

Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defences

Welcome to our fourth newsletter informing you of progress made on the scheme to replace the existing groynes at Southern Felixstowe (War Memorial to Landguard Common). This scheme is part of our long term strategy to improve Coastal Defences at Southern Felixstowe. This newsletter summarises the progress we have made on the Strategy and sets out the programme for groyne replacement between the War Memorial and Landguard Common.

Background

In partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council we commissioned Black & Veatch Ltd to review the Southern Felixstowe Coastal Strategy previously issued in June 2003. The study area for our strategy covers the flood risk area from the War Memorial, just north of the pier, to Trimley Marshes in the Stour and Orwell Estuary. The strategic flood defence options for Southern Felixstowe have been assessed based on the latest technical, environmental and economic factors and take into account consultation to date. This process has allowed us to select the preferred strategic option as 'Improve the Standard of Protection against flooding to 1 in 150 years' for Southern Felixstowe.

Since our last newsletter in July 2007, the Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defence Strategy has been approved by Defra. The approved Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defence Strategy has been used to bid for funds within the Environment Agency, so that works can begin on the frontage between the War Memorial and Landguard Common.

War Memorial to Landguard Common Scheme

The works (portrayed in Figure 1) between the War Memorial and Landguard Common will include:

- repair of collapsed parts of the main promenade;
- replenishing of the beach with sand and shingle to raise the beach level;
- installation of 21 rock fishtail groynes buried beneath the beach adjacent to the promenade.

We have awarded the construction contract to Team Van Oord, a Joint Venture of Van Oord UK Ltd, Mackley Construction and May Gurney, who are planning to undertake these works over six months starting in March 2008.



Figure 1

Outline programme for the works:

- Set up on site (early March).
- Mobilise dredger and install pumping line (March).
- Replenish existing beach (April – May).
- Rock delivered to site (April – July).
- Construction of rock fishtail groynes (April – August).
- Leave site. (end of August).

As you will appreciate, for health & safety reasons it will be necessary to close sections of the beach during the construction works. However we are committed to ensuring that the extent and duration of these closures is kept to a minimum whilst ensuring the safety of the public and our workforce.

Visits to the construction site

During the construction period we are offering the opportunity for a limited number of small groups (e.g. local school children) to visit the suitable areas of the construction site so we can explain the scheme in more detail. These site visits will be available Monday to Friday and must be pre-arranged with Team Van Oord's Site Manager.

Environmental Enhancements

We aim to lead by example and undertake our own activities, such as the construction of flood defences, in accordance with best environmental practices. The preferred option is favoured for its low environmental impact. We are also committed to identifying and investigating opportunities that could enhance the environment. During this project we will be carrying out the following environmental enhancements:

- To enhance the landscape and visual amenity, Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) plans to commission an artist to design a sculpture to commemorate the construction of the coastal defence scheme.
- To protect wildlife and our cultural heritage, information boards will be erected at the two entrances to Landguard Common SSSI and Landguard Fort Scheduled Monument to inform visitors of the historical and ecological value of Landguard Common.
- To protect wildlife, the County Wildlife Site in front of the Martello Tower will be fenced off from the start of construction to reduce the amount of trampling over the site and also raise the general awareness that this site exists.
- We have funds for a monitoring programme of the County Wildlife Site throughout the 2008 growing season to establish whether the County Wildlife Site is successful in supporting the rare stinking goosefoot.

What happens next?

Construction of the War Memorial to Landguard Common scheme will commence in spring 2008 and be completed by summer 2008.

Contacts

If you have any queries or issues that you wish to discuss concerning the Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defence Strategy Review or the Felixstowe South Flood Risk Management Scheme please contact:

Andrew E. Rouse, Project Manager
Environment Agency, Kingfisher House,
Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay,
Peterborough, PE2 5ZR.
Tel 01733 464 246
andrew.rouse@environment-agency.gov.uk

Comer Mead
Royal Haskoning, Rightwell House, Bretton,
Peterborough, PE3 8DW
Tel 01733 334455
Email c.mead@royalhaskoning.com
Bob Hunter, Site Manager
Team Van Oord
Tel 01635 529101
Email: hun@vanoord.com

Lara Ball, Environmental Scientist,
Black and Veatch Ltd, 69 London Road,
Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1LQ.
Tel 01737 856516
Email: balll@bv.com

Terry Oakes, Representative to
Suffolk Coastal District Council,
Melton Hall,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk, IP12 1AU.
Tel 01394 444 000
terryoakesassociatesltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Access into the construction site, compound and storage areas will be restricted. These will be fenced off and subject to regular patrols to maintain public safety and security. Please assist us in ensuring an accident free project by warning young children of the dangers of playing on construction sites.

In partnership with

