



Marine Management Organisation

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) (2009): Section 126 Screening Opinion, Marine Conservation Zones

24 July 2017

Title: Emergency repairs to Withernsea Long Sea Outfall (LSO)

Applicant: Yorkshire Water Services Ltd

Reference No: MLA/2017/00249

Location

Withernsea Long Sea Outfall, Withernsea, East Riding of Yorkshire.

Proposed activity

Following stormy weather in the winter of 2016, the existing outfall at Withernsea Waste Water Treatment has become exposed on the foreshore and sections of the construction tunnel are damaged. There is a risk of contamination due to potential breaches in the outfall as a result of the reduced protection.

The proposed protection works will involve the placement of rock armour bags at the base of the cliff and further rock armour bags along the route of the failing Long Sea Outfall (LSO) pipeline.

All materials will be transported to a lay down area on the cliff prior to placement. No materials will be stored on the beach or foreshore.

Pipeline protection

Rock filled bags will be positioned for the full length of the exposed pipeline (approximately 100m) to the lower foreshore where the remains of a construction shaft are located. Bags would also be arranged around this structure.

Bags placed over the pipeline would be expected to raise the profile of the foreshore by approximately 800mm above beach level along the centre line of the outfall structure.

No excavation of the foreshore would be required.

Cliff protection

At the base of the cliff, bags will be deposited in a layered arrangement to a height of 1.5 metres, which is half the height of the cliff. The bags are highly flexible and would



mould to the uneven contours of the cliff and pipeline. **MCZs in vicinity of proposed works**

The following recommended Marine Conservation Zone (“MCZ”) is located in the vicinity of the bridge structure (approximate distance in brackets):

- Holderness Inshore Marine Conservation Zone (0 metres)

Further information regarding the above recommended MCZ and its protected features can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492320/mcz-holderness-factsheet.pdf

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/holderness-inshore>

The conservation objectives of Holderness Inshore MCZ are:

The site’s conservation objectives apply to the MCZ and the individual species and/or habitat for which the site is being recommended (the “Designated features” listed below).

The conservation objective of the zone is that the features:

(1)

- a) so far as already in favourable condition, remain in such condition; and
- b) so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition, and remain in such condition.

(2) In paragraph (1), “favourable condition”—

- a) with respect to a habitat within the Zone, means that—
 - a. its extent is stable or increasing; and
 - b. its structures and functions, its quality, and the composition of its characteristic biological communities are such as to ensure that it remains in a condition which is healthy and not deteriorating;
- b) with respect to the feature of geological interest within the Zone, means that—
 - a. its extent, component elements and integrity are maintained;
 - b. its structure and functioning are unimpaired; and
 - c. its surface remains sufficiently unobscured for the purposes of determining whether the conditions in paragraphs (i) and (ii) are satisfied.

Designated Features

Protected features	General management approach
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition

Subtidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Spurn head (subtidal) and “the Binks” (feature of geological interest)	Maintain in favourable condition

MMO Screening Opinion

The MMO has determined that the proposed activity is not deemed to be capable of affecting either (i) the protected features of the above MCZ; or (ii) any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of the above MCZ are (wholly or in part) dependant. SPIRIT has been employed in conducting a desk based survey of the area, and it does not appear that any features will be at risk from the rock armour while it is in place.

It is anticipated that the deposit of the rock filled armour bags would result in an increase in footprint of approximately 3 metres either side of the existing pipeline. Whilst there would be a short-term, localised effect on the habitats and species in the immediate footprint of the emergency protection works and access area, in the context of the extents of such intertidal habitats within the MCZ the impacts are considered to be negligible. Due to the small scale of the works proposed, and their temporary nature, it is not considered likely that there will be any discernible change in sedimentation or erosion patterns in the immediate vicinity of the works.

Conclusion

The MMO considers that the proposed activities will not require further assessment regarding impact on the protected features of the proposed MCZ.



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