

Shanklin Frequently Asked Questions

Where will the scheme be be?

The scheme will cover approximately 900m of coastal frontage (see Fig1. below. Area denoted by red line) from the large concrete Hope Groyne at the northern end of the Shanklin Esplanade to Shanklin Chine wooded coastal ravine and nature reserve in the south.

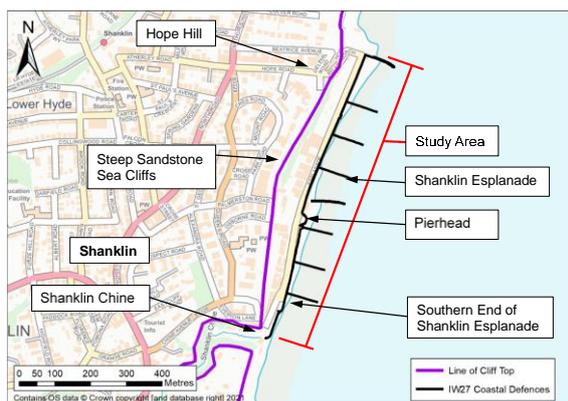


Fig.1 Shanklin frontage

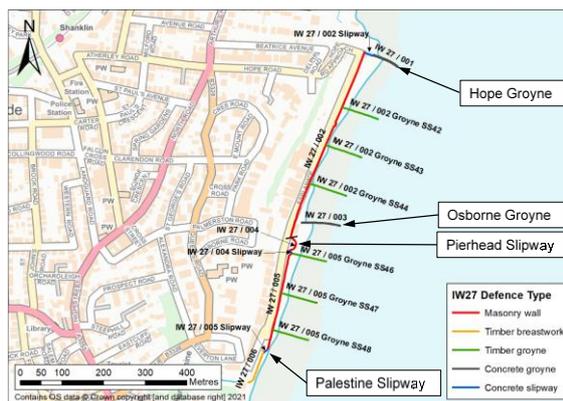


Fig 2. Shanklin coastal defences

Why do we need the scheme? Is doing nothing a viable option?

The current coastal defences (see Fig.2 above) are important as they reduce the risks to people and property from coastal erosion and tidal flooding. The seawall, consisting of continuous concrete/masonry block work, was originally built pre 1900s. The concrete groynes are of a similar age (Osborne groyne 1878 and Hope Groyne 1901), whilst the wooden groyne field was completed more recently (1980). Periodic refurbishment of the defences has been undertaken to extend their useful life, however, major capital works are now needed if the coastal defences are to remain effective.

The Environment Agency have assessed the condition of both the sea wall and groynes and found areas of fair and poor condition which require improving. If significant restorative works are not undertaken, the sea wall and groynes will continue to deteriorate, resulting in the loss of the defences and the esplanade they currently protect. This would have serious implications for both the habitability of residential properties and viability of businesses located along the frontage.

What is the impact of climate change?

Sea levels, wave heights and the frequency of winter storms are all anticipated to increase because of climate change. The Environment Agency will be taking these projected changes into account during the next phase of the scheme's development.

As part of the Environment Agency's vision of 'making a country more resilient to climate change', this refurbishment scheme will be part of a 100 year plan to manage increasing coastal risks in this location.

More information on climate change can be found: [here](#)

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Who is responsible for the sea wall and groynes?

The Environment Agency, together with Coastal Protection Authorities (CPAs) such as the Isle of Wight Council, However, this is not a legal obligation. This means that the Environment Agency and the Isle of Wight Council have the 'power to' carry out coastal protection works but is not duty bound to do so. The ability to exercise these powers is also constrained by the need to consider the costs and benefits (both tangible and intangible) of any investment, as set out in HM Treasury and Defra guidance. In general, CPAs and the Environment Agency will only act where there is a clear economic benefit and/or an appropriate engineering solution that is achievable, and where environmental legislation is not contravened.

Ownership/maintenance of the sea wall and groynes in the Shanklin scheme area rests with the Isle of Wight Council. Once any scheme is completed, it is intended that the current ownership/maintenance arrangements will continue.

How have you chosen where to deliver coastal flood and erosion risk management schemes?

Flood and coastal erosion risk management infrastructure needs have been assessed for the Isle of Wight coastline through a number of plans, strategies and studies undertaken by the Isle of Wight Council in partnership with the Environment Agency. These help to decide how and where coastal risks can be reduced, and where it is appropriate to allow the coastline to evolve naturally.

The Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan (SMP, 2010) sets the policy for how the risks facing each section of coastline should be managed for the next 100 years.

This is followed by a Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy or Study. The Isle of Wight is divided into 3 strategy/study areas, where appropriate schemes are identified to put the policies into place, and the high-level costs and benefits are assessed. This work has produced a list of priority schemes in locations where existing flood and coastal erosion walls and embankments are at the most immediate risk of failure, where such a failure would put people, property and the environment at risk, and where the availability of central government funding justifies development of a coastal risk management proposal.

In areas where the SMP and a strategy/study has identified a need for infrastructure improvements, but priority schemes are not currently being developed, this may be because sufficient government funding cannot currently be justified, or because there is not an immediate risk and work on these schemes can be commenced once the initial priority schemes are underway.

Where the costs and benefits of a scheme do not currently enable us to justify a significant investment of government funding, both the Environment Agency and the Isle of Wight Council undertake routine monitoring and inspections of the structures within our respective ownership. This will continue with the aim of managing any health and safety risks, undertaking repairs where necessary and affordable, and maximising the life span of these structures.

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How will the scheme be funded?

On behalf of the UK government, the Environment Agency prioritises and allocates funding to flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) schemes using a partnership funding approach. Securing funding is dependent on the benefits and outcomes delivered by a scheme. Funding contributions from other sources such as local levy (raised by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees), private and public organisations, the local community or developers may be required to enable the release of FCERM Grant in Aid (GiA) funding.

When calculating the benefits (also described as flood or erosion damages avoided) a FCERM scheme delivers, a baseline must first be established. This can be thought of as 'what would be at risk if we did nothing?'. This process considers the maximum area likely to be impacted, and in the case of flooding, to what depth and for what duration. The next stage is to explore land use. For example, what will be affected by flooding or erosion. This could include, but is not limited to: residential properties, commercial properties including retail, warehouses, industry, road and rail networks and utilities such as gas, electricity, telecoms and water supplies. Additionally, recreation, education and health services damages are incorporated along with local council and emergency recovery costs. Finally, agriculture and environmental damages are also captured. Damages can be defined as direct or indirect, where direct damages include physical impacts and indirect damages can be realised beyond the area immediately affected. For example, failure of a sewerage treatment works could have far reaching effects.

Once the total amount of damages has been calculated the actual cost of the proposed works and the period the scheme will be effective for are all considered. Finally, a tariff system is employed to determine exactly how much FCERM GiA a scheme can ultimately attract. Currently, the assets attracting the greatest proportion of FCERM GiA are residential properties, with additional sums also being made available for those properties located in the nations most deprived areas.

More information relating to FCERM GiA partnership funding can be found [here](#).

Are you going to be working with others on this project?

The Environment Agency will be working closely with our partners, stakeholders and the wider community throughout the delivery of the scheme.

The Environment Agency have formed a team made up of industry experts from the Environment Agency, the Isle of Wight Council, JBA Consulting and VolkerStevin.

The views of the local community will be key in ensuring the successful delivery of this coastal erosion scheme. If you would like to contact the delivery team with any specific question not covered here or would just like to be kept informed throughout the scheme's development, then please [email us](#).

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When will the construction work take place and how long will it last?

Construction work is currently estimated to commence in September 2024, and be completed by September 2026, if scheme funding can be obtained. These are preliminary dates that will be subject to change as plans progress, and the Environment Agency will work with our partners and stakeholders to agree acceptable timings for construction activities.

What are you building? What will it look like? Will the works affect access to the seafront and beach? How will the works impact upon tourism?

The works would be expected to involve resurfacing the seawall and might also include replacement of the wooden groynes and refurbishment of the concrete groynes. However, options are still being developed, so the Environment Agency do not yet know for certain what the works will look like, or the type of machinery required. Once further information is known, the Environment Agency will consult with residents, businesses and other key organisations, such as infrastructure providers, who may be affected to understand concerns and share what plans will be put in place to minimise disruption.

Will the beach be the same after the works?

As the options are still being developed, the Environment Agency do not yet know for certain what the works will entail, and how the beach will be affected. The Environment Agency understands the importance of the beach, not only for tourism and recreation and because it is an integral part of the town's character, but also the benefits it offers for flood defence. The groynes, which help retain beach material, maybe near to the end of their useful life and are likely to need refurbishing and/or replacing. This is, however, likely to be expensive and would need to be justified in terms of the benefit it would bring to reducing erosion and flood risk to qualify for some government Grant in Aid funding. The Environment Agency will be looking at how to balance these issues, working closely with stakeholders and the Isle of Wight Council to do this.

What will the environmental impact of the scheme be?

The Environment Agency is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment through all it does. The Environment Agency's ambition for how it plans to create better places for people, wildlife and the environment is set out in our 5 year plan: EA2025 creating a better place, found [here](#).

The Environment Agency's target for the Isle of Wight priority schemes is to achieve 20% biodiversity net gain. This means that development must leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than before. 20% is a higher standard than usual and reflects the Island's biosphere designation and the growing desire to deliver schemes that enhance the environment as well as performing a coastal defence role.

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How can local businesses get involved?

The Environment Agency's procurement mission statement is to achieve best value, best practice and the most sustainable outcome. The government has set a target of 33% of central government buying to go to small businesses by 2022. The Environment Agency is committed to supporting this target and look to ensure a fair and equal opportunity for all to bid for our contracts. The Environment Agency also encourages its larger suppliers to consider small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in their sub-contracting opportunities.

Under our Next Generation Supplier Arrangement for the delivery of Capital schemes, the Environment Agency have appointed Jeremy Benn Associates Ltd (JBA) and VolkerStevin Ltd (VS) to help deliver its flood and coastal defence programme in the South East of England. VS will be the appointed contractor until the end of the current framework in 2023, when the arrangement will be reviewed. Currently, the Environment Agency is still developing options and don't yet know what any construction works will entail. Once options progress, the Environment Agency will provide more detail on how SMEs can get involved.

How can I find out more?

Throughout this project there will be numerous opportunities for you to feed into its development. The Environment Agency will continue to update you and provide ongoing opportunities to seek your input and opinions.

The Environment Agency would encourage all interested parties in the area and neighbouring communities to sign up to updates by registering your interest at IOW_FDschemes@environment-agency.gov.uk. The Environment Agency would also encourage you to support any family members, friends or neighbours who cannot access online information, by sharing our updates with them.