

Long Island, Langstone Harbour Proposed Method Statement



The object of this project is conservation, to creating a new and enhanced site for roosting waders and breeding birds including Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher and Little Tern on behalf of the RSPB.

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1.0 Background

This method statement has been prepared in conjunction with the 'Tern and Shorebird Habitat Restoration at Langstone Harbour (Final report Shadow HRA, Exo Environmental, 09/06/2022) attached to the tender document. JRB Environmental Ltd undertook a site visit in November 2022 and additional site visit by barge on 20 April 2023, for the purposes of establishing an acceptable method statement to undertake the work.

2.0 Proposed works

The plans submitted for licence approval seek to create a new shingle berm on the most elevated section of Long Island using 1000 tonnes of material. All works to be carried out in accordance with the necessary specifications of pebble size. Our proposals for undertaking the work are outlined below.

3.0 Proposed Method Statement for Works

1. Our method is now to collect the material loose from Kendalls Wharf as agreed with Kendalls Aggregates. Materials will be unloaded by long reach digger to our identified landing site as discussed with David Whelan, avoiding the saltmarsh and loaded directly onto tracked roadway along the line of the spit to be formed.
2. The presence of soft mud banks and a long distance between the barge and firm ground make the proposed unloading site unsuitable. We have identified a suitable site see photo below:
3. Please note comments in separately attached added value document.



Photo 1 above showing our proposed landing site (just in front of the workboat see red dot)

3. Tracked matting will be placed to avoid vegetation damage see blue dots allowing a dumper to stay on firm ground and drive safely.
4. The heaped shingle will be moved from the deposit site along the tracked matting enabling material to be profiled to create the correct berm. The site will be marked out using a digital theodolite. Once pegged and marked on the ground we will work to known heights above AOD to get the correct spot height of the shingle. If allowed by the RSPB we will drone fly and record the position of the shingle berm and surrounding saltmarsh, (please see Added Value document.) We would like to provide a "write up" for the project and evaluate the success collaboratively if allowed.
5. Marker posts will be installed to establish the edges and required elevation of the shingle.
6. The route of the transported shingle will therefore avoid important mud land and salt marsh habitat either side of the firm ridge where the bank is to be established. See photo 2.



Photo 2 showing area of firm ground with either side of proposed berm with saltmarsh and soft ground (hatched area to be area of berm/shingle bank).

Brushwood Fence

7. **Fencing Works.** The fencing and brash stakes will be installed using digger mounted fencing equipment, all plant will have to remain under 3 tonnes in weight to enable loading and unloading of equipment to the barge. Posts will be supplied and stored on site once levels are established.
8. **Tidal opportunity/Timing of works.** The delivery of stone and materials needs to take place on calm spring tides. However, it should be noted there is a risk of inundation of the machinery on site so all plant will need to operate during NEAP tides or between high tides. It should be noted that machinery will need to remain on site so establishing some heaps for safe parking will be needed.
9. **Re-fuelling** will be undertaken by use of portable jerry can but no fuel will be stored on site and transported as necessary. No Hazardous materials or equipment will be stored in locations where flooding may occur with the tide.

10. **Weather** – Suitable calm dry weather conditions will be chosen to minimise damage to soft ground where possible.
11. **Site safety** – See attached our health and safety policy. A draft separate risk assessment has been prepared to show the necessary precautions that will be taken. A small work boat will be anchored in the channel with a dinghy to access the shore at all times. A toilet is on board!
12. **All works will take place on site during daylight hours.**

5.0 Other Environmental Constraints

We consider the following constraints to be necessary.

1. Protecting BAP priority habitats (vegetated shingle and saltmarsh). In the attempt to protect and enhance habitat, existing habitats must not be damaged. It is essential habitats are actively protected from damage. Areas of vegetated shingle should therefore be coned off to avoid accidental damage by machinery using the foreshore. The method statement has sought to identify areas without vegetated shingle beneath the high-water mark.
2. Langstone Harbour forms part of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy SPA site. Works must therefore be restricted to the approved licence period to avoid disturbance of migrating winter birds. It is also not necessary for personnel to explore the island and therefore stay confined to the area of works.
3. As a consequence of the above constraint, any clearance works to improve access should be cleared in advance of the bird nesting season. Appropriate checks should be made to avoid disturbance of any nesting birds just in case.
4. The designated marine environment will require contractors to consider measures to minimise the risk of pollution. Risk assessments must therefore include measures to ensure a safe environment for the public and protection of the environment. Storage of equipment, re-fuelling, avoidance of fuel spillages and accidental fires will be included within risk assessments to be included within Construction Environmental Management Plans. All risks to be updated once works are approved.
5. Public safety must be considered as part of any contractor risk assessments. The site is still accessible to the public and therefore all works will include supply of appropriate signage, fencing and safety measures must be included in any risk assessments provided prior to works commencing.