

# Understanding environmental impact

The aim of the Flood Protection Scheme is to protect the people of Millport, but we understand that the project could have some impacts on the environment, both during construction and in the longer term. This board describes how we will assess and manage impacts on people and the natural environment.

### How will we assess the environmental impact?

The diagram on the right describes how we assess environmental impact.

We have completed the Scoping stage. The planning authority and Marine Scotland have reviewed the initial information about the project and have determined that this project will not have a large environmental impact. So a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Nonetheless, we want to minimise the impact of the scheme on your environment. We will develop a publicly available Environmental Report to fully assess the environmental impacts of the scheme. We will conduct Pre-Application Consultation before applying to Marine Scotland for a Marine Licence for the works.

You will be consulted as part of this and your views will be considered in the development of the scheme.

Stage	Aim	Outcome	Involvement
Screening	Agree if an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is needed	The Environmental Impact was agreed to be small so an EIA is not needed	<b>We consulted:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)</li><li>• Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)</li><li>• Marine Scotland</li><li>• Historic Environment Scotland</li><li>• Local Planning Authority (North Ayrshire Council)</li></ul>
Scoping	Agree which impacts should be assessed	The main impacts are on tourism, heritage, landscape, traffic, and noise	
Environmental Studies	Assess the existing environment and the impacts of the scheme and identify how impacts can be reduced	Determine the negative and positive impacts of the scheme on Millport's people and nature	We will conduct desk studies, surveys and consultation with you and other relevant stakeholders, and inform you of developments.
Design Modifications	Adapt the designs to minimise impacts	A flood protection scheme with minimised environmental impact	<b>We will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• publish newsletters and hold meetings and design workshops</li></ul>
Environmental Report	Report all the environmental information including a Non Technical Summary	Environmental information about the scheme will be made publically available	<b>We will consult:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine Scotland, SEPA, SNH</li><li>• Historic Environment Scotland</li><li>• Local Planning Authority (North Ayrshire Council)</li><li>• Maritime &amp; Coastguard Agency</li><li>• Northern Lighthouse Board</li><li>• Other relevant local organisations and community groups</li></ul>
Pre-Application Consultation	Inform the people of Millport of the outcomes of the design process	Ensure that the people and key stakeholders of Millport understand and have influenced the designs	

# Managing impacts on nature

## What is the hazard?

During construction there is a risk that we may disturb areas where animals and birds live.

## How to protect nature?

To know how to protect animals, birds, and nature we must first understand what needs protecting. This board describes what our studies have found so far. We would welcome your input if there are any groups of animals we've missed.

## How will we assess this?

Before construction starts we will undertake an ecology survey so that we can be completely sure that we won't affect any habitats, birds or animals. We will also undertake consultation, including with SNH.

## Are there any designated sites?

The only Site of Special Scientific Interest close to the scheme area is Kames Bay. Properties around Kames Bay are not at risk from flooding so the scheme does not directly affect this area. We have reviewed the likely indirect impacts of the scheme on Kames Bay and these are expected to be small.

## Nature on the land

The flood protection scheme will not extend very far inland so the impacts here will be minimal.

Our studies have found that otters are present around the coast of the Great Cumbrae. Before construction starts we will do an otter survey to ensure there are no resting sites that may be disturbed.



## Nesting birds

Small birds may nest along the coastal habitats at Millport. We will take extra precautions, including a breeding bird survey, if we're working between March and September because it is nesting season.



## Nature on the shore

Although we are building on the shore we will mainly be placing rock on top of existing rock. An intertidal survey will be undertaken to ensure there are no rare or protected features on the shore.

## Nature in the sea

Grey seals live in the bay and use the islets to haul themselves out of the sea. As part of our consultation we will identify where these seals are and develop plans to ensure we do not disturb them.



## On the sea bed

The flood protection scheme will be built quite close to shore. In this area the seabed is mainly rock covered by a thin layer of sand. With waves breaking close to the shore this area is not very suitable for ecology.

The construction of breakwaters extending out from Millport Pier or further offshore create a reef and would reduce wave action in the nearshore zone. This could improve the habitat for creatures that live on the sea bed.

## Managing impacts on people

### Planning the construction works

#### Traffic congestion

There will be an increase in traffic on the ferries and around Millport during the construction period.



A traffic management plan will be developed to minimise disruption and keep you safe. Wherever possible, construction materials will be delivered by barge.



#### Noise and vibrations

Construction works and vehicles could cause noise, vibrations and dust. Working hours will be restricted and measures taken to ensure noise and dust levels remain below acceptable levels.

#### Tourism and recreation

A tourism study will be undertaken and the timing of the construction works will be planned to minimise impacts on your businesses during the tourist season as far as possible.



### Minimising visual impact

We want to work with you to decide the best position for the flood walls and what they should look like. We have modelled the performance of the flood walls so that we can keep them as low as possible.

The posters describing the scheme options include simple visualisations to show what the flood walls might look like (example below).



### Cultural heritage

We will undertake a survey and desk-study review to ensure we do not disturb archaeology.

Based on your comments and using specialist landscape architects we will develop the scheme to fit in with the existing character of Millport and its setting.

### Improving the seafront area

Our design team includes specialist landscape architects, Oobe. Both Royal HaskoningDHV and Oobe have won awards for flood protection schemes that they have designed, and we want the same for Millport.

North Ayrshire Council recognises the tourism and conservation aspirations of the town and the scheme design will take this into account.

