

Marine Licence Applications

Report No 64. 1 OCT 2022

This report covers applications submitted since 1 May 2022 for work in the Solent not included in previous reports. It excludes applications for burial of human remains at sea.

1. Applications open for consultation

There are none this month.

2. Applications submitted but not yet open to consultation

Case ref: MLA/2022/00324

Application: submitted 29 July 2022

Applicant: Isle of Wight County Council

Project title

Removal of unsafe slipway at Brambles Chine, Colwell to reinstate safe public footpath access.

Project background

In essence there is a privately owned slipway at Brambles Chine over which Public Footpath F13 runs and which for many years has been a challenge for us to maintain access. We have installed flights of steps off of the side of the slipway but these are damaged by winter storms meaning that they only last a matter of months. The slipway has become undermined by wave action and we have sought to limit access down the centre of the structure. The storms of early 2022 (in particular Storm Eunice) have undermined the structure to such an extent that it is now unsafe for the public to use and has been closed since February 2022.

This is a well used route, part of the promoted Isle of Wight Coastal Path and included in the proposals for the forthcoming England Coast Path National Trail. I have been liaising with colleagues at Natural England and the Isle of Wight Council and the landowner, and we agree that demolition of the current structure and the installation of free standing flights of steps is the best solution. To that end we have commissioned a contractor who has formulated a Risk Assessment Method Statement. The site is outside of the Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Planning Department has confirmed that a planning application and demolition notice is not required. You will see in the RAMS that the contractor will need to access the site of the works by taking a 13 metric ton tracked excavator across the beach from Colwell at low tide seaward of the groynes.

Note by PFK. The site is within the Needles Marine Conservation Zone, surely more important than an SSSI.

Programme of works

If a licence is granted we would seek to commence works asap. Ideally we would wish to see demolition of the slipway and access to the beach through installation of free standing steps as soon as possible after this.

Start date would be late October 2022. Works should only take two to three days maximum. Access to site by the 13 metric ton tracked excavator will exert a 0.038MPa of pressure on the beach.

End

PFK 1 Oct 2022