**Introduction to Ground Investigation (GI) work at Embankment Road, Bembridge - September 2023.**

To help us assess the possible options for repairing the existing coastal defences along Embankment Road, we need to deepen our understanding of the ground conditions including monitoring groundwater. To do this, we will need to drill boreholes at various points along Embankment Road using specialist equipment to retrieve a core which is sent to the laboratory for analysis.

**Where will the investigations take place?**

The investigation locations are shown on the map. This work will be completed by contractors that are fully qualified and experienced at carrying out this work. It will be more intrusive than our previous survey work this year – you may notice things like welfare cabins for the workers, and large machinery.

**Why do we need to do the investigations?**

A GI survey determines the condition of the ground. They differ from the visual and radar surveys already completed as they require digging into the ground using various methods and types of equipment. These more intrusive surveys will help to determine:

How much water is present in the ground, how deep it is and how it flows.

Detailed information about soil type and how ‘strong’ the ground is.

If there are any voids under the ground.

How the existing embankment and coastal defences have been built, and how deep the foundations are.

Ground investigations are extremely important as they help to minimise risk by better understanding potential ground hazards that may otherwise cause delays and additional cost during the construction phase.

**When will the investigations take place?**

Equipment and welfare cabins will be transported to the site compound in late August 2023. Work will commence in early September 2023 and is expected to be completed by early October 2023. Working hours will be restricted to 7am-5pm Monday to Friday where possible. To reduce disturbance to nesting and over wintering birds at Brading Marshes nature reserve, we have a limited window to complete this work. The team will work as efficiently as possible however weekend working may be required to complete this work in the event of delays our programme.

**What equipment will be used?**

It is expected that a rotary drilling rig suitable for forming boreholes in soil and rock will be used. Barriers will be erected around each exploratory location so that the work can be completed safely. These are expected to be in place for between 1 and 3 days as we progress along Embankment Road. Indicative compounds and drilling rig can be seen below.

**Will the work be noisy?**

As with any work of this nature, there will be some noise. We will be using acoustic barriers to minimise disruption.

**What measures are in place to protect the environment during the work?**

An Environmental Action Plan for the GI is being prepared using the recommendations from our environmental survey work. This sets out the way in which environmental risks needs to be addressed. Our contractor will implement this action plan during the construction works. There are known areas of Japanese Knotweed on site, works are planned to avoid these areas and a 10m exclusion zone will be in force at all times.

A pre site walk for identification of any further Japanese Knotweed will be undertaken prior to September to mitigate against any risk of encountering areas of knotweed.

A condition survey (including photos) of the site compound and works area will be completed prior to any works starting. The compound will be located away from the seafront and industry pollution prevention guidelines will apply. Staff from

The Check-Clean-Dry approach will be followed, ensuring that all PPE and equipment is cleaned before leaving site.

**Will there be any road closures?**

We have submitted an application for temporary traffic control to Island Roads. The traffic management proposal includes two way temporary traffic lights to allow space for the drilling rigs and safe working space for the site team where drilling is taking place at the road edge.

There will be some footpath closures for which appropriate diversions will be put in place. There will be also be some parking suspensions to ensure safety and to accommodate footpath diversions. A temporary compound for equipment and welfare facilities will be set up. The location of the welfare compound is to be confirmed.