

**REPRESENTATIONS FROM  
MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION**



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By email:

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Our reference: 585

27 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Southbourne Parish Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Plan Consultation**

Thank you for inviting the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to comment on the above consultation. The MMO has reviewed the document and whilst we have no specific comments to make we would like to draw your attention to the remit of our organisation as you may wish to be aware of this in relation to the consultation.

As the marine planning authority for England the MMO is responsible for preparing marine plans for English inshore and offshore waters. At its landward extent, a marine plan will apply up to the mean high water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers. As marine plan boundaries extend up to the level of the mean high water spring tides mark there will be an overlap with terrestrial plans which generally extend to the mean low water springs mark. In our duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure compatibility with existing development plans, which apply down to the low water mark, we are seeking to identify the 'marine relevance' of applicable plan policies.

On 2 April 2014 the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans were published, becoming a material consideration for the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and other public authorities with decision making functions. The East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans provide guidance for sustainable development in English waters, and cover the coast and seas from Flamborough Head to Felixstowe. Marine plans will inform and guide decision makers on development in marine and coastal areas. More information including the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans document can be found at [http://www.marinemmanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/areas/east\\_plans.htm](http://www.marinemmanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/areas/east_plans.htm).

The next round of planning, in the South plan area, began in 2013. The South plan area runs from Folkestone to the River Dart and therefore includes Southbourne. The MMO will be working with all Local Authorities in the plan area and until such time as a marine plan is in place we advise all local councils to refer to the Marine Policy Statement for guidance on any planning activity that includes a section of coastline or tidal river. All public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area must do so in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the UK Marine Policy Statement unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. The Marine



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Policy Statement will also guide the development of Marine Plans across the UK. More information can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/03/18/marine-policy-statement/>.

The MMO is also responsible for issuing marine licences under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 in England. Amongst other things, a marine licence may be needed for activities involving the construction, alteration or improvement of any works, dredging, or a deposit or removal of a substance or object below the mean high water springs mark or in any tidal river to the extent of the tidal influence.

Alongside marine licences, we also issue consents under the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) for offshore generating stations between 1 and 100 megawatts in England and parts of Wales. We are also the authority responsible for processing and determining harbour orders in England and for some ports in Wales and for granting consent under various local Acts and orders regarding harbours.

The applications we receive may be subject to various forms of assessment. This includes environmental impact assessment, Habitats Regulations assessment, marine conservation zone assessment and assessment for compliance with the Water Framework Directive. Early consultation with the MMO is always advised and we would encourage applicants to engage early with the MMO alongside any application for planning consent to ensure that the consenting process is as efficient as possible. We will look to follow the principles set out in the Coastal Concordat in considering any application which is linked to an application for planning consent.

We are also an advisor to the Planning Inspectorate, Secretary of State and other consenting bodies for various consents affecting the marine area. This includes Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects under the Planning Act 2008.

We would suggest that reference to the MMO's role in consenting projects be made within planning documents to ensure that necessary regulatory requirements are covered.

If you have any questions or need any further information please just let me know. More information on the role of the MMO can be found on our website [www.marinemanagement.org.uk](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk)

Yours sincerely



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