



# Understanding environmental impact

The aim of the Flood Protection Scheme is to protect the people of Millport. However, the project could have some impacts on the environment, 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. The Scoping stage has been completed for Options 1, 2 and 3a. The planning authority and Marine Scotland have reviewed the information about the project.

For Option 1 (pier breakwater extension) they have determined that the project would not be expected to have a large environmental impact. So a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) would not be required. An Environmental Report would be prepared.

For Options 2 and 3a (offshore breakwaters), an EIA and pre-application consultation are required because of the changes to the marine environment. The design of the project will be progressed with the aim of minimising the impact on your environment. You will be consulted as part of the ongoing environmental impact assessment process and your views will be considered as the scheme is developed.

Stage	Aim	Outcome	Involvement
Screening	Agree if an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is needed	An EIA is required if an offshore breakwater is preferred	<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 & noise	
Environmental Studies	Assess existing environment and impacts of the scheme. 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	Flood protection scheme with minimised environmental impact	<b>We will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publish newsletters and hold meetings &amp; design workshops</li></ul>
Environmental Report or EIA	Report all the environmental information including impact assessment, mitigation and 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 sure that the construction work 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. We are re-assessing the flood risk to properties around Kames Bay. If defence are required we will review the impacts of the scheme on Kames Bay and mitigate these from the design stage onwards.

## 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 Great Cumbrae. Before construction starts we will do an otter survey to ensure there are no resting sites that may be disturbed.



## Birds

Many birds use the Millport coast. We will complete surveys to identify breeding birds; wintering birds along the coastline and near shore; and any seabirds or other marine birds using the near shore and offshore waters.



## 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 would 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

## 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

The Environmental Report will include an assessment of tourism impacts. The timing of the construction works will be planned to minimise impacts on your businesses.



## 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.

