

From: Graeme Walker
To: [Ross Middleton \(rossmiddleton@north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](mailto:rossmiddleton@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)
Subject: Replacement & enlargement of existing jetty - Hunterston Construction Yard
Date: 12 April 2018 17:38:00

Thank you for consulting Scottish Natural Heritage over the above proposals.

The application is for the repair and extension of the hammerhead quay at the northern edge of the former rig construction yard.

We note the proximity of the works to the Southannan Sands site of special scientific interest.

Assessment.

The proposed works are a component of a larger project transform the rig construction yard into a facility for the decommissioning and demolition of redundant offshore oil facilities. The works will involve the installation of protective piling , the raising of the deck and minor dredging operations.

The piling operations will have the capacity generate significant noise levels while the terrestrial construction works activity may in certain conditions, be a source of dust which could impact on the designated site.

Southannan Sands Site of Special Scientific Interest.

I can confirm that it is unlikely, providing the construction management plan contains measures for the suppression of dust generation in dry conditions, that there will be no damaging impacts on the features of interest within the protected site.

Specially protected species.

Otters.

There is a risk that otters may be present on the site and that potentially there may be places of shelter (holts or couches) in the existing quay structure. As otter are a mobile species it is essential that a pre-construction survey is undertaken by a competent surveyor. Should evidence of otters being present be found then there may be a need for the developers to obtain an appropriate licence and implement a mitigation plan. This process could potentially impact on construction schedules and therefore we advise that this risk should be taken into account in contingency planning.

As it is also possible that otter could be found on the construction site during operations, if this could be addressed through the construction management plan and that site staff are made aware through tool box talks.

Marine mammals.

The Firth of Clyde is home to a number of species of seals and cetaceans and there is a strong potential that construction noise, particularly piling operations could cause disturbance to these specially protected species. It is noted that efforts to minimise the percussive impacts could help reduce the transmitted noise however there remains a significant risk of disturbance in the Fairlie Roads area of the Firth. In addition the adjacent, related works at the Caisson gates will also generate percussive noise via separate piling operations and the cumulative impact will be more significant.

We therefore recommend that consideration is given to undertaking a sea watch, specifically for

marine mammals, during piling operations. We would anticipate that a competent observer, potentially on a boat, would scan the sea for mammal activity and be able to communicate sightings to the piling foreman. The foreman could put piling on hold until the risk of disturbance has passed.

I trust that you will find this advice useful, should you wish to discuss this response in more detail please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Graeme

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