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Our ref: 144019_Runswick Bay coastal strategy
Your ref: Runswick Bay Coastal Strategy



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Robin

**Flood and Coastal Risk Management consultation – Option advice to the Environment
Agency: Runswick Bay Coastal Strategy
Location: Runswick Bay, North Yorkshire**

**Runswick Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Staithes to Port Mulgrave Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Runswick Bay recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ)
North York Moors National Park
North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast
England Coast Path**

Thank you for your request for a letter of comfort which was received by Natural England on 4 February 2015 (via Joanna Walker at CH2MHill).

Summary of Natural England's advice	Answer only yes or no
Is the proposal likely to lead to an environmentally acceptable solution?	yes
Is the proposal likely to require an Appropriate Assessment under Habitats Regulations?	no

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Following the information received from the body above regarding this strategy, we write to confirm that it is Natural England's view that **it is likely to lead to an environmentally acceptable solution.**

Runswick Bay SSSI and Staithes to Port Mulgrave SSSI

These SSSIs are both notified for their geological features and the Runswick Bay SSSI is more than 600m to the north of the sea wall at its closest point. The preferred option involves placing rock armour in front of the existing sea wall in front of Runswick Bay village. Based on the information supplied it is unlikely that the preferred option will have any effect on these SSSIs.

However, we stress that this letter does not constitute Natural England's assent or advice for the purposes of section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). When details of a proposed operation become available, and before carrying it out, the operating authority, having considered its general duty under section 28G(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, is required to give notice to Natural England. The operating authority is required to carry out the operation in accordance with the provisions of section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as the proposed operation is within the vicinity of Runswick Bay SSSI and Staithes to Port Mulgrave SSSI.

Runswick Bay rMCZ

Recommendations for a new Marine Conservation Zone at Runswick Bay are currently out to consultation by Defra and include inter-tidal rock up to mean high water. We have advised that based on the information submitted to date the preferred option (rock fillet) will not have a negative impact on the rMCZ in the short term and there may be some loss of habitat due to coastal squeeze in the medium and long term due to the maintenance of the coastal defence. The impacts and any mitigation measures, such as the relocation of boulders on the rock platform, will be assessed in more detail at the scheme stage.

North York Moors National Park and North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast

The Strategic Environmental Assessment has considered the effects on the two designated landscapes covered by the coastal strategy area. The preferred option 6. Rock fillet, is likely to lead to adverse impacts on the natural landscape but positive effects on the built landscape (Runswick Bay village), therefore Natural England agrees that the overall effect will be neutral.

England Coast Path

The coastal access report for this stretch of coast is due for publication in the next few weeks. The proposed coastal access route follows the same route as the Cleveland Way through Runswick Bay. Based on the available information there will be no interactions between the preferred option for coastal defences and coastal access in this area.

This advice is offered based on the information provided to date. It is given without prejudice to any advice that Natural England may offer in accordance with its statutory role under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, as amended, or any assent that may be required under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). Formal comment on the proposal will be provided following consultation on the Environmental Statement as required under the relevant Regulations. We look forward to receiving further information as the proposal is developed.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Susan Wilson
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Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area