

## Dungeness Borrow Pit update - October 2011

The Environment Agency and Dungeness B power station (part of EDF Energy) have recently submitted a joint application to continue to recycle shingle from the Dungeness Borrow Pit to protect the essential flood defences at the power station and the Broomhill and Denge frontages.

### **Why do we need shingle?**

Shingle beaches are an important part of the flood defences along the south coast, acting as a cushion against the pounding waves. But with the majority of our weather coming from the south west, over time the waves slowly drive the shingle around the coast so that it piles up in one place, leaving the rest of the coast with less of a 'cushion'.

In order to maintain the current standard of flood protection to the residents and businesses of Romney Marsh it is important that there is sufficient shingle around the coast. The Environment Agency, EDF and their predecessors have been successfully recycling shingle from the Dungeness Borrow Pit since the 1960s. It is the most practical way to maintain the flood protection to the Marsh whilst providing value for money for the tax-payer.

Shingle recycling has an effect on the Dungeness Special Area of Conservation, and in 2007 we stopped using the Borrow Pit and started to explore how we might minimise this effect whilst still maintaining the defences.

We have worked closely with Natural England to find a solution which meets the needs of both people and the environment and we have submitted a new joint planning application to Kent County Council covering the period from 2011 to 2023.

### **What does this mean for beach users?**

We have proposed that shingle recycling will take place annually between October and March. We will not need to work continuously during this time, but having permission to work within this period will give us the flexibility to do further recharge if a winter storm affects the shingle defences.

Whilst there will have to be some restrictions on the beach in order to do the works safely, the only area of the beach that will need to be completely closed off to the public is the loading area during working time. The rest of the beach will remain open to the public.

The work involves excavating shingle from a section of beach on the eastern side of Dungeness point. Shingle is loaded onto lorries and transported along public roads to Broomhill, west of Dungeness. Shingle will also be taken (via road) to the bund in front of the power station using all-terrain dump trucks. We will know more about the exact details when we have appointed a contractor, as much of the health and safety on the site has to be managed by them. However, we will ensure that as much of the beach as possible remains undisturbed by the works.

We understand that Dungeness is an important beach for both the local economy and for its amenity value. This is not a new practice for the area and whilst there will have to be some restrictions on the beach, we are confident that by working with those who use the area we can ensure minimum disruption so that the local community and visitors can continue to enjoy the area.

You can view the planning application here (reference number SH/0381/2011):  
[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/planning\\_in\\_kent/planning\\_applications.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_in_kent/planning_applications.aspx)

We appreciate DOC's support for this application and we hope that, together, we can ensure the flood protection to Romney Marsh is maintained with as little disruption to the local community as possible.