

Marine Licence Applications

Report No 67. 4 Jan 2023

This report covers applications submitted since 1 August 2022. It excludes applications for burial of human remains at sea.

1. Applications open for consultation

Case ref: **MLA/2022/00428**

Itchenor Beneficial Use Deposit and Saltmarsh Restoration Site

Submitted; 27 Sep 2022

Consultation closing: 11 Jan

Land and Water is applying for a five-year marine licence for a combined dredge disposal and saltmarsh restoration site west of Itchenor in Chichester Harbour, where they are aiming to trial their new Saltmarsh Restoration Drag Box (SRDB) technique this winter. This project will involve beneficially using dredged sediment from elsewhere in Chichester Harbour to enhance and protect the harbour's eroding saltmarsh habitats at West Itchenor.

Within the five years being applied for, up to around 3.5 ha of saltmarsh are to be restored at the site, using materials sourced from various marinas within the Harbour. However, in the first winter of 2022/23, a trial of the novel SRDB technique is to be undertaken, whereby up to 0.7 ha are to be restored with circa 4,500 m³ of materials. A restoration and deposit zone has been drawn up; this is the maximum area within which sediment will be deposited, then dragged up the shore and reshaped to restore saltmarsh (more detail on this is provided **below**). Subsequent beneficial use and restoration campaigns would only take place if the trial during the first winter proved to be successful. Should the trials be successful, then annual campaigns of similar magnitude are envisaged, until around 3.5 ha have been restored at the site. Inclusive of the initial trial volumes, up to 25,000 m³ of materials may be required to achieve this level of restoration.

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There have been substantial losses of saltmarsh habitat in Chichester Harbour historically, and the habitat is continuing to decline. At the same time, the marinas within the harbour are regularly dredged, and the materials mostly taken offshore, instead of being used to rebuild the marshes. There are many reasons why dredged sediment has not been used to 'recharge' saltmarshes in the past. However, there is now a growing impetus to find ways of resolving these challenges. This proof of concept trial seeks to resolve these issues.

Case ref: [MLA/2022/00484](#)

Dredging at the cooling water intake of Marchwood Energy Recovery Facility

Submitted 2 Nov 2022

Consultation Closing: 30 January

Veolia E.S. (UK) plc operate an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) site on the banks of the River Test/Southampton Water. A marine licence application is being made to facilitate a capital dredge (1,400m³ material) in 2023 of the cooling water intake channel in Southampton Water, and the potential for annual maintenance dredging to maintain this channel. Up to 14,300m³ of sediment is proposed to be removed and disposed of at the Nab Tower Offshore Disposal site in the English Channel

Programme of works

Capital dredge planned for January-March 2023

Annual maintenance dredge to be completed (as required) in 2024 - 2033

Work planned for daylight hours approx 06:00 - 17:00

2. Applications submitted but not yet open to consultation

This month there is only one application for work in the Solent not included in previous reports and that one has been withdrawn. However it concerns an area, Fawley Waterside, in which we are taking a very close interest, so I have included it. As to the reasons for its withdrawal we can only speculate.

Case ref: MLA/2022/00489

Submitted 4 Nov 2022

Fawley Waterside Ltd Maintenance Water Injection Dredging

Project background

The new owners, Fawley Waterside Ltd (FWL), of the former Fawley Power Station require clear navigational access of the approach channel and the area adjacent to the cooling water intakes of the former power station. The proposed works are part of a historic dredging campaign, with the most recent water injection dredges having occurred in 2019 and 2017, by FWL. Prior to this the previous owner, RWE npower plc, undertook regular dredging of the site in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

Programme of works

Van Oord UK Ltd has been contracted to carry out water injection dredging of the site during February 2023, for completion by 28 February 2023 to avoid the migration periods of salmon.

It is estimated that the works will take place over 25 tides. Water injection dredging will widen the channel to 40m and deepen it to an average of 1.5m below chart datum, resulting in an expected 27,000m³ of sediment to be dredged.

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