

THE OTTER CONSULTANCY

ECO-POWER PROJECT BLACKBRIDGE, MILFORD HAVEN.

PROPOSED NEW FOOTBRIDGE: CASTLE PILL

A note on:

OTTERS & ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

MARCH 2018

A report for: EGNEDOL LTD

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INTRODUCTION

As part of the proposal to develop an ecopower project at the former RNAD mine depot site at Blackbridge, the Pembrokeshire County Council Highways Dept have requested that a new pedestrian footbridge is installed across the entrance to Castle Pill, to replace the existing swing bridge (Fig 1).

Otters travel regularly between the Daugleddau estuary and the Castle Pill. Although there is no impediment to otters swimming through the entrance channel beneath the present swing bridge, otters actually travel up and over the bank on the south side of the entrance (Fig 1), and use that area for marking their home range.

Fig 1 Present swing bridge with otter route.



BRIDGE DESIGN

Please refer to the engineer design drawings in Doc EGW-01-106.

The top drawing in EGW-01-106 shows the present arrangement with the swing bridge. The solid black lines on the same bank as the swingbridge are top of bank levels – mainly concrete with some grass cover.

Below this present arrangement drawing is the proposed location of the new footbridge (green lines), and showing the space beneath the footbridge (cross hatched purple) that otters will be able to continue to use as a travel route.

The third drawing from the top shows the mechanics of moving the new footbridge – when not in use, and in the fourth drawing, extended across the Pill entrance.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON OTTERS

Design

The proposed design for the footbridge will have little or no impact on otter travel up and over the bank because the bridge itself is well above the ground, and the existing surface of grass-covered concrete will be left intact.

Operation

The bridge will be extended and retracted as required, operated from the site security office with a “call function”.

At present there is no proposal to install lighting on the bridge. If lighting is required (by Milford Haven Port Authority, the HSE or another regulatory body) advice from the ecologist will be sought to ensure that there is no impact on otters.

Providing that the otter mitigation measures proposed in The Otter Consultancy reports of June and July 2017 are implemented during the construction of the new footbridge and during operation of the site, the impact on otters from this element of the project should be minimal.

Geoff Liles
March 28th 2018

