



# Yaverland Coastal Defence Scheme: Short List Consultation

A summary of consultation responses

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We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including flooding, drought, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution. We work with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations. A healthy and diverse environment enhances people's lives and contributes to economic growth.

We can't do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to create a better place for people and wildlife.

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# Introduction

The Environment Agency, in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, is planning to refurbish existing coastal defences at Culver Parade, Yaverland to reduce the impact of coastal erosion and flooding from the sea. The purpose of this consultation was to ensure the community and key stakeholders are well-informed about the options for refurbishing the coastal defences, how we arrived at these options and next steps for the project. This consultation provided the opportunity to feed into the prioritisation of the short list to help us understand which option achieves the best local outcomes. This is known as the local choice option.

The short list of options can be downloaded [here](#).

## How we ran the consultation

We ran the consultation for 6 weeks from 23 October 2023 to 01 December 2023.

The consultation was launched on the scheme's information page on 23 October 2023. Paper copies were available from the same date at Sandown Community Library and the Isle of Wight Council help desk point. Large print copies were available on request. The Environment Agency's 'Working with Others' guidance and Governments [Consultation Principles](#) were followed in the production of the consultation.

## Public exhibitions

The public exhibitions were designed to inform the local community about the reasons behind the project, update them on the findings of ground investigative works carried out in winter 2023 and share the short list of options compiled by the Yaverland Coastal Defence Scheme team. This was also an opportunity to talk to our engineers and technical advisors.

We planned to hold Yaverland's public exhibition at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary Café, in Yaverland on 25 and 26 October 2023. This is a popular tourist destination and we anticipated significant footfall during October half term. We planned to create a children's area and run a competition for children to create their own sea defence out of Lego or any other materials found at home or school. We also planned to provide books that explained the local geology and landscape for people to read if they wished. Both the Lego and the books were provided by the local library service.

There was also a sensory sensitive session planned for 27 October 2023 at the Broadway Centre in Sandown. This was to support anyone who wanted to attend the exhibition who may have had reservations about the sensory overload of the event. To do this we followed guidance from the National Autistic Society that included reducing the number of people at the exhibition, reducing overhead lighting and background noise, and ensuring

the project team did not directly approach people who were looking at the exhibition materials.

Unfortunately, due to Storm Babet the decision to cancel the public exhibitions was made. This was to ensure the safety of our employees, many of whom were travelling from the mainland and would be reliant on the ferry service. Members of the project team were also required to support the response to the storm in their incident roles. The decision was made not to reschedule the Yaverland exhibition given the second set of dates taking place less than four miles away in Shanklin were not compromised by the storm and could go ahead as planned two weeks later. We also had plans to attend an event held by Dinosaur Isle in Yaverland called Blast from the Past, where all exhibition materials were available with some of the project team present to engage with.

The exhibitions were well supported with a total of 95 visitors attending the exhibitions in Shanklin. A proportion of those visitors had travelled from Sandown and Yaverland as can be seen from the below map used at the exhibitions to gain an understanding of where visitors to the exhibitions had travelled from.



**Figure 1 - Map indicating where visitors to the exhibition travelled from**

The Blast from the Past event at Dinosaur Isle Museum was a success despite the wet weather with 668 visitors passing through the doors across the weekend of 18 and 19 November. This annual event is for local people to find out about the Island's heritage at a

reduced admission charge of £1/visitor. The admission fee did not apply to those solely visiting the exhibition material.



**Figure 2 - A member of the project team demonstrating the hazards found in flood water.**

## Promotion

Elected council members were made aware of the consultation and encouraged to complete it and further publicise it amongst their colleagues and constituents at a webinar held for Sandown Town Council on 12 October 2023.

During the week commencing 16 October 2023, the third edition of the Yaverland Coastal Defence Scheme newsletter was sent by email to our mailing list. This publicised dates for the exhibitions to showcase the options for restoring the coastal defences.

A webinar held on 18 October 2023 provided the media with a preview of the exhibition material and sought their support with promoting the public consultation and exhibition dates. On 19 October 2023 a press release was issued to promote the consultation. This generated good coverage including onthewight.com (120,000 visits per month), Isle of Wight County Press (Opportunity To See 1,945), Wave FM (Opportunity To See 70.3k), BBC Radio Solent (Opportunity To See 46.3k).

The project team were invited to present the short list of options at Isle of Wight Council's [Environment and Sustainability forum](#) on 19 October 2023. This virtual forum allows the council to discuss relevant issues with Island residents, town and parish councils, and other stakeholders.

During this consultation period we ran a social media campaign to promote the public exhibition material and consultation. The local library also displayed a condensed version of the public exhibition materials after the main exhibition closed, along with paper copies of the survey. During the consultation period the project team had regular contact with local individuals, businesses, and councillors who were able to promote the consultation by word of mouth. Targeted invitations to attend the exhibitions and complete the consultation were sent to key stakeholders identified through stakeholder and beneficiary analysis.

## **Investment**

The principles and objectives of the [Procurement Act 2023](#) state that contracting authorities must have regard to delivering value for money, maximising public benefit, transparency and acting with integrity. The Act also includes a duty on contracting authorities to have regard to the barriers facing Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and to consider what can be done to overcome them.

We were mindful of this through this consultation and invested over £4,000 in SMEs including independent Isle of Wight hotels, venues, and suppliers.

## **Summary of consultation responses**

We received 45 responses in total. Of the 45 responses, 35 people gave their permission for us to publish their response. The answers given by the respondents who did not want their responses published have been omitted from this report.

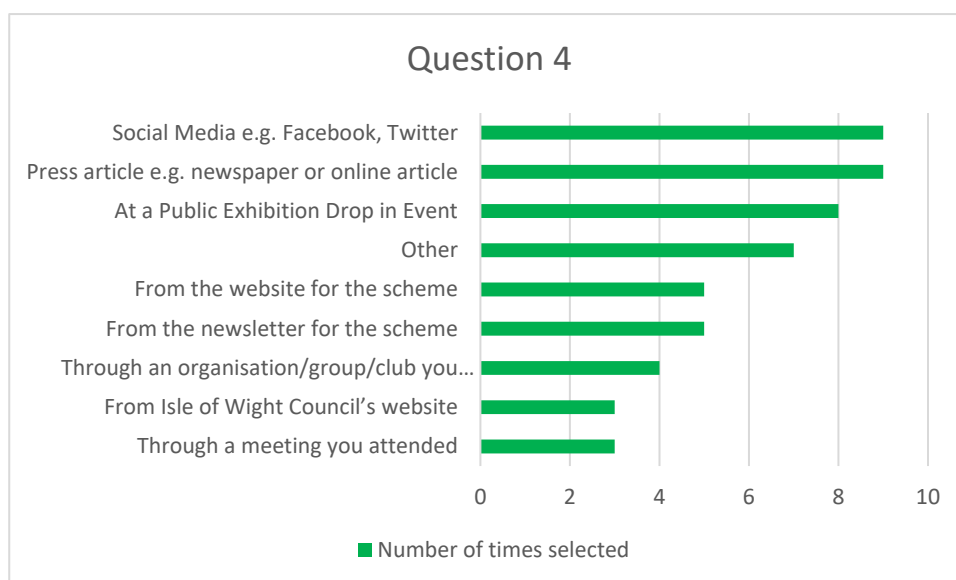
## **Summary of key findings and actions we will take**

Respondents told us that doing nothing or taking minimal action is not acceptable to them. Option 5 is the locally preferred option. With this option the sea defences would be adapted through raising the defence height to reduce the risk to Yaverland and Sandown from rising sea level and coastal erosion. From the responses to the consultation, it was concluded that there is a need for more financial information regarding the short list of options to understand the cost effectiveness of taking each option forward. We are taking action to address this and will share the outcomes of the financial analysis on our website in March 2024.

## Responses to questions four to fourteen and our response to these

A summary of responses to each consultation question and our response to these is provided below. Questions 1 to 3 recorded personal information such as names and email addresses. These questions have therefore been omitted from this report.

### Question 4: How did you find out about this consultation?



**Figure 3 - Response to question 4**

Generating the most responses, at 9, was social media and press articles. The public exhibitions also increased awareness with 8 respondents finding out about the consultation during these events designed with this purpose in mind.

Those who selected 'other' stated that they heard about the questionnaire through word of mouth including friends, neighbours and staff at the exhibition venues. Others heard about the consultation via an email sent to those signed up to receive updates via the Yaverland Coastal Defence Schemes mailing list.

### Our response to Question 4

A webinar held on 18 October 2023 provided the media with a preview of the exhibition material and sought their support with promoting the public consultation and exhibition dates. This was well attended and resulted in good coverage including onthewight.com, Isle of Wight County Press, Wave FM, BBC Radio Solent. We have added a media webinar to our programme of activities to promote the next phase of public engagement for the scheme.

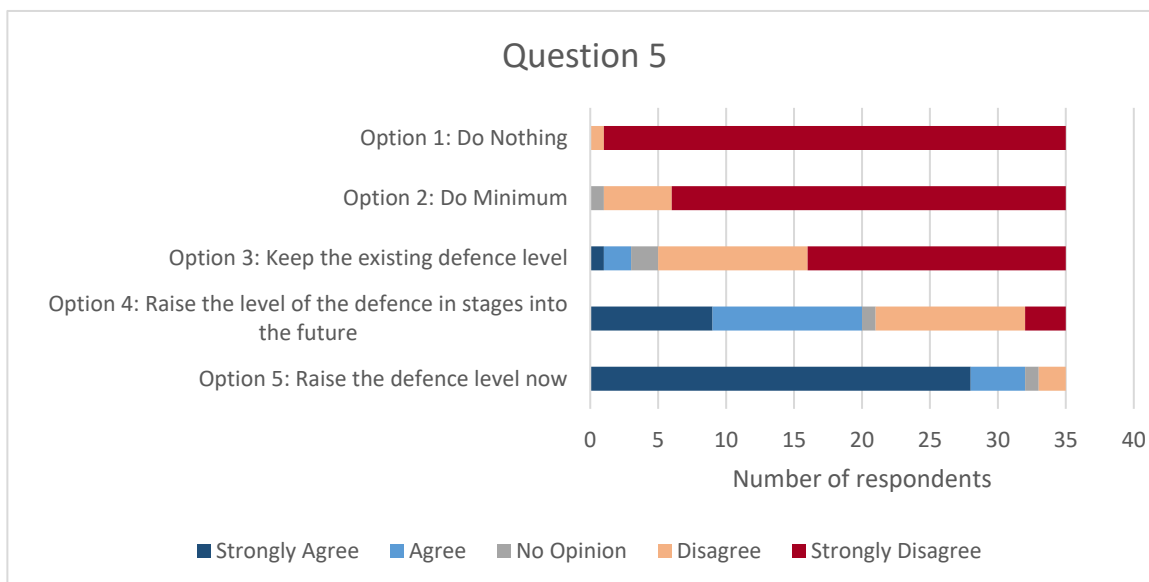
A total of 18 social media posts went out throughout October, November and December 2023 resulting in a total of 16,901 impressions (number of digital views). A series of short videos shared on the Environment Agency's social media channels were the highest



performing posts. The consultation also appeared as the Environment Agency’s headline story on Facebook. The videos introduced the challenges facing coastal communities and helped to highlight the need for the scheme. The videos promoted the exhibitions and advised people how to get involved. There is a positive correlation between the number of people signing up to the scheme newsletter and the days we posted on social media. We are producing videos in preparation for the next round of public engagement where the emerging design for the preferred option will be shared.

Visitors to the exhibitions took copies of our flyers home with them stating that they would share these with neighbours who could not attend in person. We are thankful to the local community for helping to raise awareness about the consultation. Visitors to the exhibitions felt a letter drop could have further increased attendance at exhibitions and responses to the consultation. We were guided by the previous public consultation which told us that communication preferences were predominantly in favour of digital methods (question 14 which can be viewed here: [https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/solent-and-south-downs/yaverland-coastal-defence-sche/user\\_uploads/yaverland-summary-consultation-report--december-22.pdf](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/solent-and-south-downs/yaverland-coastal-defence-sche/user_uploads/yaverland-summary-consultation-report--december-22.pdf)). This also aligns with the Environment Agency’s carbon targets. The project team plan to revisit community communication preferences and may include greater emphasis on non-digital methods in our next round of public engagement.

**Question 5: Please rate each of the short-listed options to show how strongly you agree or disagree with taking each option forward to the next stage of planning and design.**



**Figure 4 - Response to Question 5**

The five-point scale with choices ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree gave us a holistic view of people’s opinions. The options to do nothing or minimal were least favourable with all respondents disagreeing with Option 1 where no action would be taken, leaving defences to deteriorate and eventually fail. A total of 34 respondents strongly

disagreed with this option and 1 respondent disagreed. Similarly, 34 of the 35 respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with Option 2 which is a minimal reactive patch and repair maintenance approach to the existing walls and groynes, the other respondent had no opinion on this option.

A range of views were expressed for Option 3 with 29 of the 35 responses in disagreement with this option to keep the existing defence level with no adaptation made for climate change and rising sea level. Two held no opinion on this option and three either agreed or strongly agreed with taking this option forward.

Option 4 and 5 were most favourable, 20 respondents agreed with taking Option 4 forward and 32 of the 35 respondents agreed or strongly agreed with taking Option 5 forward. Just 2 respondents disagreed with taking Option 5 forward and 14 disagreed with taking forward Option 4.

### **Our response:**

Respondents unanimously told us that doing nothing or taking minimal action is not acceptable to them. As part of the options appraisal, we are required to provide a baseline against which to assess the options. Option 1 and 2 are the baseline used to establish whether a given option represents value for money and is used for economic decision making. Option 1 and 2 do not meet the project objectives. Options which meet the project objectives, and which are being investigated further are Option 3, 4 and 5. Responses to question 6 provide more insight into the reasoning behind how strongly respondents felt about each option.

### **Question 6: Thinking about how you rated each of the short-listed options, do you have any comments you would like to share with us now?**

The below word cloud has been created to help visualise some of the key words used in the responses to this question.



**Figure 5 - Word cloud visualising responses to question 6**

A selection of responses from those who strongly agreed with Option 5 is included below, chosen to represent the range of reasons raised for being in favour of Option 5 (the locally preferred option).

The responses can be grouped into themes, consisting of:

- Concerns about work being done in stages
- Observed flood impacts

### Concerns about work being done in stages

*One respondent said:*

*“More important to ensure a completed project that has future-proofed the area. A staged project could result ultimately in non-completion or further complications due to unforeseen circumstances impacting on plans.”*

*Another respondent said:*

*“If it is done in stages I believe that money put aside will be used for alternate projects and the risk to the area will remain.”*

*Another responded added:*

*“I can't imagine that the costings for such an enormous undertaking will go down in the future, I see no benefit in delaying such a crucial area of the island sea defence.”*

Some respondents identified that financial information and information about the amount of disruption caused by each option would have aided their decision making:

*“There are no costs - or sub options perhaps we would prefer less height but better looking works or higher cheaper but ugly works.”*

*“No information on disruption. which option is easiest / less disruptive - how can we chose without that info.”*

### Observed flood impacts

One respondent said:

*“I think we need to do as much as we can sooner rather than later. The flooding has already been terrible this year and parts of the island that have been unprepared have suffered.”*

Another said:

*“It is essential to protect the Yaverland Road for through traffic, as this is a main thoroughfare when Morton Common is flooded.”*

Other general comments were included for consideration which do not relate specifically to a particular option but works to the defences in general. These can be grouped into themes consisting of:

- Public realm and recreational opportunities
- Plans for the public slipway
- Areas of Sandown Bay where a scheme is not currently being progressed
- Accessibility and Aesthetics
- Health and Safety
- Project beneficiaries
- Nature Based Solutions
- Design life of materials used

### Public realm and recreational opportunities

Respondents had the following thoughts on this topic:

- *“At Yaverland could not a similar approach to that at Ventnor Haven be considered, which could provide a harbour and marina facility for small/ medium size boats to visit to be moored in the area.”*
- *“The addition of the sea water swimming facility should also be included in the solution if feasible.”*
- *“How do the work impact on councils plans for the area around browns, dino world etc”*
- *“Have any smaller standalone improvements been thought of. e.g getting rid of sand dune by Dino world to stop sand etc drifting onto the road which in turn affects drainage resulting in flooding.”*

### Plans for the public slipway

One respondent expressed the following concern:

- *“Temporary barriers relying on someone to erect when required is NOT a good idea! for the slipway.”*

### Areas of Sandown Bay where a scheme is not currently being progressed

Respondents were concerned about sections of coastal defences that are not in scope for the Yaverland Coastal Defence Scheme project:

- *“The B3395 which runs alongside both the Bembridge and Yaverland-Sandown sections of the seawall needs similar renovation work to make suitable to cope with the threat and this work should be done in parallel.”*
- *“The plans refer only to Yaverland and Shanklin. The beaches between Sandown Pier and Shanklin are deteriorating rapidly because the groyne have become mostly dysfunctional. This is already impacting on the integrity of the sea wall. Can repairing these groyne be added to the plans?”*

### Accessibility and Aesthetics

Respondents felt passionately about this subject:

- *“Accessibility and aesthetic appearance of works carried out must be considered on a tourist island.”*
- *“No mention of improved access - steps are already too steep in places”*
- *“It does not say what is going to happen to the Groyne - fixing with new wood or cement like the new ones in sandown. which I think are horrible.”*

### Health and Safety

Respondents raised the following points on this topic:

- *“No mention of H&S if level is raised causing bigger drop from pavement to beach”*
- *“It does not mention anti slip on new stepped wall if height is increased. Tourists will climb them.”*

### Project beneficiaries

A respondent asked the following question:

*“have you liaised with southern Water – a) they might have ideas b) are doing a multi-million upgrade to the works in sandown - coordination may be needed to avoid new wall being dug up”*

### Nature Based Solutions

A respondent expressed their opinion on this topic:

*“There is mention of good (in my opinion) offshore projects but no mention in options. Have they been included in all or excluded in all on affordability grounds.”*

### Design life of materials

A respondent said they would like to see the following information:

*“there is no info on which form of material used has the longest life.”*

## **Our response to question 6**

### Concerns about work being done in stages

The amount of funding a project can attract will depend on the benefits it provides. The benefits that determine the grant available are mainly the benefits to people and property that result from reduced flood and coastal erosion risk. Detailed financial analysis has been completed since consultation closed. We anticipate that the results will be shared on our website during the week commencing 11 March 2024. The most economically viable option that meets the scheme objectives when compared to the other Short List Options will also be shared through a press release during the week commencing 11 March 2024.

We are currently planning for a 12-18month single linear construction phase for the work. The cost of doing the works in stages is prohibitively expensive. Business owners are entitled to submit claims for compensation for any loss of business incurred during construction. The project team will assess the constraints and develop an optimum construction programme as part of the detailed design stage in 2025. Further details on the appearance of the refurbished sea wall will be available following detailed design. Initial designs will be available at our next exhibitions in Summer 2024.

### Observed flood impacts.

We understand that the drive to increase the sea defence level in Yaverland is underpinned by the need to protect homes, businesses, critical infrastructure, and designated habitat against the impact of coastal erosion and flooding. Many responses highlighted concerns about damage caused by increasingly frequent named storms and waves overtopping the defences. With this insight and detailed financial analysis, we will

be able to come to a decision that best suits the needs of Yaverland within the available budget for the project.

### Public realm and recreational opportunities

The viability of a sea pool is being investigated by Swim the Wight, an independent social enterprise. Although the Environment Agency is happy to provide guidance to Swim the Wight, a sea pool is not being put forward as an option within any of the coastal defence schemes taking place on the island. If a sea pool is deemed viable by Swim the Wight, the coastal defence project team will review it if the preferred location for the sea pool is Yaverland, or another coastal scheme location.

One of the objectives for the Yaverland Coastal Defence Scheme is to investigate and incorporate where feasible wider Isle of Wight Council initiatives, such as regeneration and tourism objectives that facilitate economic growth. The project team have been keeping a record of innovative ideas suggested by stakeholders as we've worked to raise awareness about the project to refurbish the coastal defences.

Whilst we can enable and facilitate these other local opportunities; our funding is for flood risk objectives only. We are not able to fund any regeneration or public realm work through the project, any additions to the scheme need to be funded and developed externally, though we can support other projects with bids for funding and review of designs to confirm they are technically viable from an engineering perspective. We will work closely with Isle of Wight Council's regeneration team to ensure environment, heritage and landscape plans align with the Sandown Bay Area Place Plan.

### Plans for the public slipway

The Environment Agency is in favour of passive flood barriers which operate automatically during a flood or storm event and do not require any human intervention compared with active flood barriers which require warnings in advance to deploy during a flood or storm event.

### Areas of Sandown Bay where a scheme is not currently being progressed

The Sandown Study (Isle of Wight Council, 2018) assessed the risks and potential consequences of flood and coastal erosion within Sandown Bay, including along the 1km Sandown Esplanade coastal frontage. The Sandown Esplanade defences are estimated to have between 10 and 35 years of life remaining before repair or refurbishment is needed. The recommendation of the Sandown Study is to undertake a refurbishment of the seawall between 2027-32. The Sandown Esplanade coastal frontage is not included in the priority schemes that the Environment Agency and Isle of Wight Council are currently developing. This is because the costs and benefits of a scheme to maintain the existing defence line do not currently enable us to justify a significant investment of government funding.

Extending the life of the ageing coastal assets on the Isle of Wight is a significant financial challenge. Currently, repairs are prioritised based on risk, and the existing defences will continue to be maintained where the Isle of Wight Council decide to commit resources.

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.

### Accessibility and Aesthetics

From the previous consultation carried out you told us that these issues are important locally. The design stage will look at these requirements and develop landscape plans. We are liaising with the Isle of Wight Council's regeneration team to develop a community feedback group that focuses on the development of the sea defences and help us achieve the following project objective:

*Design a scheme which makes a positive contribution to the landscape, conserving and enhancing visual amenity whilst improving accessibility to the seafront*

### Health and Safety

The detailed design stage will look at requirements and considerations for health and safety. The scheme will be required to comply with [The Construction \(Design and Management\) Regulations 2015](#).

### Project beneficiaries

Stakeholder mapping and analysis has been completed and identified Southern water and other beneficiaries as key stakeholders who will be consulted as appropriate. Southern Water are a potential contributor towards this scheme however no funding is yet guaranteed, and their submission to the Water Services Regulation Authority, or Ofwat, is yet to be determined.

### Nature Based Solutions

Nature Based Solutions (NBS) can work alongside all engineering options considered. Their acceptance within a designated Marine Conservation Zone is under discussion with Natural England, but other bodies will also have opinions on their use. Potential impacts include the loss of footprint and impacts on sedimentation, change of sediment type, hydrological changes and alteration of biological communities. Further assessment of potential impacts would be required. Only those options that are not technically feasible (due to lack of space; sand dunes, saltmarsh) or that we understand are already present (seagrass) have been eliminated to date.

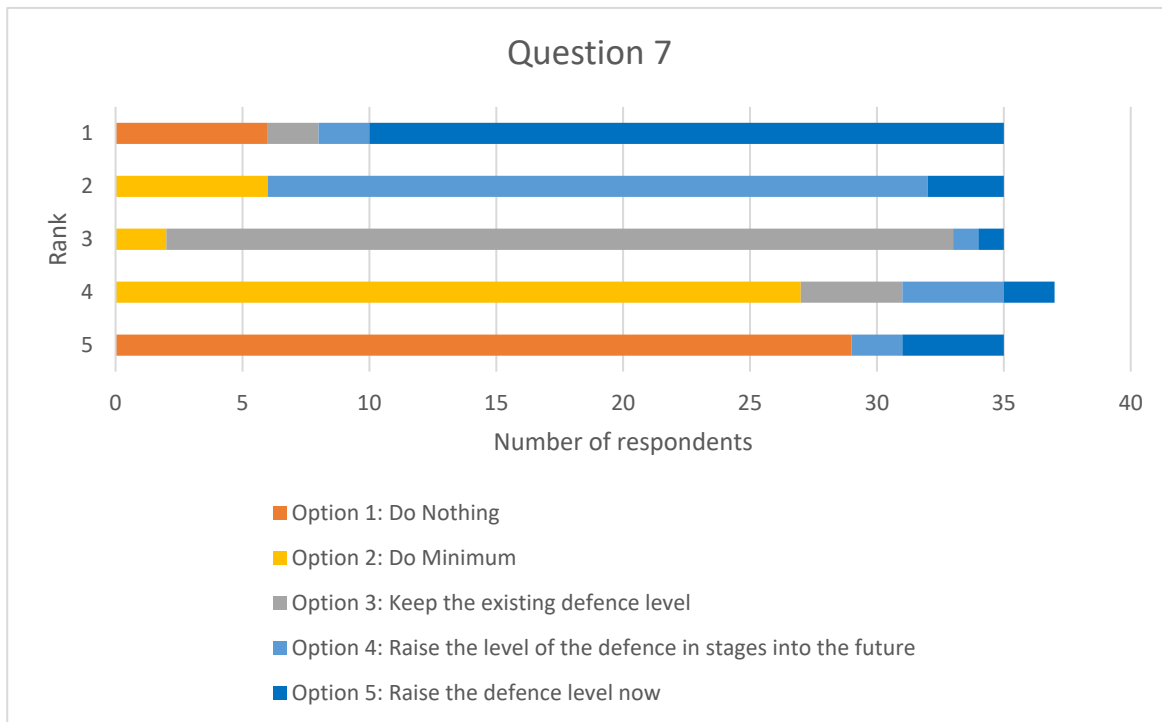
### Design life of materials

Methods of wall refurbishment are under further investigation. Encasing by either concrete spraying or using precast cladding and/or with concrete revetments are the measures under consideration. Once the preferred option is chosen and our outline design has



progressed, we will confirm the optimal combination of concrete spraying and or concrete encasement. We will set out a plan for the anticipated lifetime of that refurbishment technique and intervals for replacement.

**Question 7: Please use the table to rank the five options from most preferred (1) to least preferred (5)**



**Figure 6 - Response to question 7**

A total of 25 of the 35 respondents chose Option 5 as their most preferred option (rank 1) making this the locally preferred option. This was followed by Option 1, where 6 respondents chose “Do Nothing” as their most preferred option. 2 of the 36 respondents chose Option 3 and 2 chose Option 4. No respondents chose Option 2 as their most preferred option. Based on the above results, the locally preferred ranking is shown in table 1.

**Table 1 - Options ranked in order of local preference (1 = most preferred and 5 = least preferred)**

| Rank | Short List Option   |
|------|---|
| 1    | Option 5: Raise the defence level now   |
| 2    | Option 1: Do Nothing  |
| 3 =  | Option 3: Keep the existing defence level<br>Option 4: Raise the level of the defence in stages into the future |
| 4    | Option 2: Do Minimum  |

### **Our response to question 7**

Responses to question 8 provide more insight into the reasoning behind the option selected by respondents as their preferred option. Option 1 and 2 are the baseline, however, they do not meet the project objectives. Options which meet the project objectives, and which are being investigated further are Option 3, 4 and 5.

### **Question 8: Please let us know why you chose your preferred option**

The responses given here are reflective of the themes observed in question 6. Most used this space to reiterate and expand on their response to question 6. Question 6 focussed on reasons for choosing option 5 predominantly. This question enabled reasoning for choosing other options as their preference to come through. A selection of responses is included below:

1. A respondent who selected Option 3 as their preferred option said, “*The existing level is fine, if repaired*”.
2. A respondent who selected Option 4 as their preferred option said:

*“Based upon the artist’s illustrations provided, the appearance of the upgraded defences in Option 4 is the most aesthetically pleasing and least intrusive upon the overall look of the seafront environment upon completion. From a practical point of view, I also consider it more beneficial to complete the work incrementally in stages in order to properly test, evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the restructuring at each stage as it progresses over a period of time so that any changes or improvements needed to the plan can be identified, incorporated and implemented whilst the ongoing project remains ‘live’ - if ALL the work were to be completed in just one single ‘hit’, my concern would be that any potential flaws or weaknesses in the construction would only be identified once it was already too late to practically do anything about them to remedy the situation, resulting in a completed project that thereafter remains ineffectual and ultimately unfit for the purpose it was originally intended to provide.”*

## Our response to the points raised in question 8

1. The number of properties and extent of Brading Marshes at risk of wave overtopping is currently being investigated. We will need to find the most economically viable way of reducing the risk of flooding to properties and Brading Marshes. As a competent Authority under Habitat Regulations the EA must have regard for the protection of the designated freshwater habitat of Brading Marshes.
2. We assume that the “artist’s illustrations” refers to the images alongside the options in poster 5 found here: [https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/solent-and-south-downs/yaverland-short-list-consultation/user\\_uploads/poster5---short-list.pdf](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/solent-and-south-downs/yaverland-short-list-consultation/user_uploads/poster5---short-list.pdf). The pictures are images from other schemes chosen to represent the method of encasing by either concrete spraying or using precast cladding and/or with concrete revetments which are the measures under consideration. The sketches do not represent the design of the refurbished coastal defences. Outline design and detailed design will follow as part of the next stage. No decisions have been made on the appearance of the defences at this stage.

We were particularly interested in the reasoning provided by those who chose Option 1: Do Nothing as their most preferred option as this would result in a significant increase in flood and coastal erosion risk to Yaverland. Following review of the written comments, we consider that respondents used the ranking in reverse order in error. This can be inferred from their comments which do not correspond with their chosen preferred option. For example, one respondent who selected Option 1: Do Nothing as their preferred option stated, “Options 4 & 5 are a necessity for the surrounding homes and the area”.

As the responders were asked to rank the options using a scale of 1-5, it may have caused some confusion as to what the number represented.

To eliminate this issue in the future, different ranking scales may be used, such as the visual aids below:



Or



## Question 9: Please let us know why you chose your least preferred option

The responses given here are reflective of the themes observed in question 6. Most used this space to reiterate and expand on their response to question 6.

The following response from a respondent who chose Option 1: Do Nothing as their least preferred option has been extracted as this will be a useful consideration for the project

team to consider as we strive to design a scheme which makes a positive contribution to the improving accessibility to the seafront.

*"My disabled wife and I walk the revetment at Yaverland on a daily basis (twice daily when able), with my wife using the existing handrail for support and balance whilst out of her wheelchair. For some considerable time now, the severely deteriorating condition of the current wall has been all too evident, with increasingly more and larger cracks in the concrete appearing and chunks coming loose and leaving open holes. In parts, the bolts securing the handrail to the ground have become fully exposed as the surrounding stonework has broken up and fallen away, and sections of the rail are noticeably loose as a result of being insufficiently anchored."*

### **Our response to Question 9**

We have commenced early discussions regarding accessibility and are grateful to Unlimited Island for visiting the public exhibitions and providing us with early advice. The detailed design stage will look at requirements and considerations for health and safety measures such as handrails. The scheme will be required to comply with The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

### **Question 10: Considering any experience or knowledge you have regarding Yaverland, are there any flood and coastal erosion improvements not included on the Short List of options that you think should be considered?**

We received the following responses to this question:

1. One respondent used this section to repeat their call for the groynes between Sandown and Shanklin to be repaired. These are outside the scope of the projects we are currently progressing.
2. One respondent suggested *"the use of large boulders to hold back flooding could be an option at Yaverland (but not Shanklin) as this is more rugged area."*
3. A respondent said, *"Greater funding should be considered for Shanklin as it has a higher tourist footfall and has more seafront properties and businesses at risk"*.
4. Another respondent said *"Certainly eco opportunities in the bay including the proposal for an eco-tidal sea pool, green water control /management measures on the land and in the bay and the reduction/abolition of dredging activity."*

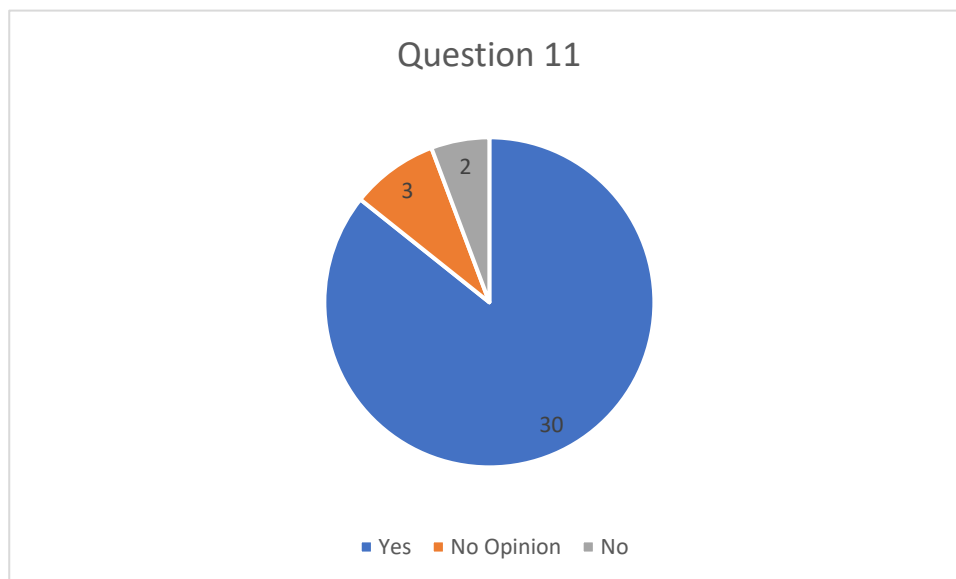
Another respondent made the following three points:

5. *"Blocked drains and inland waterways need clearing."*
6. *"Southern Water needs to build its overflow tanks now"*
7. *"All households should be collecting the rainwater runoff from their rooves into rainwater barrels as standard. To do this IWC need to provide the barrels like they do the recycling bins."*

## Our response to Question 10

1. We have responded to this point under question 6.
2. Rock armour toe protection was considered as part of the long list of options but was not taken forward to the short list as it was not considered acceptable due to health and safety risks to the public. There were also concerns that the poor aesthetics of rock armour would negatively impact tourism and visitors.
3. The amount of funding a project can attract will depend on the benefits it provides. The benefits that determine the grant available are mainly the benefits to people and property that result from reduced flood and coastal erosion risk. These are known as direct benefits. Indirect benefits such as recreation and tourism can also be assessed as the 'value of enjoyment' and can be monetised using methods outlined in Flood Hazard Research Centre's Multi-Coloured Manual. This was included in the financial analysis for this scheme.
4. Nature Based Solutions are being considered alongside the engineering solutions. Our response to the sea pool proposal can be found in our response to question 6. Incidents of blue-green algae blooms or scums in inland waters, estuaries and the sea should be reported to our incident hotline (0800 80 70 60) so we can investigate. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) regulates development at sea under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This includes activity removing or depositing items on the seabed. Dredging, and disposing of the dredged material, are some activities which may require a 'marine licence' from the MMO. Dredging can increase flood risk and erosion and alter the ecosystem and wildlife. We must be sure dredging will reduce flood risk to local homes and businesses and won't increase flood risk downstream. Dredging is unlikely to be effective in isolation, but it can be part of a solution involving multiple interventions. It can, and does, contribute to reducing flooding in some locations but it's far from a universal solution to what is a complex issue.
5. Information on how to report blocked drains is provided here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-blocked-drain>.
6. The Environment Agency monitors Southern Water's performance to ensure environmental standards, driven by both UK legislation, are met. In addition, we review applications for consent for environmental schemes that Southern Water may need to carry out to make improvements to the supply of drinking water and the treatment of wastewater. Any specific questions should be directed to Southern Water <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/contact-us>
7. We are aware that Southern Water has been rolling out its free water butt scheme over the last year. Southern Water has been targeting areas where the water butts will have the biggest impact. Any specific questions should be directed to Southern Water: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/contact-us>.

**Question 11: We have been looking into how we can positively impact the wildlife and ecosystems around Yaverland, ideas such as artificial reefs, kelp forests, seagrass beds, 3D ocean farms and native oyster reefs have been identified. Do you think we should invest in exploring this opportunity further?**



**Figure 7 - Response to Question 11**

30 of the 35 respondents agreed with exploring Nature Based Solutions further. 2 respondents advised against this and 3 had no opinion.

### **Our response to question 11**

Nature Based Solutions (NBS) can work alongside all engineering options considered. Their acceptance within a designated Marine Conservation Zone is under discussion with Natural England, but other bodies will also have opinions on their use. Potential impacts include the loss of footprint and impacts on sedimentation, change of sediment type, hydrological changes and alteration of biological communities. Further assessment of potential impacts would be required. Only those options that are not technically feasible (due to lack of space; sand dunes, saltmarsh) or that we understand are already present (seagrass) have been eliminated to date.

### **Question 12 and 13 asked whether the respondent would like to sign up to our newsletter and whether we could publish their response to the consultation.**

We received 45 responses in total. Of the 45 responses, 35 people gave their permission for us to publish their response.

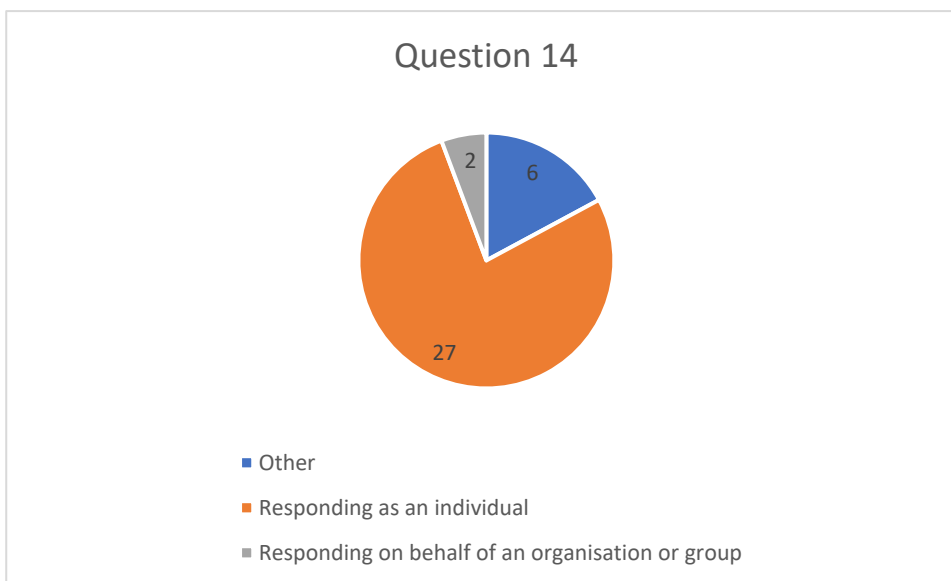
### **Our response to questions 12 and 13.**

The answers of the respondents who requested not to have their response published have not been recorded in the findings of this report.

We have contacted those who asked to be signed up to our mailing list. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive updates on this project or any other of the Isle of Wight coastal defence projects, please [email us](#) and let us know which projects you are interested in. Our email address is: IOW\_FDschemas@environment-agency.gov.uk

**Question 14: When we come to analyse the results of this consultation, it would help us to know if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group.**

- **Responding as an individual**
- **Responding on behalf of an organisation or group**
- **Other**



**Figure 8 - Response to Question 14**

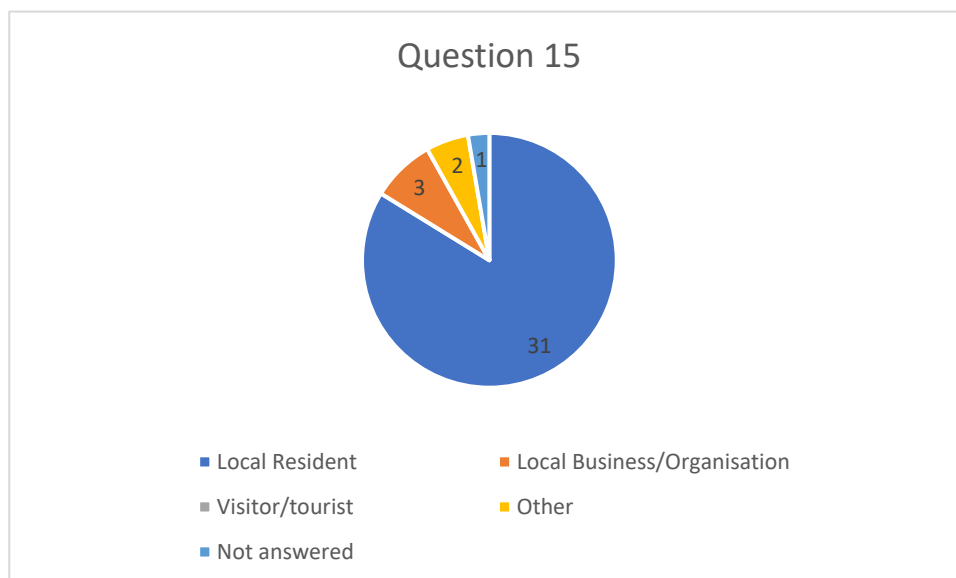
A total of 27 of the 35 responses received were from individuals. A total of 2 respondents suggested they were responding on behalf of an organisation or group including Swim the Wight and Wildheart Animal Sanctuary. Six respondents selected 'other' and specified that they were proprietor of a holiday letting business in Yaverland, submitted a joint response as husband and wife and members of a local resident's association.

### **Our response to question 14**

We received good representation from individuals however organisations were not well represented. Question 15 provides more insight into the groups of individuals who responded.

**Question 15: In relation to Yaverland Coastal Defence Schemes, are you a:**

- **Local Resident**
- **Local Business/Organisation**
- **Visitor/tourist**
- **Other**



**Figure 9 - Response to Question 15**

31 of the 35 responses received were from local residents. No visitors or tourists responded to the consultation. 2 of the 35 respondents chose “other” and specified that they lived outside of Yaverland but still had an interest in the area and were a member of Sandown Community Association. Note that respondents were able to select all that applied for this option and this question was not mandatory.

**Our response to question 15**

Sandown Bay is a popular destination for tourists however visitors/tourists were not represented. We consider that had our exhibitions at Wildheart Animal Sanctuary been able to go ahead as planned then we would have received responses from tourists and visitors. We have reviewed our stakeholder engagement plan to consider how we can improve our engagement with those groups that were not well represented. Our next round of exhibitions is scheduled for summer 2024 which falls during the tourist season. We will consider how we can improve our engagement with visitors and tourists in our preparations. Several tourist events over the summer have been suggested to us and we are currently investigating our suitability for attendance at those events.

We received good representation from residents however local businesses and organisations were not well represented. We are liaising with the Isle of Wight Council’s regeneration team to develop a community feedback group that focuses on the development of the sea defences.



## Next Steps

We thank everyone who took the time to respond formally.

The information obtained from the consultation, alongside detailed flood risk assessments and financial analysis will be used to reach a decision that best suits the needs of Yaverland within the available budget for the project. Responses from this consultation will be used to inform the development of the outline design.

An economic analysis has been completed since the consultation closed. Details will be shared on our website during the week commencing 11 March 2024. The most economically viable option that meets the scheme objectives when compared to the other Short List Options will also be shared week commencing 11 March 2024 through a press release.

Work will then start on the outlined design of the preferred option including indicative landscaping plans. We expect to present the emerging outline design for the preferred option to the public in summer 2024.

Individuals who wish to follow up their responses, or points made within this document, in more detail are welcome to contact us [IOW\\_FDschemes@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:IOW_FDschemes@environment-agency.gov.uk).

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