



**Defra / Environment Agency
Flood and Coastal Defence R&D Programme**



R&D Technical Summary W5A-068/TS

Coastal and Marine Environmental Site Guide

Background to R&D project

The adverse effects of construction on the coastal and marine environment are well publicised and understood by regulators, the industry and the general public. The impact of poor working practices can be extensive, given the often sensitive nature of the habitats and the importance of this region for human activities and interests. The task of preventing impacts or minimising the risk of potential implications is becoming increasingly the responsibility of front-line staff. This greater accountability at the site level demands higher standards of environmental awareness and education, through trained and experienced personnel who can effectively manage environmental issues with the speed and urgency that they often require.

With these concerns in mind, the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) led a collaborative project to produce this coastal and marine environmental site guide. The Environment Agency contributed to the work through the steering group and also part funded the project, which was started in November 2001. The text for the guide was prepared by Posford Haskoning Ltd with support from HR Wallingford Ltd.

Results of R&D project

A user-friendly guide and a pocket book have been produced under the CIRIA project.

R&D Outputs and their Use

The guide, which is intended to be applicable to all levels of construction experience, provides practical and accessible information on appreciating, avoiding and mitigating the effects of poor environmental practice within the coastal and marine environment once a project has reached the construction stage. As such, it is primarily aimed at: site managers, foremen and site supervisors; site engineers; contract supervisors/resident engineers and project managers, although it will also be of interest to a wider audience such as contractors, designers, planning supervisors, environmental regulators etc.

An important aim of the guide, however, is to provide guidance in a user-friendly way.

Overall the guide introduces a number of topics that are relevant to working in a coastal and marine environment whilst also raising awareness of roles and responsibilities, promoting 'ownership' by contractors and enhancing the understanding of the need to communicate with relevant agencies etc.

The guide is structured into four main chapters:

- Chapter One - introduces the benefits of good environmental practice and why it should always be adopted;
- Chapter Two - identifies and details good and bad site management, and provides evidence of how environmental disruption and damage can be quickly avoided through simple site management practices;
- Chapter Three - describes the environmental issues that require particular consideration when operating within the coastal and marine environment (e.g. wildlife, water quality, noise etc.) and provides guidance on minimising impacts relating to these issues; and
- Chapter Four - examines the 17 most common construction processes that feature in the coastal and

marine environment and identifies how they are likely to impact upon the environment. This is cross-referenced with relevant guidance contained within the guide.

The guide is also intended to be used as a training aid or reference book, to provide site personnel with the correct information to be used on site for dealing with key environmental and management issues.

The 18-page companion pocket book presents key information on the nine environmental issues covered in the guide for those carrying out construction works in the coastal and marine environment. It is aimed at those carrying out construction works and identifies what they can do during construction that will mean the difference between good and bad environmental practice.

This R&D Technical Summary relates to R&D Project W5A-068 and the following R&D outputs:

- **Coastal and marine environmental site guide** – ISBN: 0 86017 584 7 Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Publication C584 Published February 2003
- **Coastal and marine *working on site*** (pocket book) – ISBN: 0 86017 593 6 Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Publication C594 Published February 2003

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The R&D publication can be purchased from CIRIA at a cost of £20 to Core CIRIA members and £40 to Non-members (excluding postage and packaging). Contact CIRIA at 6 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AU (Fax: (+44) 20 7222 1708) or order on-line at www.ciria.org

This Technical Summary is available on the Environment Agency website www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodresearch.

Copies of the Guide and Pocket Book are held by all EA Regional Information Centres.

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