

Council of the Isles of Scilly Planning Application

Ref: P/23/095/FUL

Consultation Response

Date: 14.12.2023
Ref: P/23/095/FUL
Site: Green Bay, Southard, Bryher, Isles of Scilly
Proposal: Installation of 75 m long geobag core added to existing cobble embankment and tied with geotextile (EIA Development).

You are being consulted on this application as you may wish to make comments before a decision is made. Should you wish to make any comments on this application, please complete the response form below and return to planning@scilly.gov.uk by the **8th January 2024**.

Link to application: <https://scilly.gov.uk/planning-application/planning-application-p23095ful>

I look forward to receiving your comments in due course. If I have not heard back from you by the **8th January 2024** then I will assume you have no comments to make.

Consultee Name: Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Thank you for consulting us on this application. We previously provided advice on P/22/076/FUL for proposed coastal defence works in multiple locations on Bryher. We note that the scheme has been reduced to solely focus on works at Green Bay, to the southeast of the boatyard.

Our advice remains the same as provided for P/22/076/FUL, in that the proposed defences will include a new geo-textile bag bank to prevent overtopping. This will require the stripping of the current berm for an area approximately 70m long and 8m wide. Ground disturbance here has the potential to reveal archaeological features, as the surrounding area has the remains of small round house or cairn approximately 20m southeast of the proposed sea defences (MCO43294), the remains of a prehistoric field system 54m to the east (NHLE 1015649; MCO31554) and approximately 82m to the south of the proposal, a Bronze Age round house has been noted as eroding from the cliff (MCO30195). In addition, a watching brief at Sampson Cottage revealed 43 sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery, possibly briquetage associated with salt working (MCO67935). Taken as a whole, this evidence shows a high potential for evidence relating to Bronze Age settlement and activity in the area of the proposed sea defences; the remains of which could survive at a shallow depth and under the present beach surface in the form of buried soils.

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We therefore advise that a continuous archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the early stages of groundworks, undertaken by a suitably qualified organisation. As the ground conditions are likely to vary across the site, and due to the potential to find complex and significant archaeology, the watching brief should include a contingency for targeted strip, map and sample (should complex archaeology be identified).

We advise, for the above reasons, that any consent issued should carry the condition as worded below of sections A-C inclusive (please do not split into separate Conditions or treat separately), which includes words recommended by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), as follows:

A) No groundworks or construction of the defences shall take place until a programme of archaeological recording work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions, and:

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
2. The programme for post investigation assessment
3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation

B) No groundworks or construction of the defences shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The archaeological recording condition will normally only be discharged when all elements of the WSI including on site works, analysis, report, publication (where applicable) and archive work has been completed, and a final report has been submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority.

A pre-commencement condition is necessary in this instance due to the need to ensure that a programme and methodology of site investigation and recording of archaeological features is undertaken before physical works commence on site. This is in accordance with the provisions of NPPF (2023) Chapter 16, paragraph 211 and the Isles of Scilly Local Plan policy OE7.

Name: Peter Dudley

Date: 29/12/2023