

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, as amended ("the Regulations"): Screening Opinion

Proposal

Scarborough borough council are looking to undertake coast protection works to ensure the safety of the A174 from coastal erosion.

The proposed works comprise the replacement of 850m of existing revetment with a stepped concrete revetment with a crest height comparable with the existing defences and in addition an extended rock revetment, approximately 100m in length, which will continue past the end of the current defences to provide protection from outflanking of the defence through coastal erosion. A 2m wide walkway is proposed to run along the length of the stepped revetment, together with a rear 1m high retaining wall and accompanying landward coastal slope stabilisation. It is anticipated that rock arising from the slope re grading process together with any appropriate material broken out from the removal of the existing defences, will wherever suitable, be beneficially reused in the proposed rock revetment extension works. An existing culvert will also require extension by 40m. Works are currently scheduled to begin in September of this year, with an anticipated duration of approximately 20 weeks.

Location

Sandsend, Whitby.

Potential impacts

The main concern is the protection of the local designated Maritime Cliff and BAP habitat and with the extending of the current footprint of the defence into an area that is not currently defended; this in turn is contrary to the local shoreline management plan for this area.

Additional Information required to enable a decision on a Marine Licence Application

The proposed site is within distance of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coastline and the locally designated Upgang to Sandsend Cliff site. When applying for a licence the following additional information will be required-

- 1) The significance of extending the current footprint of the defence eastward with additional rock revetment and the potential impacts on coastal processes. This project would involve installing new defence works on an area of coast which is currently undefended which is contrary to the policy outlined in the shoreline management plan for this area. http://www.northeastsm2.org.uk/pdf/final_SMP2/pdz/pdz8.pdf

- 2) The significance of the potential impacts on the locally designated Upgang to Sandsend Cliff Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) and Maritime Cliff and slope priority habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (section 5.2 of Environmental Screening Report)
- 3) The proposed works fall within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage coast, and as such consideration should be given to the significance of the potential impacts on the local landscape and seascape character, particularly as the proposed works will extend beyond the footprint of the existing defence. (section 5.9 of the Environmental Screening report)
- 4) Supporting information will be required to give further details of Flood risk, Contaminated Land, Water Quality, Pollution prevention, Site waste Management and Marine Ecology.

To simplify both the application process and our formal review of potential impact, we would recommend that the information to support the Marine Licence Application should be compiled and discussed with Natural England and the Environment Agency prior to application. It should be noted that Natural England and the Environment Agency will be happy to advise the applicant on the preparation of this information.

Conclusion

The proposed project does not fall under Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, relevant section Annex II, schedule 10 (k). The works will require a marine licence under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. However, the absence of a detailed method statement precludes specific comment at this stage. When this information becomes available the nature and severity of potential impact and possible mitigation measures can again be revaluated.