

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**Date 15 April 2024**

Report Title:	HOYLAKE BEACH MANAGEMENT OPTION
Report of:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Committee with the results of the recent consultation exercise relating to the management of Hoylake Beach. In light of the consultation and progress made thus far with Natural England, Members are asked to determine a preferred position upon which officers can proceed development of a beach management plan for Hoylake Beach. Members now have sufficient information to resolve a preference. This preference will be used as the basis for Wirral Council's position, although no beach management will be implemented without Natural England's assent.

The future management of Hoylake Beach supports the delivery of the Council Plan 2023-27, specifically the Protecting Our Environment and Safe, Resilient and Engaged Communities themes.

This report affects the Hoylake & Meols ward.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the content of the Hoylake Beach Management Plan Consultation Report enclosed as Appendix A to this report; and
2. Authorise the Director of Neighbourhood Services to work with Natural England to develop a beach management plan that approximates as closely as possible the consultees' overall preferred option (Option 2 - Amenity Beach).
3. Authorise the Director of Neighbourhood Services to
 - a. progress the items referred to in paragraph 4.4 of this report which are all required to be in place before the beach management plan can be implemented; and
 - b. finalise and implement the beach management plan subject to assent being in place from Natural England.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 At the 30 November 2022 meeting, this Committee rejected the consultation options developed on behalf of the Council by its consultants Royal Haskoning DHV, and resolved that the Director of Neighbourhoods was to work with Natural England and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) to refine, as appropriate, the following two options:

1. An option to work with natural processes along the entire beach but with a focus on greatly improved access for all and clearance of slipways.

2. An option, similar to the Royal Haskoning Report of 03 November 2022, reference PC2553-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001 option 3, but with reduced vegetation clearance. This could involve 'do nothing' from Red Rocks to Trinity Road and 'do everything' from Trinity Road to the RNLI station.

1.2 This Committee also resolved that any options put forward for consultation must meet Natural England's full approval – although Natural England's Discretionary Advice Service will help to guide development of a beach management plan, Natural England will not give 'full approval' to options. They will, or will not, give assent to a beach management plan. Natural England's purpose is to help conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Natural England subsequently provided advice through their Discretionary Advice Service based on Habitat Regulations Assessments for both beach management options developed. This advice was received on 19 January 2024 and is based on the Habitat Regulation Assessments developed at plan or strategy level. The advice received in January 2024 indicated that refinement of those options would be required for assent. Since that advice was received officers from the Council have been working closely with Natural England officials to refine the Habitat Regulation Assessments to meet their requirements and clarifications. Following identification of the preferred beach management option the Habitat Regulation Assessments will be further developed for the implementation phase. Assent from Natural England will also be required for works within North Wirral Foreshore Site of Special Scientific Interest prior to implementation of the approved beach management option.

1.3 Officers have worked with Natural England and MEAS in developing the options as well as with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) as a key stakeholder and user of Hoylake Beach. The two options are described further in the Background Information to this report.

1.4 Public consultation on the two options took place between 19 February 2024 and 25 March 2024. A report on the outcome of the consultation is included as Appendix A. The most popular option, following consultation, approximates the requirements of the committee resolution of 30 November 2022 for Option 2, amended to include the defined RNLI requirements and a natural taper from Trinity Road to a return at Government Road some 140m further west. Either option would need refinement to secure assent from Natural England as the basis for a beach management plan. The Director of Neighbourhood Services now needs authority from the committee to use one of these options as the basis for developing a beach management plan, with Natural England assent. The question put plainly is, should officers be seeking to

secure as much or as little raking on the beach as Natural England will permit? The preference of the majority of consultees is clear from the recent exercise.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 At the 20 November 2022 meeting the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee rejected the consultation options developed on behalf of the council by their consultants Royal Haskoning DHV.

2.2 Two further options have been developed and subject to public consultation. Option 2 Amenity Beach is the most popular option as determined by that consultation.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The objectives of the Beach Management Plan, which were set out in the report to this Committee on 30 November 2022, are to:

- Not compromise or adversely impact on the integrity of designated sites;
- Promote biodiversity and contribution to mitigating climate change;
- Minimise disturbance to wildlife;
- Maintain and enhance the amenity benefit, wellbeing and health of the local community and visitors;
- Ensure the safety of users and access across the beach;
- Contribute to the reduction in the risk of flooding and/or erosion to local property and infrastructure; and
- Provide recommendations on further studies and monitoring to inform future management.

3.2 Members will recall that prior to the development of any beach management options for Hoylake Beach, this Committee approved the production of a Geomorphology and Ecology Study. The Study helped to define, in conjunction with the outputs from the initial public consultation in July 2022, the objectives for Hoylake Beach Management Plan. The Study has provided an evidence base of changes regarding beach levels and vegetation growth. The Study also considered the impact of two extreme management scenarios – ‘Do Nothing’ and ‘Do Everything’ (in terms of beach management), to predict future change and risk.

3.3 The two options which Committee agreed on 30 November 2022 should be further developed can be summarised as:

- Option 1 ‘Access for All’; and
- Option 2 ‘Amenity Beach’

Both options meet the majority of the objectives for Hoylake Beach Management Plan as set out above, however Natural England have advised that both options require modifications before they can conclude that they will not adversely impact on the integrity of designated sites.

3.4 Royal Haskoning DHV was again commissioned by the Council to develop the two beach management options and the supporting Habitat Regulation Assessments. A botanical survey was commissioned, following review by Natural England, with a wider specification than the Ecological Survey of 2021. The botanical survey:

- mapped the seaward extent of vegetation on the foreshore;

- re-visited the quadrats visited by the Ecological Survey in July 2021 for direct comparison of establishing vegetation;
- produced a species list, with relative species abundances, for the whole site;
- surveyed vegetation along the sea wall; and
- recorded the presence of any non-native species.

The survey thereby provided a contemporary evidence base for the development of supporting Habitat Regulation Assessments for the beach management options. The botanical survey was undertaken in July and August 2023.

- 3.5 A further species-specific survey to confirm the reported presence of the protected species Shore Dock (*Rumex Rupestris*) was undertaken in October 2023. Shore Dock was not located during the survey within the Hoylake Beach management area.
- 3.6 Some elements of beach management activities are common to both options, and these are set out below:
- Maintenance of Highway Drainage;
 - Improvements to water quality discharges;
 - Maintenance of Hoylake Boating Lake;
 - Management of Wind-blown Sand; and
 - Hoylake Beach Code of Conduct
- 3.7 In addition, the requirements of the RNLI are set out in both options with areas of vegetation removal identified to allow for continued safe operation of life saving operations.
- Maintenance of Highway Drainage
- 3.8 The outfalls serving the highway drainage network for the adjacent North Parade were previously maintained so that they were not blocked with sand and had a clear outlet onto the foreshore. Both beach management options include for localised sand clearance at the sea wall to allow for free discharge onto the foreshore and improve highway drainage at North Parade
- Improvement to Water Quality Discharges
- 3.9 The current highway drainage arrangement allows for road pollutants to be discharged to the foreshore when highway drains are in use. Both beach management options recommend installation and maintenance of petrol interceptors to prevent pollutants reaching the foreshore. A Feasibility Study is planned to consider longer term improvements that may be brought about by intercepting and diverting flows for treatment and discharge elsewhere.
- Maintenance of Hoylake Boating Lake
- 3.10 Wind-blown sand frequently infills Hoylake Boating Lake. Current arrangements to remove and dispose of the sand are time consuming and costly. Drainage of the lake water is problematic as it cannot easily be drained to sewer and dredged sand is disposed off site incurring transportation costs. Both beach management options have identified improved arrangements for drainage of the lake (subject to Environmental Permitting requirements from the Environment Agency) and disposal of the sand on the foreshore to the east of Hoyle Road Slipway (subject to Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation).

Management of Wind-Blown Sand

- 3.11 The requirement for sand fencing along the full length of North Parade has been considered as part of the beach management options development. Both options contain a recommendation to remove the green plastic netting as its weathering has caused it to become brittle resulting in fragments breaking off and littering the beach. Both beach management options recommend further monitoring to evaluate the impact that vegetation growth has before installing a suitable sand fencing system.

Hoylake Beach Code of Conduct

- 3.12 Both beach management options include the introduction of a Beach Code of Conduct. Based on the principles of “Respect, Protect, Enjoy” it can be promoted shared and displayed to all visitors of Hoylake Beach so that everyone conducts themselves in a safe, sensible and environmentally friendly way while enjoying the beach. The beach code will provide guidance on the themes of:
- Leave No Trace Behind;
 - Protecting Wildlife; and
 - Guidance for dog owners.

Option 1 Access for All

- 3.13 The Access for All option provides the “do minimum” option with regard to vegetation removal. The Access for All Option does not include vegetation removal between Red Rocks and Kings Gap (likewise, Option 2 Amenity Beach). Option 1 Access for All does include for removal of:
- sand and vegetation from slipways to improve access onto the foreshore;
 - a 10m strip of vegetation from Kings Gap perpendicular to the coastline through the emerging saltmarsh. This strip is to allow for launch and recovery of RNLI equipment during lifesaving operations;
 - a strip of vegetation no wider than 10m, parallel to the sea wall from Kings gap to the RNLI west slipway. This strip is to allow for launch and recovery of RNLI equipment during lifesaving operations; and
 - vegetation for 200m to the west (approximately Clydesdale Road) and 150m to the east of the Hoylake Lifeboat Station. This is to allow for launch and recovery of RNLI equipment during lifesaving operations.
- 3.14 A plan showing the specific requirements for Option 1 Access for All is included as Appendix B to this report. Details of the RNLI operational requirements and how they relate to the vegetation removal identified within Option 1 Access for All are included as Appendix D to this report.

Option 2 Amenity Beach

- 3.15 The Amenity Beach option provides a “do minimum” approach regarding vegetation removal between Red Rocks and Kings Gap. A plan showing the specific requirements for Option 2 Amenity Beach is included as Appendix C to this report. Option 2 Amenity Beach also includes for removal of:
- sand and vegetation from slipways to improve access onto the foreshore;
 - a 10m strip of vegetation from Kings Gap perpendicular to the coastline through the emerging saltmarsh. This strip is to allow for launch and recovery of RNLI equipment during lifesaving operations;
 - a strip of vegetation no wider than 10m, parallel to the sea wall from Kings Gap to the RNLI west slipway. This strip is to allow for launch and recovery of RNLI equipment during lifesaving operations; and
 - vegetation for 150m to the east of the Hoylake Lifeboat Station and 300m to the west at Trinity Road, tapered on its landward return at Government Road some

140m further west. This also includes the area for launch and recovery of RNLI equipment during lifesaving operations.

- 3.16 The Committee resolution of 30 November 2022 required officers to work closely with MEAS and Natural England to refine the two options set out above. Both MEAS and Natural England have been involved in the development of the options through:
- Review and comment on survey specifications;
 - Review and provision of discretionary advice on survey reports; and
 - Review and provision of discretionary advice on supporting HRAs to the two options prior to commencement of consultation.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of developing the initial Hoylake Beach Management Options Report was £20,887 and this has been met from Climate Emergency Budget.

- 4.2 The cost of developing the two further options as required by the committee resolution of 30 November 2022 is £30,625. These costs have been met from existing budgets within Neighbourhood Services. This is broken down as follows:

Additional Royal Haskoning DHV Commission	£12,525
Natural Capital Change Assessment	£4,980
Botanical Survey	£5,159
Shore Dock Survey	£1,155
Natural England Discretionary Advice	£4,015
MEAS Discretionary Advice	£2,791

- 4.3 There is no specific budget code for Hoylake Beach. Staff costs incurred since August 2019 have been absorbed into various budgets across the council. An estimate of the costs associated with staff time for Hoylake Beach Management has recently been developed. For the period to end of January 2024 staff time is as follows:

Staff Costs	£162,000
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- 4.4 Prior to implementation of either option, the following activities are anticipated:
- Development and refinement of HRA to implementation stage;
 - Marine Management Organisation Discretionary Advice;
 - Water Framework Directive Assessment;
 - Marine Licence Application; and
 - Protected Species Survey

The estimated costs of the pre-implementation activities, which apply to either option, are approximately £50,000 and can be met from existing budgets within Neighbourhood Services.

- 4.5 The preparatory activities identified in paragraph 4.4 above, in addition to any further refinements, as required by Natural England are unlikely to be resolved before the start of September. Any assent or marine licence received is likely to be conditional upon works being undertaken between the months April to September to avoid disturbance to overwintering bird populations.
- 4.6 An estimate has been developed for the one-off operation to remove vegetation as required by either option. The method for removal is similar to that for removal of

vegetation from the amenity beach at West Kirby (which already has assent from Natural England). The method allows for removal of green waste but retention of beach material on site. The estimated cost for vegetated removal is £230,000 and this estimate applies to both options.

- 4.7 A growth bid has been developed for £300,000 which addresses the costs for vegetation removal at Hoylake and West Kirby beaches and the other aspects of the beach management options and all the associated pre-implementation costs.
- 4.8 Ongoing maintenance to rake the managed areas would be met from the Parks & Countryside Service grounds maintenance budget. Annual costs of £20,000 are estimated.
- 4.9 Ongoing monitoring of both geomorphology and ecology will also be required. Annual costs are in the region of £10,000 are estimated. There may be grants available which meet the monitoring costs in part.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Hoylake Beach forms part of North Wirral Foreshore Site of Special Scientific Interest, Dee Estuary Special Area of Conservation, Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area / Ramsar site. Natural England has provided advice to the Council, through its Discretionary Advice Service under Section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Seeking and gaining its advice that either beach management option would receive assent at implementation stage was a requirement of the Committee's resolution of 30 November 2022.
- 5.2 The Committee resolution of 30 November 2022 required full support from Natural England prior to public consultation on the two options. Its Discretionary Advice on both beach management option is included as Appendix E.
- 5.3 In order to deliver either of the developed options, an implementation stage Habitat Regulations Assessment will need to be developed and submitted to Natural England for assent. Given that they have advised that they would not be able to support either option without refinement, it is unlikely that an implementation stage Habitats Regulation Assessment for either option, as consulted upon, would receive assent from Natural England. However, Council officers have continued to work with Natural England officials over the past several months, to identify required refinements to the beach management options that would enable such support to be given.
- 5.4 Both options require removal of vegetation from below mean High Water Spring Tides. The removal operation will involve the use of a vehicle. This is a licensable activity under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and will require a Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The area of vegetation removal is also within North Wirral Foreshore SSSI, so the Marine Licence application requires a supporting Water Framework Directive Assessment. The MMO will consult with statutory consultees, including Natural England, on the licence application. Additionally, the MMO is defined as the competent authority under Regulation 63 of the Habitat Regulations.

- 5.5 The costs of pre-implementation assessments and licences have been included within the estimates in paragraph 4.4 of this report.
- 5.6 There has been a recent application and consultation on a Town and Village Green at Hoylake Beach. The position of the application is being determined in parallel with the development of a beach management plan. Paragraph 4.5 above sets out the likely timeframe for the implementation of a beach management plan however any determination of the Town and Village Green until after April 2025 could impact on the implementation of the beach management plan.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Existing resources have been used to develop the Have Your Say questionnaire, undertake analysis, and produce the Consultation Report. Similarly existing resources have been used to promote the consultation via the means identified in Section 8.0 of this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Natural England

- 7.1 In their Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) submission of 19 January 2024 Natural England indicated that they do not support the beach management actions as set out in either option. They have communicated that refinement is needed for them to agree with a conclusion of 'No Adverse Impact' on site integrity at a Habitat Regulations Assessment level.
- 7.2 During the consultation period further modifications were made to both options, based on the DAS of 19 January 2024 as part of the ongoing work between the Council and Natural England. The revised Habitats Regulations Assessment options were submitted to Natural England for advice on 27 February 2024 and further DAS was received on 01 March 2024 (Appendix F). Natural England have concluded, that subject to certain conditions being met, both options will avoid adverse effects upon the interest features for which the sites are notified. This means that both options now meet the plan objectives as set out in paragraph 3.2 and would indicate Natural England support at HRA level. These sites are:
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar Site;
 - Dee Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC); and
 - Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area (SPA).
- 7.3 The conclusion reached by Natural England in their DAS of 1 March 2024 does not provide assent for either option and the DAS is clear that the options have not yet been assessed at SSSI level. North Wirral Foreshore SSSI has a smaller area than the SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites assessed at HRA level and therefore the vegetation losses, in either option, would be a greater percentage loss when compared against the whole site area. It is unlikely that Natural England would fully assent all operations if an application was made based upon a project level HRA as this must also consider the impact on the SSSI.
- 7.4 There are precedents where Natural England have not given assent in full but where the applicant has still undertaken the work as they were of the opinion it needed to be undertaken because of overriding reasons relating to public interest. For example, Network Rail have undertaken work to address safety issues at Frodsham Railway and Road Cuttings SSSI despite refusal of assent by, Natural England which they subsequently have not challenged.

- 7.5 The lifesaving operations of the RNLI, as set out in the Access for All option, could be considered as overriding reasons relating to public interest for undertaking work without assent from Natural England. However, the Committee would need to consider whether provision of an Amenity Beach met the same parameters for overriding reasons relating to public interest.
- 7.6 There is a risk that if works are undertaken without assent that do not meet requirements for overriding reasons relating to public interest, then legal action could be taken by Natural England. The recommendation before members in this report seeks a preferred option for officers to pursue, not permission to implement a plan without NE assent.

Marine Management Organisation

- 7.7 All options developed require removal of vegetation from below Mean High Water Spring Tides and the method of undertaking this would require a licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
- 7.8 For licence applications the MMO are defined as the competent authority. They need to determine whether the proposed operation would have an adverse impact on site integrity. This is undertaken via a Habitat Regulations Assessment submitted as part of the licence application. A HRA considers the impact on Ramsar, SPA and SAC designations. The MMO undertake statutory consultation to determine this. Natural England is a statutory consultee. There is a risk that any prior refusal in total or in part of assent, with regard to the SSSI, may cause Natural England to object to the licence application consultation. However, their officers have intimated that Natural England would not submit an objection.
- 7.9 If the MMO conclude that the implementation of the preferred option may cause an adverse impact on site integrity they may refuse the application for a marine licence. To overcome this refusal further iterations of the Habitat Regulations would be required:

Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions

- 7.10 Stage 3 involves identifying and examining alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project to establish whether there are solutions that would avoid or have a lesser effect on the site.
Two options have been developed following initial public consultation. It is unlikely that any further options could be considered.

Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

- 7.11 Where no alternative solutions exist, and where an adverse effect on site integrity remains, the next stage of the process is to assess whether the development is necessary for 'Imperative reasons of overriding public interest'. If Imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be demonstrated, compensatory measures need to be identified to maintain the overall coherence of the designated site network.
- 7.10 The risk is that if the preferred beach management option meets the imperative reasons of overriding public interest test because of the inclusion of the RNLI operational requirements they can proceed, however this would be subject to the provision of compensatory habitat.

- 7.11 Implementing any beach management option without a marine licence would leave the council at risk of prosecution by the MMO under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The risks associated with the MMO can be mitigated by requesting, paid for, advice via their DAS. An estimate of the costs associated with this is included in paragraph 4.4.
- 7.12 Any delay in implementation of the preferred beach management option would increase the likelihood of the growth of protected species which would lead to further difficulty in implementing the plan. This risk could be mitigated against through the provision of species-specific surveys prior to implementation.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Appendix A of this report details the engagement processes and consultation undertaken on the two management options developed in accordance with the Committee's resolution of 30 November 2022.
- 8.2 Consultation was undertaken primarily through the Have Your Say website with online survey and additional document available to the public. An information display was placed in Hoylake Community Hall on two days, for the public to visit to see the options in person. For those unable to access the online consultation site, paper copies of the consultation were provided.
- 8.3 The consultation was promoted through a mix of online and print media in the local area. Outdoor banners were also placed at Hoylake beach. Further details are listed in Appendix A of this report.
- 8.4 Consultation was undertaken from 19 February to 25 March 2024. The headline outputs from the consultation are as follows:

Wirral Responses	1045
Responses outside Wirral	73
Location not provided	7
Total Responses Received	1125

Option 1 Access for All	26.6%
Option 2 Amenity Beach	67.2%
Don't Know	6.2%

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The potential impact of the proposals contained within this report have been reviewed and the Equalities Impact Assessment – Hoylake Beach Management Option is attached – <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Climate Change is a key factor in selecting a future sustainable beach management option at Hoylake. The Ecology and Geomorphology Study identifies a trend of accretion in foreshore volumes across the Hoylake frontage, with sediment fed into the area by easterly littoral drift and onshore movement from Liverpool Bay. The Ecology and Geomorphology Study also predicts that accretion, or increases beach level, will outpace increases in sea level, based on 50 percentile medium emissions scenario.
- 10.2 Both management options align with this prediction and would result in positive benefits regarding the management of flood and coastal erosion risks and also carbon sequestration.
- 10.3 The Ecology and Geomorphology Study included a Natural Capital Change Assessment for the whole beach management area from Red Rocks to Hoylake RNLI Station. Under a 'Do Nothing' scenario the assessment estimated carbon sequestration based on the change in area of sand / mud flats, saltmarsh and sand dunes.

	Carbon Sequestration (tonnes C / year)			
	2022	2032	2042	2072
Total	413.1	440.5	478.2	658.0

- 10.4 The Ecology and Geomorphology Study concluded that after 50 years the increase in vegetation would allow for an increase of 245 tonnes of carbon per year to be sequestered.
- 10.5 Both the Access for All and the Amenity Beach option reduce the estimate of vegetation increase under a 'Do Nothing' scenario. The whole beach management area assessed in the Natural Capital Change Assessment was defined at 195 hectares with 102 hectares of vegetation after 50 years. The area of vegetation removal for each option is as follows:
- Option 1 Access for All 1.92 ha (1.87% of the vegetated area at 50 years)
Option 2 Amenity Beach 3.05 ha (2.98% of the vegetated area at 50 years)
- 10.6 The estimate of carbon sequestered would therefore be reduced for both options but with a lesser reduction for the Access for All option.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Both beach management options provide areas of naturally vegetated beach and vegetation free beach. Opportunities will exist for the community to enjoy recreational activities related to both habitats.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A	Hoylake Beach Management Plan Consultation Report DRAFT
Appendix B	Plan : Option 1 : Access For All Management Option
Appendix C	Plan : Option 2 : Amenity Beach Management Option
Appendix D	Royal National Lifeboat Institute Letter & Appendices
Appendix E	Natural England advice Beach Management Options HRAs 19 January 2024
Appendix F	Natural England advice Beach Management Options HRAs 01 March 2024

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>

Ecology and Geomorphology Study, 18 February 2022, Royal HaskoningDHV

Hoylake Beach Management Plan Identification of short-listed options, 03 November 2022, Royal HaskoningDHV

National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey Hoylake Beach, Wirral for Haskoning DHV UK Ltd, Thomson Environmental Consultants August 2023

Natural England advice to Wirral Council regarding beach management – Natural England March 2020

Royal Haskoning DHV Hoylake BMP HRA_Access for All Final

Royal Haskoning DHV Hoylake BMP HRA_Amenity Beach Final

Royal Haskoning DHV Hoylake BMP HRA_Access for All Final v2

Royal Haskoning DHV Hoylake BMP HRA_Amenity Beach Final v2

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service - Hoylake Beach Management Habitats Regulations Assessment Advice DISC23-029 January 2024

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in accordance with Sections (a) and (e) of its Terms of Reference:

The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for the Council's role and functions: -

- (a) in co-ordinating the response to cross-cutting sustainability issues such as reducing carbon emissions, air quality issues, climate change response, improving resource efficiency and developing sustainable energy.
- (e) in respect of parks, open spaces, countryside management, allotments, playgrounds and cemeteries, including arboricultural, gardening and warden services.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	30 November 2022
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	16 March 2021
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	03 December 2020
Special Meeting - Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Call-in Hoylake Beach Management	21 August 2020
Executive Member Decision Hoylake Beach Management	13 March 2020