

Aucott, Kathy

From: Wicks Douglas <Douglas.Wicks@networkrail.co.uk>
Sent: 29 April 2020 13:27
To: Aucott, Kathy
Cc: Butcher Derek
Subject: FW: Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment scheme: consultation on the Medway (Flood Relief) Act

Dear Kathy

Consultation on the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976

We note that the EA have undertaken consultation with Network Rail as regards to the above scheme, particularly that a seepage and slope stability analysis for the raising of the impounding level inside the Leigh Flood Storage Area (FSA) from 28.05 NMWOL to 28.60m NMWOL was carried out and the results of this study confirm that there is no detrimental effect to the stability and safety of the Network Rail embankments that run through the FSA.

Analysis of assessment of the increase in maximum water level on the Network Rail Six Arch Bridge (Structure No. RTT 81) has also been carried out. The preliminary result indicates no detrimental effect. This will require to be approved by the NR Route Asset Manager for Structures in due course.

The EA propose a tie-in at the base of the Network Rail embankment at 3no. points. It is proposed for ease of maintenance to propose the boundary fence be relocated in order that the tie ins are outside Network Rail boundary. This will require formal clearance to be undertaken in due course.

Given the above I confirm that Network Rail has no objection to the proposed change to the Leigh stored water level set out under the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976 subject to the above points all being approved by Network Rail.

Regards

Doug Wicks

Asset Protection Scheme Interface Manager

Asset Protection and Optimisation, South East Route

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From: Aucott, Kathy
Sent: 20 August 2019 14:39
To: 'Logan.Subramaniam@networkrail.co.uk' <Logan.Subramaniam@networkrail.co.uk>
Cc: 'Wicks Douglas' <Douglas.Wicks@networkrail.co.uk>
Subject: Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment scheme: consultation on the Medway (Flood Relief) Act

Dear Logan

Consultation on proposed change to the Leigh stored water level set out under the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976

Doug Wicks has suggested that I contact you to discuss the Environment Agency's consultation on a change to the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976.

You may be aware that the Environment Agency is working with Kent County Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on a project to expand the capacity of the existing Leigh Flood Storage Area (FSA) so that the structure will be able to hold more flood water and reduce risk to more homes downstream. With climate change, we are likely to see more events like those experienced during the winter of 2013 and expanding the Leigh FSA will help us to be better prepared to manage these types of events.

We have been working with Doug on the technical aspects of the scheme and have now begun a consultation on our proposal to increase the stored water level in the Leigh FSA which he's suggested you might be able to help me with.

For context, the operation of the existing FSA is governed by an Act of Parliament – the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976. A Scheme under this Act sets out a maximum water level during operation of 28.05 metres Above Ordnance Datum Newlyn (AODN). This means that under law, the Environment Agency cannot store water any higher than this level. In order to expand the FSA and store water to a higher level, the Environment Agency must formally consult on a new Scheme which will then require approval from the Floods Minister, Theresa Villiers. I have attached a briefing note which sets out a little more information about the history of the MFRA and the process for amending it.

Under the Act, your organisation is described as a "specified interest" so I am writing to let you know Defra's process for this consultation and ask what process Network Rail will need to go through in order to consider this proposal?

To be clear, this process is completely separate from the planning process which will run separately, with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council leading the process.

We are hoping to complete the water level consultation this autumn with a view to submitting the proposed revised scheme to the Flood Minister in the Winter.

I would be happy to discuss the consultation further. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Kathy Aucott

**Kathy Aucott – Senior Advisor for the Medway Catchment
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