

Construction of rock groynes at Sandown Castle and Wellington Parade



An £831k project to construct one rock groyne at Sandown Castle and three rock groynes at Wellington Parade, and also carry out major beach management operations at both sites has been awarded to Breheny Civil Engineering. Works are due to start in late August/early September 2020.

These works form a significant component of the five year Oldstairs Bay to Sandwich Bay Estate Beach Management Works (2017-2021) for which Dover District Council secured £1.5 million of funding from the Environment Agency’s Flood Defence Grant in Aid budget. The works will ensure that the high standard of protection against flooding from the sea will be maintained along this frontage.



Breheny is an experienced civil engineering contractor with a wealth of local knowledge gained working on similar sea defence schemes across East Kent. The project will be overseen by local authority engineers working in partnership under the East Kent Engineering Partnership.

Sandown Castle rock groyne and beach management at Deal

The rock groyne at Sandown Castle has been designed to be sympathetic to the castle remains, and will not be visible from the road. The construction has gained Scheduled Monument Consent, granted by Historic England, and will be monitored on site by archaeologists.

The rock groyne will help solve the long standing



problem of excessive shingle being moved via longshore drift beyond Deal, eventually finding its way into the sand dune habitat north of Sandwich Bay Estate. It will keep more shingle along the Deal frontage, and provide a source of shingle for beach management works, helping to protect the seawall and maintain the high standard of sea defence at Deal.

Once the groyne is constructed, a large beach recycling exercise will take place, bringing shingle back from north of Sandown Castle back into the Deal frontage.

The works at Deal are expected to last approximately 6 weeks.

Wellington Parade rock groynes and beach management at Walmer to Kingsdown

The rock groynes at Wellington Parade will offer a long term solution to scour problems here, reducing the frequency and magnitude of future beach recycling operations required. Some beach management will still be undertaken to ensure the new bays remain in good shape, as well as ongoing maintenance work within the timber groyne bays at Kingsdown.

Once the groynes are constructed a large recycling operation will be undertaken to bring shingle back from around Walmer Castle to Kingsdown and Wellington Parade. The works along Wellington Parade are expected to last approximately 12 weeks.



Health and safety during the works

The contractor will be strictly following government guidance around social distancing and we encourage the public to do likewise. The latest advice to the construction industry will feed in to risk assessments which will be updated as required to ensure the health of both staff and the public during these works.

Whilst we will endeavour to minimise disruption to residents, there will inevitably be noise and movement of heavy plant throughout the works, and cooperation and understanding will be appreciated. Whilst there will be banksmen onsite for the safety of the public, it is advised that dogs and children are well supervised and that all machinery is given a wide berth.

For any questions regarding the works please contact:

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