

Date: 06 December 2013
Our ref: 103282
Your ref: BR/272/13



Mr S Davis
Planning Officer
Arun District Council

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BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr S Davis

Planning consultation: Construct a replacement launching ramp on the beach

Location: Beach adjacent Bognor Regis Yacht Club Victoria Road South Bognor Regis PO21 2NA

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 06 November 2013 which was received by Natural England on 06 November 2013.

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.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

No objection – with conditions

This application is within Bognor Reef Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI). However, given the nature and scale of this proposal, Natural England is satisfied that there is not likely to be an adverse effect on this site as a result of the proposal being carried out in strict accordance with the details of the application as submitted. We therefore advise your authority that this SSSI does not represent a constraint in determining this application. Should the details of this application change, Natural England draws your attention to Section 28(1) of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), requiring your authority to re-consult Natural England.

Conditions

We have assessed the application for direct and indirect impacts on the SSSI, and have no objection to this planning application subject to the following measures being secured:

1. The ramp is to extend no further than the nearby outfall pipe (see photo in annex 1) in order to avoid impacting the movement of natural sediment.
2. Storage of plant machinery and equipment to be outside of the SSSI (i.e. on hard standing and not on the shingle beach).
3. Fuel, oil and any other potential pollutants to be stored securely outside of the SSSI boundary to avoid accidental spillage on SSSI shingle habitat. All refuelling of plant/machinery to be carried out outside of the SSSI.
4. Use of suitable protective matting to be used by machinery when tracking across the shingle and foreshore, as the softer sands and sediments are especially vulnerable to compaction from machinery tracking across the intertidal areas.
5. No vehicular movements to be permitted within the SSSI (excluding the immediate work area), in order to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the shingle bank and damage/compaction of intertidal sands and mudflat habitat. The work area should be clearly marked (using thin metal rods and tape), and contractors should be fully briefed on the sensitivity of the site and the restricted area.

6. After works have finished, for the area above the high tide line, the shingle bank should be reprofiled (as necessary) to remove any ridges formed by vehicles. However for the shingle below the high tide line, natural tidal processes should be allowed to redistribute shingle.

Appropriately worded conditions to secure these measures are required to ensure that the development, as submitted, will not impact upon the features of special interest for which Bognor Reef SSSI is notified.

If your Authority is minded to grant consent for this application without the conditions recommended above, we refer you to Section 28(1) (6) of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), specifically the duty placed upon your authority, requiring that your Authority;

- Provide notice to Natural England of the permission, and of its terms, the notice to include a statement of how (if at all) your authority has taken account of Natural England's advice; and
- Shall not grant a permission which would allow the operations to start before the end of a period of 21 days beginning with the date of that notice.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Francesca Barker on 0300 060 0873. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

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

Francesca Barker – Lead Adviser
Land Use Operations

Annex 1: Photo of outfall. The ramp should not extend further than the outfall.

