



Marine
Management
Organisation



Historic England

A joint statement from the
Marine Management Organisation and Historic England
NAS Conference, 21st–22nd November 2015

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Historic England (HE) have been working together to streamline the marine licensing process in relation to activities associated with the historic environment, whilst maintaining an appropriate level of protection for the proposed licence area.

The MMO has reviewed the marine licence fast track criteria for minor removals and clearance dredging. Following consultation with Historic England, the MMO has agreed that fast track activities can now be undertaken in heritage designation sites or areas of known archaeological or historic interest, as long as the application is supported by a Protected Wrecks Licence or method statement agreed with Historic England. This will allow some of the activities associated with the maintenance and management of Protected Wrecks Sites to be processed through a streamlined application process proportionate to the risk to the sites.

The MMO have also been working with Historic England to develop a completed application form template for activities associated with the management and maintenance of protected wrecks sites, this should expedite the preparation of marine licence applications for applicants and reduce the number of requests for further information from the MMO.

Both these pieces of work should reduce the regulatory burden on applicants who volunteer to manage and maintain protected wreck sites ensuring the sites can continue to be conserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

The MMO note the Nautical Archaeology Societies (NAS) proposals for future marine licence exemptions and has provided the report to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), who are responsible for consideration and drafting exemption orders. Defra have indicated that there are currently no plans for a new exemptions Order however this will be kept under review.

Moving forward the MMO will continue to work closely with Historic England to identify efficiencies in the marine licensing process for applications associated with the historic environment. Should you have any questions regarding the marine licensing process please contact the MMO marine licensing team at marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk

Marine Management Organisation and Historic England
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