

Paul Howson
Senior Planning Officer
Planning and Communities
Shepway District Council
Civic Centre
Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone
Kent CT20 2QY

Our ref: Hythe FCRM scheme
ENVIMSO000946

Your ref:

Date: 22 August 2016

Dear Mr Howson,

HYTHE RANGES FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT- EIA SCREENING OPINION REQUEST

I am writing to formally request your screening opinion for flood risk management works at Hythe Ranges in Kent.

The Hythe Ranges frontage extends from Dymchurch Redoubt (NGR TR128320), and runs for approximately 3.7km north east to Fisherman's Beach at Hythe, ending at NGR TR159339. Currently flood risk management within the proposed scheme area is provided by the concrete revetment and low wall around Dymchurch Redoubt, a groyne field in front of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) firing ranges at Hythe, and occasional management of the shingle beach through reprofiling to maintain beach levels. There has also been informal placement of rock to form a low revetment at the top of the beach in front of Hythe Ranges, although this is not a formal flood defence structure.

The preferred option for the Hythe Ranges frontage is to reduce the current level of flood risk by improving the current flood defence arrangements along the frontage. This will entail a combination of different measures to strengthen Dymchurch Redoubt, and raise and stabilise the beach in front of Hythe Ranges and Fisherman's Beach. The key elements of the proposed works are as follows:

- Recharge of the beach at Hythe Ranges and Fisherman's beach with imported shingle. This will be along the line of the existing defence;
- Replacement of the existing failing concrete apron and sea wall at Dymchurch Redoubt for a distance of 212m. This will be along the line of the existing defence. The new section of rock revetment (both on the Redoubt apron and the 200m extension east) will largely lie within the existing footprint of the Redoubt apron, and also within the current footprint of the informal revetment that already exists on the beach just to the east of the Redoubt, matching the seaward extent of the completed Dymchurch revetment.
- Repair and refurbishment of the existing timber groynes on the beach to prolong their life for a further 25 years;

Our internal screening process has concluded the following:

1. Beach shingle recharge along the existing line of defence would constitute permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (GDPO) (England) Order 2015 Schedule 2 part 13 Class D;
2. Repair of the concrete apron and placement of rock around Dymchurch Redoubt we think would also fall under the Permitted Development rights quoted above.
3. Repair and refurbishment of existing timber groynes would fall under the Permitted Development rights quoted above.

Please can you confirm requirements, particularly for point 2 above.

It is the opinion of the Environment Agency that the proposed project will not give rise to significant environmental effects, taking account of its scale, location and nature of impacts. With regard to the scheduled monuments on the frontage we are in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist to ensure any impacts are avoided or mitigated during our design process.

On this basis it is not the intention of the Environment Agency to undertake a formal Environmental Impact Assessment under the regulations. A voluntary, informal assessment will be undertaken instead, and an "Environmental Report" will be produced to reflect the details of the current scheme and associated environmental issues and mitigation proposals. We are consulting with the Marine Management Organisation to confirm that no statutory Environmental Statement will be required.

We have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report with details on the scheme and scope of issues to be addressed in the Environmental Report. I attach this for your information, along with the indicative landscape plan and latest design drawings.

We are currently planning to commence these works in July 2018 and works will last for a duration of approximately 52 weeks.

I would be grateful if you would confirm our screening of permitted development is correct. Please advise if planning permission is required for any element of the works, and if so, your views on any further supporting environmental information to be included in the Environmental Report would be welcomed at this stage.

I propose to hold a face to face meeting to discuss the Hythe Ranges and Lydd Ranges schemes in due course, and will be in touch to suggest a date. I will be writing to you separately to request a screening and scoping opinion for the Lydd Ranges scheme.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Peirce

NEAS

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Enc Hythe Ranges Preliminary Environmental Information Report, Indicative Landscape Plan and design drawings