

Potential Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

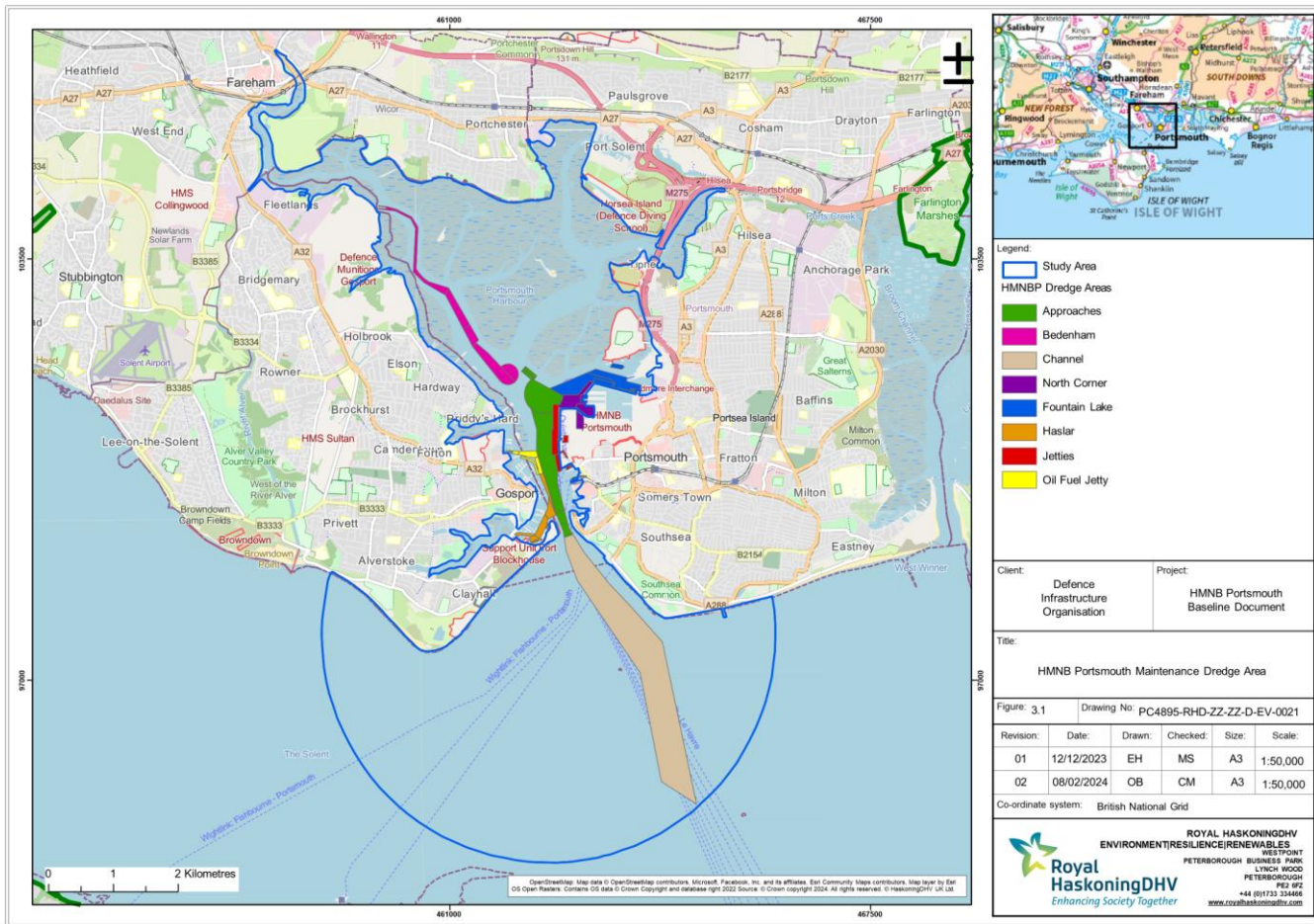
Solent Forum Meeting October 2025



Defence Infrastructure
Organisation

Dredging at His Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth

- Maintenance dredging regularly undertaken by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to maintain the depth of the navigable channels and berths.
- 10-year marine licence (L/2018/00293/5) consents an annual disposal of **164,000m³ (237,900 wet metric tonnes)** at Nab Tower disposal site with 10% allowed at Hurst Fort during foul weather conditions.
- Average disposal quantity of **50,930 to 59,715 wet metric tonnes per annum** between 2012 and 2022.
- Typically two campaigns per year, often with a large campaign in spring.
- Flexible campaigns (dates, methods and areas) subject to last minute changes given the nature of naval base operations.
- Maintenance dredge material is predominantly silt.
- Highly liquified with high organic content as material has recently settled.
- Licence application to renew the 10 year licence will likely be submitted in 2027.
- As part of that application a Waste Framework Directive Assessment will be required.
- Part of that process is to ensure that the potential to re-use the material has been explored.



Contamination

Nature of the area (agriculture, industry, ship building and urbanisation) can lead to the presence of contaminants in the sediments.

Three-yearly sampling undertaken as part of the marine licence:

- Areas of historical heavy metal contamination – restricted from maintenance dredging and disposal at sea or resampled and recorded at suitable level.
- Isolated TBT elevations identified within HMNB Portsmouth.

All material dredged under the maintenance dredge and disposal licence is suitable for disposal at sea.