (ACW); Marine UK
Subject: RE: [EXT] Notification of pre-application consultation - Smith Quay, Peterhead

Categories: NIRAS copy to: Is copied to Group Mail
NIRASProjectId: 81400408

Dear Arhontia,

Thank you for your email and attachments, unfortunately NLB are unable to attend your PAC event.

We have reviewed you attached documents and will formally respond to you Marine Licence application once received.

Hope all goes well with your event, and if you have any specific queries regarding Aids to Navigation (both temporary during construction, or permanent on completion), please come back to us to discuss.

Best wishes,

Gillian

Official - Northern Lighthouse Board Email



Northern
Lighthouse
Board

Gillian Burns
Navigation Officer

T: 0131 473 2431
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

www.nlb.org.uk

84 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3DA



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Our mission:

To deliver in the most sustainable way practicable, a reliable, efficient and cost-effective Aids to Navigation service for the benefit and safety of all Mariners.

Our values:

Safety, Pride, Integrity, Teamwork, Fairness, Innovation, Respect, Environment

From: Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH) [Redacted]
Sent: 02 September 2025 15:46
To: navigation <navigation@nlb.org.uk>
Cc: Andrew Walker (ACW) [Redacted]
Subject: [EXT] Notification of pre-application consultation - Smith Quay, Peterhead

Dear Sir / Madam,

Pre-Application Consultation Notice – Proposed Extension of Smith Quay, Peterhead

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Best Regards

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Principal Project Manager (Marine)



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Scotland
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[Redacted]

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Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)

From: Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)
Sent: 02 September 2025 15:46
To: navigation safety
Cc: Andrew Walker (ACW)
Subject: Notification of pre-application consultation - Smith Quay, Peterhead
Attachments: PAC_Project_Information_Smith_Quay.pdf; Pre-application Consultation Notice.pdf

Categories: NIRAS copy to: Is copied to Group Mail

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)

From: Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)
Sent: 02 September 2025 15:50
To: gs@sepa.org.uk; waterpermitting@sepa.org.uk
Cc: Andrew Walker (ACW)
Subject: Notification of pre-application consultation - Smith Quay, Peterhead
Attachments: PAC_Project_Information_Smith_Quay.pdf; Pre-application Consultation Notice.pdf

Categories: NIRAS copy to: Is copied to Group Mail
NIRASProjectId: 81400408

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Principal Project Manager (Marine)



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[Redacted]

Follow us on:

Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)

From: Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)
Sent: 02 September 2025 15:52
To: NORTH
Cc: Andrew Walker (ACW)
Subject: Notification of pre-application consultation - Smith Quay, Peterhead
Attachments: PAC_Project_Information_Smith_Quay.pdf; Pre-application Consultation Notice.pdf

Categories: NIRAS copy to: Is copied to Group Mail
NIRASProjectId: 81400408

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Follow us on:

Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)

From: Arhontia Athanasiou (AATH)
Sent: 02 September 2025 15:54
To: 'peterheadcc.secretary@outlook.com'
Cc: Andrew Walker (ACW)
Subject: Notification of pre-application consultation - Smith Quay, Peterhead
Attachments: PAC_Project_Information_Smith_Quay.pdf; Pre-application Consultation Notice.pdf

Categories: NIRAS copy to: Is copied to Group Mail
NIRASProjectId: 81400408

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Appendix 5 – Pre-application Consultation images



