

From: **J.Jakeways**

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Web www.coastalwight.gov.uk/sthelens

Our Ref: St. Helens Duver

26th March 2012

[To: Name & Address]

Dear [Sir/Madam]

REPAIR WORK TO THE SEAWALL AT ST HELENS DUVER.

I am writing to update you on planned engineering works to repair to the seawall at St Helens Duver, which are due to take place from April 2012, as anticipated in our letter sent to you in December 2011.

We are now due to undertake substantial repairs to the ageing seawall and promenade deck at St Helens Duver to ensure their integrity. In planning the work we have taken particular account of both the specific environmental and ecological constraints and the use of this area by both locals and tourists, who enjoy the beach, dunes, and other recreational facilities. However, this will, unfortunately, involve some disruption whilst the construction works are underway.

The planned works are due to commence at the start of April 2012, and they will continue for several months to July 2012.

Information about the planned works is provided in this letter. News and updates are also available online at the website: www.coastalwight.gov.uk/sthelens

If you require further information, or would like to discuss any aspect, then please feel free to get in touch with Peter Marsden who as the project manager will be best placed to help with questions of detail. He can be contacted on 01983 857223, or by email at peter.marsden@iow.gov.uk

I hope that following responses to **Frequently Asked Questions** will help explain the works planned:

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Who will be undertaking the works?

The outcome of the Tender process was that Imphouse Ltd. were appointed as the Contractor for the works.

Imphouse Ltd.
Merstone Manor Farm,
Chapel Lane,
Merstone,
Isle of Wight
PO30 3BZ

Tel. (01983) 527855
Email. info@imphouse.or.uk

When will the construction works commence?

The IWC and Imphouse Ltd. are working towards undertaking construction works on site from the start of April 2012, if all arrangements are in place satisfactorily.

How long will the construction works last?

Approximately 16 weeks, from the start of April 2012.

We are aware that this is a very popular area with locals and tourists alike, and we wish to minimise disturbance. Our contractor has planned to complete the works as quickly as possible, and they will aim to reopen sections of the seawall and promenade as they are completed.

We are hopeful of being able to complete the work before the summer holidays.

What working hours are planned?

Imphouse aim to minimise disruption to the public, residents, businesses and beach hut owners on the Duver.

Normal working hours will be 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. In addition, some works will require tidal working, working during one tide per day. During tidal work working hours can extend between the hours of 5.30 am and 8pm, dependent on the tide time.

Concrete deliveries will need to occur at times to suit tidal working but other deliveries will be timed to avoid busy periods. Delivery vehicles accessing the site via the promenade will be supervised. This aims to minimise disruption to the public by avoiding the need to fence off the access route to the site.

Please take care in the area during the works.

Imphouse have not programmed to work on any public holidays or Sundays.

They do not intend to work on Saturdays, but will do so if delays occur and they need to increase progress.

Why are we undertaking the works at this time of year?

Unfortunately we cannot undertake the works in the winter due to ecological constraints and the need to mitigate the impact of construction on over-wintering birds. However we also want to avoid disruption in the peak summer season as much as possible, so we have sought the best fit to undertake the works during the time period in between. The need for the works has become increasingly urgent as the ageing seawall and deck has deteriorated in recent years.

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The beach and area surrounding the seawall and St Helens Duver is internationally and nationally designated for its environment and habitats and is especially important for over-wintering birds. As a consequence we are not allowed to disturb the site in the winter months. Additionally, winter would also be a difficult time to work on the site dealing with winter storm waves, storm tides and high winds.

Which sections of the frontage along St. Helens Duver will be affected by the works?

The competitive Tender process has allowed us to obtain good value for money use this opportunity to repair a significant length of the Duver seawall.

The entire length of the Duver, from the southernmost block of steps, to the northern end of the car park by the Old Church, will be repaired and upgraded.

It is anticipated that the contractor will operate two crews, working from either end towards the centre. This will enable works at the northern end of the site (causing initial disruption to the frontage along the car park and café area) to be completed and cleared as early as possible, as works progress and continue towards the south.

What works are being undertaken?

The seawall will be repaired at its current height, by encasing it with concrete, forming a new front to the seawall.

Piles will be put in place to support the toe of the structure.

The adjoining promenade deck will also be replaced.

Will access along the seawall be closed? Will access be maintained to the beach huts during the works?

Unfortunately the works will affect access along the seawall and access to beach huts. Access to a number of beach huts will be limited during the spring for significant periods, as the whole deck in front of them will be replaced (including all voids repaired, and resurfaced), along with repairing the seawall itself.

Wherever possible the works will be carried out section by section, with an area of the promenade being fenced off as a working area, which will move forward on a rolling basis.

Alternative access has been provided, by providing a temporary walkway behind the beach huts. Diversion signs will be in place.

Will sections of the beach be closed?

Areas of the beach in front of the works will be affected whilst the foundations of the new seawall encasement are put in place. We are very aware of the popularity of the area for visitors, the international designations affecting the beach and the tidal cycle, so we will be working to ensure works are carried out safely and keep disruption to a minimum.

What will the finished deck look like?

The concrete deck along the Duver seawall will be repaired and restored, with a new 3 metre-wide strip of deck put in place right along the length of the Duver (wherever room permits), in keeping with the current arrangement.

In addition, where the deck is wider than 3m in front of the row of beach huts, the adjoining concrete deck will also be repaired, although to the south and north of this area, where there is currently a sandy surface to the rear of the concrete promenade deck, this will be reinstated on a like-for-like basis.

The contractor is providing added value in the form of enhanced finishes/patterning of the concrete deck in front of the beach huts and the café, to improve the visual appearance of the area.

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We do not plan to put new railings in place along the repaired seawall, but to continue with the present arrangement.

What restrictions are there on the works?

The Isle of Wight Council and Imphouse have planned the works to minimise disruption to the area, although this is a large project and it will continue over several months.

An important restriction on the design of the works was the need to minimise their environmental impact on the beach and surrounding area, and the seawall has been designed and will be constructed with this in mind. The planned works also take account of the heritage features and character of the area.

Other important aspects controlling the works are ensuring safe access to the site, which is relatively restricted, and working within the tidal cycle.

Preparatory work in March 2012:

Due to the risk of voids having developed under the deck of the existing ageing promenade, Imphouse have been undertaking preparatory work in March 2012 to identify and rectify these voids to improve the safety of the area for the works and the general public, prior to the planned commencement of construction works on the seawall in April.

Who should I contact if I have concerns regarding my property during the works?

In the first instance, please contact the contractor undertaking the works:

Mr R.Clayton / Mr. D.Street
Imphouse Ltd.
Merstone Manor Farm,
Chapel Lane,
Merstone,
Isle of Wight
PO30 3BZ

Tel. (01983) 527855

Email. info@imphouse.org.uk

Where can I find updates about the works?

Please visit the *website* www.coastalwight.gov.uk/sthelens for updates on the upcoming works in 2012. News updates and information (such as this letter) will be available to access there.

Imphouse will install an *information board* at the site giving further details of the scheme. When works commence they will provide regular updates on the information board.

We do recognise that some disruption will be caused by the project and apologise for this, but hope that once the works are completed, the Duver will be secured and improved for the future.

Yours faithfully

J. Jakeways

Jenny Jakeways

cc. Peter Marsden