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22 December 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

Proposal Request for screening opinion for Coastal Protection Scheme
Site Address Sandsend Road, Sandsend, Whitby,
Applicant Haskoning UK Ltd (J.V. Gardiner)

Please find enclosed the screening opinion in relation to your above proposal.

If you require any further assistance please contact the case officer noted above.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Jill Low
Planning Manager

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS)



Screening Opinion for Environmental Impact Assessment

Proposal Request for screening opinion for Coastal Protection Scheme
Site address Sandsend Road, Sandsend, Whitby,
Reference 11/02511/SCR

22 December 2011

1 Is the development Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 development?

Response : The development is a Schedule 2 Development.

2 Is the development part of a more substantial development?

Response : Yes potentially, but this would be likely to be in the longer term.

3 If yes, can the development be implemented independently of the wider scheme?

Response : Yes.

4 Characteristics of the potential impact - issues to consider

Response : In a 'sensitive area' located within North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast; the coastal slopes are locally designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and classified as a Maritime Cliff and Slope Priority Habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Impact on ecology, landscape/seascape and visual amenity. Residential and leisure receptors.

5 Extent of the Impact:

Will the effect extend over a large area?

Response : Relates to the replacement of 850m of existing revetment. Works will be visible from the beach and from certain sections of the footpath running alongside the A174 from an elevated viewing position.

6 Will many people be affected?

Response : Yes, both local people and visitors to the beach which is a public area. Local residents and visitors who use the beach will have direct views from the beach and from the footpath above and in distant views from the cliff path to the north west.

7 Transboundary nature of the impact:

Will there be any potential for transboundary impact?

Response : Yes - any works below Mean High Water Spring tides will require a Marine License from the Marine Management Organisation; Planning permission from SBC as Local Planning Authority will be required and a discharge consent from the Environment Agency may be required to allow the drainage water collected from the coastal slope to be discharged onto the beach from the proposed outfall pipe underneath the A174.

8 Magnitude and complexity of the impact:

Will there be a large change in environmental conditions?

Response : It is considered that there are likely to be impacts on the following: coastal processes including erosion but any effects likely to be negligible; biodiversity, flora and fauna however as the site currently has low diversity value the proposed works are unlikely to have a significant effect and some aspects likely to be beneficial to the habitat; water, land and air quality, road traffic, and noise and vibration would be affected during construction but initial surveys indicate that impacts are unlikely to be significant and mitigation measures are suggested; potential to affect features of archaeological interest but these are limited and mitigation measures have been agreed with NYCC's Archaeologist; landscape, seascape and visual amenity may be improved as existing sea defences are in a poor state of repair but this is subjective as some would argue that amenity could be reduced by the presence of the rock revetment and by making the sea front more linear.

9 Will the effect be unusual in the area or particularly complex?

Response : As other rock revetment schemes have already been successfully implemented in Whitby it is not considered that the finished effect will necessarily be unusual within the locality or particularly complex provided the mitigation measures suggested are adhered to. The site is within The North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast, a locally designated SINC as defined in the Scarborough Borough Local Plan and also classified as a Maritime Cliff and Slope Priority Habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan which has been taken into consideration including the impacts referred to above.

10 Will many receptors other than people (fauna and flora, businesses, facilities) be affected?

Response : This appears to have been comprehensively addressed in the Environmental Screening Report but could be subject to change as the project progresses.

11 Will valuable or scarce features or resources be affected?

Response : This would be dependent upon the findings of the further Biodiversity/Ecology and Archaeological surveys recommended in the Environmental Screening Report.

12 Is there a risk that environmental standards will be breached?

Response : It is expected that environmental standards associated with any works undertaken at the site will adhere to national and local policy guidance.

13 Is there a risk that protected sites, areas, features will be affected?

Response : If work is not undertaken and the existing sea defences fail there would be significant risk to the users of the A174 Coast Road, to members of the public who visit the beach and potentially to the cafe/shop on the seaward side of the A174 in Sandsend.

14 Probability of the Impact:

Is there a high probability of the effect occurring?

Response : Yes without improvements to the sea defences. The suggested mitigation measures will seek to minimise the impacts on the area associated with the proposed works.

15 Is there a low probability of a potentially highly significant effect?

Response : N/A.

16 Duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact:

Will the effect continue for a long time?

Response : Yes.

17 Will the effect be permanent rather than temporary?

Response : Yes.

18 Will the impact be continuous rather than intermittent?

Response : Yes.

19 If intermittent, will it be frequent rather than rare?

Response : N/A.

20 Will the impact be irreversible?

Response : No.

21 Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effect?

Response : Yes.

22 CONCLUSION

It is considered that the environmental issues associated with the Sandsend Coast Road Protection Scheme can be addressed through the mitigation measures identified in the Report and the further studies that are to be undertaken in relation to biodiversity/ecology and archaeology plus any other studies required as part of the permissions and licences required in relation to this project. The report confirms that appropriate consultations will be maintained with the Local Authorities (Scarborough Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council), the Marine Management Agency, Natural England and the Environment Agency throughout the schemes development. Residents within 500m will be informed of the proposed works and to minimise the potential effects on tourism and recreation the intention is to carry out the works outside of the peak tourism period.

In light of the above and the likelihood that the environmental issues identified will not pose significant constraints on the proposed works it is considered that an **Environmental Impact Assessment is not required** .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Low', with a long vertical stroke extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Mrs Jill Low
Planning Manager