

MLA/2016/00227

Project summary

Application type

Please select the type(s) of application you are applying for.

If you wish to apply for a section 36 or 36A consent or a safety zone in addition to your marine licence application please tick the relevant box.

If you wish to also apply for consent under a local Act or Order please tick the Local Act consent box. Please explain which local Act or Order consent you are applying when giving details of the project background below. You should also upload a copy of the local Act or Order there too.

Application type

Marine licence

Please tick all additional application types that are relevant.

Additional application types

- Section 36
- Section 36A
- Local Act consent
- Safety zone

Project details

Project title

Goodwin Sands Aggregate Dredging Scheme

Project background

The Goodwin Sands Aggregate Dredging Scheme is a component of Dover Harbour Boards' wider development within the Western Docks at the Port of Dover (the Port), known as the Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR) development. The DWDR development will bring major regeneration to the Port's Western Docks and maintain current jobs while creating new ones. The existing cargo facilities at the Eastern Docks are constrained by land space and berth size and DHB wishes to expand its cargo business and provide larger and improved facilities for customers. The DWDR scheme will create new land space for the construction of new cargo handling facilities and the relocation of the cargo terminal from the Eastern Docks to the Western Docks will enable its expansion to meet customers' requirements. The DWDR scheme will also create a new marina and waterfront and provide a significant addition to the leisure and amenity offering of Dover.

As part of the DWDR development there is a requirement for aggregate (i.e. sand) for land reclamation works and berth construction works. It is proposed that up to 2.5 million m³ of aggregate will be dredged from the South Goodwin Sands and transported along a vessel transit route to the DWDR site at the Port.

The location of the proposed dredge area is within the South Goodwin Sands sandbank system. The Goodwin Sands sandbank system is a dynamic, highly mobile environment that contains significant volumes of aggregate resource of various grading for coastal defence, coastal development and construction to supply a range of markets and projects. This important aggregate resource includes South Sand Head, Area 342 (an area historically dredged by DHB as a source of aggregate for port development).

Programme of works

It is anticipated that dredging will take place between September 2017 and July 2019 in three stages corresponding to the relevant DWDR construction stages for which aggregate is required. The dredging will comprise up to 1Mm³ per stage, up to a total maximum for the project of 2,500,000m³. The design of the construction works for the DWDR scheme is in development is as follows:

Stage 1: September -December 2017

Stage 2: May-August 2018

Stage 3: April- July 2019

Dredging will be undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days per week. It is anticipated that a complete dredge cycle will take 8 hours and comprise dredging to fill the hopper of the dredger(s), transit to the DWDR scheme at the Port's Western Docks, discharge of the aggregate, and transit back to the proposed dredge area at South Goodwin Sands. Therefore, in good weather conditions it is anticipated that three dredging cycles will be completed by one dredger over a 24 hour period.

Related consents and applications

Have any other applications been made to the MMO in relation to this project?

Yes No

Please give details (including application reference numbers if possible)

An EIA Scoping Report was submitted as part of a formal pre-application request to the MMO for a joint EIA Screening and Scoping Opinion on 31st July 2015. Screening and Scoping Opinions were issued by the MMO on 25th September 2015. (refer to Appendix 4.1 of uploaded Environmental Statement). The MMO consulted a range of organisations (refer to Table 4.1 of uploaded Environmental Statement). The comments received by the MMO were incorporated into their Scoping Opinion and are also provided, as they were submitted by each individual organisation to the MMO (refer to Appendix 4.1 of uploaded Environmental Statement).

Has there been any other contact with the MMO in relation to this project?

Yes No

Please give details

An introductory meeting was held with the MMO in March 2015. This meeting involved discussion of the proposed scheme, the EIA and consenting process, likely survey requirements, best practice and guidance and plans for stakeholder engagement. This meeting also included discussion of the relationship between the DWDR scheme and the proposed aggregate dredging scheme.

A meeting was held with the MMO (and other key stakeholders) in May 2015. This meeting introduced the proposed scheme, discussed the exploration area being taken forward for geophysical and ecological survey, environmental sensitivities and the planned surveys and assessments to be carried out to inform the design of the dredging scheme and the EIA.

DHB held a series of technical working groups with the MMO (and other key stakeholders) in early 2016 to present the preliminary results of key elements of the EIA in advance of finalisation of the ES and submission of the Marine Licence application. These included separate working groups on coastal processes, ecology, archaeology and navigation.

Full details of the consultation with the MMO is given in Section 4 and Appendix 4.2 of the uploaded Environmental Statement. Consultation comments from the MMO, where provided, are presented in the ES receptor assessments within Sections 6-17 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Have any applications been made to or consents issued by other authorities in relation to this project?

Yes No

Please give details (including the authority name, dates, application reference numbers and the status of the application or consent where possible)

In March 2015, DHB submitted an application to The Crown Estate (TCE) for a Single Negotiated Area Agreement, which is the first step in agreeing permission to dredge aggregates for a single use for a limited time period (i.e. aggregate extraction for the construction of the DWDR scheme). DHB subsequently finalised the Single Negotiated Area Agreement and associated Exploration and Option Agreement with TCE and agreed a Production Agreement, which will serve to grant permission for aggregate dredging (subject to a Marine Licence being in place). TCE has confirmed that the proposed dredge area at South Goodwin Sands will be named Area 521.

Do you have statutory powers to consent or undertake without consent any aspect of this project?

Yes No

Is the project located within the jurisdiction of a statutory harbour authority?

Yes No

Applicant details

This is the person, company or organisation that will hold the licence.

Contact type

- Individual
 Organisation

Trading title (if applicable)

Title

Mrs

Forename

Sharon

Surname

Higenbottam

Organisation name

DOVER HARBOUR BOARD

Reg number

Position in organisation

Company Secretary

Contact within company

Postcode

CT17 9BU

Postal address

Harbour House
Marine Parade
Dover
Kent

Telephone number

01304 240400

Fax number

Email address

Sharon.Higenbottam@d
overport.co.uk

Sustainable development

The MMO strongly advise that a strategic appraisal is completed. Issues that should be considered include:

1. Identification of any conflicts between the project and the relevant marine plan.

2. Identification of alignment of the project with the Marine Policy Statement and any relevant National Policy Statement.
3. Identification of the environmental, social and economic drivers for a project that have been identified through existing feasibility studies or discussions with other public bodies (e.g. Local Authorities or Local Economic Partnerships).
4. Identification of any potential issues that may arise due to EU legislation (e.g. Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats Directive), and how these can potentially be avoided, or mitigated, at the strategic level.
5. Identification of any priority issues that may need addressing with regard to cumulative effects.
6. Options appraisal undertaken by the applicant, and the social, economic and environmental reasoning behind why the preferred option has been chosen.

Marine policy and plans

Have you assessed whether this project is in accordance with the Marine Policy Statement and any relevant marine plans?

Yes No

Please give details

Yes.

The MPS identifies that marine aggregates contribute to economic development and energy security through provision of fill for major coastal infrastructure projects; for example ports, renewable energy and nuclear energy projects. The MPS stipulates that the extraction of marine aggregates should continue to the extent that this remains consistent with the principles of sustainable development, recognising that marine aggregates are a finite resource, and in line with the relevant guidance and legislation.

The MPS recognises that marine aggregates contribute to diversity of supply and deliver high quality aggregate into the centre of areas of high demand with minimum disruption. The MPS states that marine plan authorities should, as a minimum, make provision within marine plans for a level of supply of marine sand and gravel that ensures that marine aggregates contribute to the overarching Government objective of securing an adequate and continuing supply to the UK market for various uses. The MPS recommends that marine plan authorities and decision makers should base decisions on sustainability criteria and should take into account:

- The existing seabed within the marine plan area that is currently being dredged;
- Offshore movement of aggregates (i.e. supply between regions & exports);
- The importance of meeting regional and national needs, beach replenishment and contract fill; and
- The need to safeguard reserves for future extraction.

Full details of the consideration of the project in relation to marine plans is presented in Section 3.4- Marine Planning & Policy Context of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Have you assessed this project with regard to other policy statements and spatial plans?

Yes No

Please give details

Full details of the consideration of the project in relation to marine plans is presented in Section 3.4- Marine Planning & Policy Context of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Environmental impact assessment

Has an environmental statement been produced to support this project?

Yes No

Please give details

An EIA has been carried out in respect of the Goodwin Sands Aggregate Dredging Scheme. An Environmental Statement is submitted with this application. The Environmental Statement takes the following form:
Volume I - Non-Technical Summary
Volume II - Environmental Statement
Volume III - Appendices.

Habitats regulations assessment

Have the effects of the project on European sites been considered?

Yes No

Please give details

The effect of the scheme on European sites is fully considered in Section 5.2 and Table 5.1 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.
Natural England confirmed in January 2015 that the proposed Goodwin Sands Aggregate Scheme would not require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Natural England's conclusions on the need for a HRA are presented in Appendix 5.1 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Marine conservation zone assessment

Have the effects of the project on marine conservation zones been considered?

Yes No

Please give details

The proposed dredge area is within the Goodwin Sands Recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ), The effects of the scheme on this designation and other relevant marine conservation zones is fully considered in Section 5.3.1 and Table 5.2 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

On the 15th February 2016 the MMO confirmed that a formal MCZ assessment for the Goodwin Sands rMCZ was not required for the scheme.

Sites of special scientific interest

Have the effects of the project on sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) been considered?

Yes No

Please give details

The effect of the scheme on SSSIs is fully considered in Section 5.3.2 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Water Framework Directive compliance assessment

Have the effects of the project been considered in accordance with the Water Framework Directive?

Yes No

Please give details

A WFD compliance assessment has been undertaken and is presented in Appendix 7.1 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Consultation and advertising

Has public consultation taken place and/or has the project been advertised?

Yes No

Please give details

Appendix 4.3 of the uploaded Environmental Statement records the feedback received in response to consultation letters issued by Dover Harbour Board (DHB) to stakeholders that were not consulted separately during the EIA Scoping phase or through consultation meetings held throughout the EIA process. The consultation letter issued to stakeholders included the following;

- An introduction to the proposed aggregate dredging scheme and the wider DWDR scheme;
- A map showing the exploration area at South Goodwin Sands (within which the proposed dredge area is located);
- Details on the dredging methodology proposed;
- An explanation of the EIA and consenting processes;
- A link to the EIA Scoping report on the Port of Dover website; and
- Specific requests for information or feedback, where relevant.

Table 1 of Appendix 4.3 of the uploaded Environmental Statement records the responses received from each organisation which are relevant to the EIA process, consenting process and/or scheme design.

Has consultation about the project with any other statutory body taken place?

Yes No

Please give details

A meeting was held with the MMO, Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency in May 2015. This meeting introduced the proposed scheme, discussed the exploration area being taken forward for geophysical and ecological surveys, environmental sensitivities and the planned surveys and assessments to be carried out to inform the design of the dredging scheme and the EIA.

DHB held a series of technical working groups with the MMO, statutory advisers and key stakeholders in early 2016 to present the preliminary results of key elements of the EIA in advance of finalisation of the ES and submission of the Marine Licence application.

These included separate working groups on coastal processes, ecology, archaeology and navigation.

Full details of the consultation with statutory bodies is given in Section 4 and Appendix 4.2 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Licence summary

Do you consider this application to be for emergency activities?

Yes No

Do you consider this application to be for activities which fall within the fast track process?

Yes No

Do you consider this application would qualify for the accelerated licensing process for dredging?

Yes No

Proposed licence start date

01-JAN-2017

Proposed licence end date

31-DEC-2020

Site summary

Please provide the location of your proposed activities. Note that the responsibility for determining whether your proposed activities are below Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) rests with the applicant. If there is any doubt as to whether a site lies below MHWS you can undertake an independent survey to determine its location.

Use the 'Add/edit site(s)' button below to add one or more more locations to your application.

Next use the 'Add activity' button to add activities to your locations. (NB this option only appears once a location is created).

Basic examples:

Dredging at RiverA. Create one site for RiverA and add dredging as an activity.
Dredging and quay wall improvements at RiverA. Create 2 locations: one for the dredging in front of the new quay area and one for the quay wall improvements.
Dredging at RiverA and removal of large concrete block within the dredge area. Create 1 location and add two activities: 1 activity for removal and 1 activity for dredging.

Additional functions:

Subsites, Holes and Exclusion Zones can also be used more guidance is available in the 'Help' guide.

Activities:

When an activity is added to a site it is listed in a table. Click on the activity name in the table or use the links on the left hand side of this screen to navigate to the activity screen where you can provide your method statement and other information.

If you delete a site, the activities linked to it will still be visible on this screen. You must delete these activities or move them to a valid site.

If you would like any advice on using this form or structuring your application please contact us.

Sites

Please see included locations.kml file for detailed site locations.

ProposedDredgeZone

Site sensitivities

Full details of the site sensitivities are provided within the uploaded Environmental Statement.

List of activities at this site

Activity	Site	Activity type	Actions
Aggregate dredging	ProposedDredgeZone	Aggregate dredging	

ProposedDredgeZone - Aggregate dredging

Site

Please see included locations.kml file for detailed site locations.

Activity details

Activity type

Please select the type of activity that would take place. If more than one activity would take place you should enter the details of one activity here and then add another activity.

Activity type

Dredging

Activity subtype

Aggregate dredging

General

Activity title

Aggregate dredging

Activity description

Dover Harbour Board (DHB) is proposing to dredge up to 2.5 million m³ of fine to coarse sand from South Goodwin Sands, located approximately 12km north east of the Port of Dover. The aggregate dredging will be undertaken using one or two trailing suction hopper dredgers (TSHDs) and the dredged material will be transported within the dredger(s) to the DWDR site in the Port's Western Docks for use as fill material for land reclamation and, potentially, for berth construction works.

The proposed dredge area is located on the western side of South Goodwin Sands . It covers an area of 3.9km² and extends south-westwards from the Kellet Gut channel along the western side of the South Calliper sandbank. The coordinates of the proposed dredge area are listed in Appendix 2.1 of the Environmental Statement. Based on multibeam bathymetry data collected in July 2015 the depth range within the proposed dredge area ranges from -4.3m Chart Datum.

Activity methodology

The shallow water depths at the South Goodwin Sands will impose a restriction on the maximum draft of dredger (i.e. a TSHD) that can be deployed for the proposed dredging scheme. The dredging is planned to be undertaken by one or two dredgers, each with a hopper capacity of approximately 5,000m³, although the actual capacity will depend on the dredging contractor appointed and it is possible that larger dredgers up to a maximum capacity of 8,500m³ could be used. A precautionary approach has been built into the scheme by using a dredger capacity of 8,500m³ for the sediment dispersion scenarios subject to numerical modelling assessments.

Once the hopper is loaded, the dredger will transit under its own power to the DWDR construction site in the Port's Western Docks where it will moor and discharge the aggregate into the reclamation area. The discharge of the aggregate was described and assessed under the T2 EIA and for the Marine Licence application for the DWDR scheme, and was consented through the Dover Harbour Revision Order 2012 and the Marine Licence for the DWDR scheme (Licence number L/2016/00056/1).

The dredger will be equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS) to enable accurate positioning and dredging within the proposed dredge area. The dredger will also be fitted with an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) which will record its position every 30 seconds during dredging operations. The data from the EMS system is monitored by the MMO and TCE to ensure the dredging operations will be undertaken within the licensed area.

The dredging contractor will undertake a multibeam bathymetry survey of the entire proposed dredge area before and after each dredging stage .

Full details of the aggregate dredging methodology are provided within Section 2. 5 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Activity start date	Activity end date
01-JAN-2017	31-DEC-2020

Activity programme

The dredging programme is required to tie into the DWDR scheme's construction stages. It is anticipated that dredging will take place between September 2017 and July 2019 in three stages corresponding to the relevant DWDR construction stages for which aggregate is required. The dredging will comprise up to 1Mm³ per stage, up to a total maximum for the project of 2,500,000m³. The design of the construction works for the DWDR scheme is in development and the programme for the corresponding dredging is as follows:

Stage 1: 2017- September to December

Stage 2: 2018- May to August

Stage 3: 2019- April to July

Dredging will be undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Full details are provided in Section 2. 7 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Potential impacts

The potential impacts of the aggregate dredging scheme have been fully considered and are described within the uploaded Environmental Statement. The impacts are summarised in Section 18 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Proposed mitigation

Potential mitigation measures have been fully considered and are described in the uploaded Environmental Statement. They are summarised in Section 18 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Residual risks

The residual risks have been fully considered and are described within the uploaded Environmental Statement. They are summarised in Section 18 of the uploaded Environmental Statement.

Additional supporting information

See uploaded Environmental Statement, comprising:

Volume I - Non-Technical Summary.

Volume II - Environmental Statement.

Volume III - Appendices.

Aggregate dredging

Material details

Start date 01-JAN-2017

End date 31-DEC-2020

Maximum lowering of sea bed (m) 1.95

Maximum single calendar year extraction (tonnes) 1500000

Total extraction over the duration of the licence (tonnes) 3750000

Further details

Is the proposed area within a regional environmental assessment study area?

Yes No

Does your coastal impact study form part of your environmental statement?

Yes No

Please give details (If possible, please also provide details of where the coastal impact study is located)

The Environmental Statement includes a Coastal Impact Study within Appendix 16.1.

Licence conditions

Are there any conditions you consider should be added to the marine licence?

Yes No

Other details

Fees and charges

Cost of project seaward of mean high water springs (£)

10000000

Public register

Permission to add your data to the MMO evidence base:

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has gathered information from a number of existing sources to support marine planning, marine licensing and associated functions of the MMO. The MMO is continuously adding to the evidence base to support future decision making, with the aim to ensure a sustainable future for our coastal and offshore waters.

A new marine plan led system of marine management will set the direction for decision making on marine use and will:

- guide marine users to the most suitable locations for different activities;
- manage the use of marine resources to ensure sustainable levels; and
- consider all the benefits and impacts of current and future activities that occur in the marine environment.

1.The MMO would like your permission to use any of the data you submit in a digital format that can be entered into a geographical information system. This data may be used to inform MMO functions.

Can we use your data to inform MMO functions?

Yes No

2.Under section 101 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 the MMO must maintain a register of activities where it is the appropriate licensing authority. Information contained within or provided in support of this application will be placed on the MMO's Public Register unless:

- The Secretary of State determines that its disclosure would be contrary to the interests of national security; or
- The MMO determines that its disclosure would adversely affect confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect legitimate commercial interest.

Is there any information in your application (including any supporting documents) that you believe should be withheld from the Public Register?

Yes No