



BOGNOR REGIS YACHT CLUB

Environmental Statement relating to construction of replacement launching ramp

This is an urban beach site – the shore side boundary being in the sea wall/promenade.

The shingle at our location has increased in volume by a large amount over the last twenty five years. This bank of shingle now extends at promenade height or just above for a distance of approximately 14 metres at a depth of 2 to 2½ metres approximately above the sea bed, it then extends at a slope down to the sand for a further 17 to 19 metres. Height of the shingle will change by a small amount in the intertidal region.

Sea birds are observed on the shingle, however there is no evidence of nest building in this area at any time.

The shingle bank is kept in place by wooden groynes which extend much further out to sea than the proposed ramp. Location of this ramp on the SSSI site is unlikely to have an effect on the two major items of interest, i.e. Bognor Rocks and fossil remains as these are a fair distance away*.

Approximately two thirds of the sloping section of ramp will be covered at high water, due to the open construction this will have little effect on tidal flow or wave action.

Once the construction of the proposed ramp is finished it is unlikely to have any detrimental effect on the main areas of interest in the SSSI site, however due diligence and care must be taken during the construction phase.

Potential environmental impacts during the construction:

1. Shingle compaction due to heavy machinery
2. Accidental oil spill
3. Deposit of dust and shavings from wood machinery

Proposed mitigation:

1. Use special mats to distribute the load of heavy plant/machinery
2. Any piling rig used will use biodegradable oil and have suitable equipment for recovering any accidental oil spill
3. Most wood machining will be carried out off site, any on site waste will be collected.

The appointed contractor must adhere to the above protocols.

*See e-mail from Natural England

From: Webster, Elaine (NE) [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 October 2013 15:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: bognor reef SSSI extension of yacht club ramp

Dear Joe

As promised I have now heard back from our geological expert.

From the description and information provided to me at this pre- planning stage, the proposal to extend and widen the yacht club ramp is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the interest features of Bognor Reef SSSI. This is because it is far enough away from the key interest features of the SSSI, the rock formation (Bognor Rocks) and is also far enough away from important areas for beetle and fish fossil remains, which occur further to the west. However care will be needed during the construction phase, to avoid damage to the foreshore exposures and shingle habitat. The design of the ramp employs piling and leaves gaps for sediment movement under the ramp, which is desirable.

As discussed today, you need to include in your application a method statement describing how the work will be undertaken. This is to demonstrate how you will avoid damage to the SSSI habitats (shingle bank and foreshore) during construction. The methodology should include the type of machinery, how spillage/pollution incidents will be avoided and also include details of any restoration of the site once the work has been completed (i.e.: re-profiling of the shingle bank where it is out of reach from normal tidal inundation – it would be preferable to allow the tide to redistribute the shingle habitat where this is possible to avoid further disturbance to the natural profile of the beach). Where construction vehicles need to access the foreshore you will need to have matting laid down to protect the foreshore interest. This needs to effectively re-distribute the weight of the machinery and vehicles to prevent compaction of the mud and sediments in the intertidal areas.

Next steps

The planning authority (Arun DC) will formally consult Natural England and our planning team will provide the formal response. Please feel free to include my comments above in your application. As this is subject to planning, a consent for the work will not be needed but please make sure Arun DC are aware that this is **within the SSSI and they need to consult Natural England.**

Thank you for consulting me so early on in the process, hopefully this will smooth the way through the planning process.

If you need any further clarification do not hesitate to give me a call.

Kind regards

Elaine

Elaine Webster

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