

Marine Plan Considerations

AtP Beach Management Plan: Phase 3 - Old Point

The proposed scheme is considered to have a low impact on the local marine environment. However, the policies which are relevant to all proposals and apply across the whole of the inshore and offshore plan areas have been considered.

The proposed scheme introduces armour stone as an additional coast protection asset in front of an ageing concrete sea wall and within an existing groyne field. It is hoped that alongside future beach recycling that the works will improve the standard of defence to a number of properties in Middleton-on-Sea. In addition, it is expected that the work will increase the beach crest offering further protection

Climate Change (S-CC-1, S-CC-2 & S-CC-3)

It is planned that the work will operate in tandem with the proposed Environment Agency (EA) revetment extension at Elmer. By completing these projects simultaneously we will reduce the environmental impact as there will be half the emissions from barge/road delivery of materials. Furthermore, once the scheme is complete it is assumed that there will be no further greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the development.

The scheme will be designed to account for climate change, the aim is to extend the life of the existing sea wall and enhance its resistance to climate change. The development is not expected to adversely impact upon any climate change adaptation measures elsewhere, nor have a significant adverse impact on coastal change.

Co-existence (S-CO-1)

S-CO-1 encourages us to consider opportunities for co-existence with other activities due to the restricted space on the south coast. In this case there are no other activities running in the vicinity, however, if successful, the scheme should increase the beach crest width, thus enhancing and maximising the space for other users.

Marine Protected Areas (S-MPA-1 & S-MPA-2)

The site is not located in a marine protected area (S-MPA-1 and S-MPA-4). However, the site is on the eastern boundary of the Solent and Dorset Coast potential Special Protection Area (pSPA). This Protection Area aims to protect three species of terns which forage within its boundaries. The most eastern colony of terns is found west of Pagham Harbour and Middleton-on-Sea is included within the area as the mean maximum alongshore extent¹. It is not expected that there will be any adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas or the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network.

Access (S-ACC-1 & S-ACC-2)

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/560622/solent-dorset-departmental-brief.pdf

Access to the site will be largely unchanged (S-ACC-1 and S-ACC-2), however in order to minimise risk of injury we will install safety signs in the vicinity of the armourstone to warn against climbing on the rocks.

Non-indigenous Species (S-NIS-1)

If the armour stone is transported to site via barge, then there is a small risk of the introduction and transport of non-indigenous species. The armour stone will be transported from Larvik. However, the rock will be cleaned prior to delivery and any contamination is expected to be minimal and inert.

Marine Litter (S-ML-1 and S-ML-2)

It is not expected that the scheme will result in an increase in marine litter once completed. It is not expected that the development will cause an increase of visitors to the area.

However, there is a risk that during the construction phase, debris or contractor litter could make its way into the sea. This risk will be mitigated by ensuring that contractors are contractually responsible for clearing the site. We will monitor their activities during construction and upon completion in order to ensure they have met this obligation.

Noise (S-UWN-1 and S-UWN-2)

It is not expected that there will be any increase in impulsive sound as a result of this scheme. During construction, the barge delivery of stone will generate continuous low level sound; however this will be covered within the licence for the Environment Agency revetment project at Elmer.

Water Quality (S-WQ-1 and S-WQ-2)

There will be no long term significant adverse impacts upon water environment, including upon habitats and species that can be of benefit to water quality. There may be a short term reduction in water quality as a result of the delivery of rock by barge. However, this is minimal within the context of the number of vessels that operate within the region. The scheme is not expected to enhance water quality.

Bio-diversity (S-BIO-1, S-BIO2, S-BIO-3 &S-BIO-4)

It is not expected that the introduction of armour stone at Old Point will have any significant benefits or adverse effects on bio-diversity in the area. There will no loss of coastal habitat, however the rock is expected to reduce wave energy aiding material retention and possibly enhancing bio-diversity through habitat creation.

Other

The following policies were considered but deemed irrelevant for the following reasons:

S-SOC-1: The scheme is not considered to enhance, promote or impact on existing or proposed social benefits.

S-CC-4: There are no habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem service in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.