

## [Transparency data: Ilfracombe Harbour Revision Order](#)

*Updated:* Supporting text and documentation added

On 24 May 2018, the North Devon District Council made a formal application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 for a Harbour Revision Order to construct and maintain a new harbour wall in Larkstone Cove and a slipway from the new watersports centre in The Strand which will extend into the bed and foreshore of Ilfracombe Harbour.

The application is undergoing a 42 day public consultation, starting on 30 May 2018. The deadline for submitting comments is 11 July 2018. For further information on the consultation process, please review the public notice.

If you would like to make a representation please do so in writing via the [harbourorders@marinemangement.org.uk](mailto:harbourorders@marinemangement.org.uk) inbox. Representations should quote reference DC10164.

The applicant previously notified the Marine Management Organisation in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 of the Harbours Act 1964 of their intention to submit a HRO. The proposed order would authorise the construction or alteration of a project which falls within Annex II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC) but is not considered a relevant project. Accordingly, the Directive does not apply to the proposals and no environmental statement has been supplied.

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## [Notice: DN20 0PJ, Brigg Lane Biogas Limited: environmental permit application advertisement](#)

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about

- how you can view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

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## [News story: Environment Minister visits North America to turn tide on marine plastic](#)

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey has joined forces with Canada and the USA in the fight against marine plastic.

During a visit to Washington D.C. and Ottawa this week, the Minister met her international counterparts to discuss the UK's priorities for the marine environment ahead of the G7 Environment meetings to be held later this year.

Like the UK, Canada has already banned microbeads in rinse-off cosmetics, and the Minister met the country's Environment and Climate Change Minister, Catherine McKenna, and Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, to look at how the two countries can unite in further tackling the threats facing our oceans.

Through its presidency of the G7, which includes a focus on climate change, oceans and clean energy, Canada will be pushing member states to take action to deal with plastic pollution, ocean acidification, and develop the blue economy.

Following her visit, the Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

There is no greater asset than our blue planet, and it is only by working together we can address the multitude of threats facing our marine life.

In the UK we have already banned microbeads and cracked down on plastic bags, and in 25 years' time we will have eliminated all avoidable plastic waste. I look forward to working with my international counterparts to do all we can to protect our oceans for future generations.

Minister McKenna and Minister Coffey also discussed the crucial role industry can play in turning the tide on plastic. And with businesses across the UK

pledging to ban straws, cut plastic packaging and roll out water refills, the Minister met Mars and Coca Cola to see first-hand how big producers in the USA are tackling waste.

While in Washington D.C. the Minister also met Judy Garber, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at the American Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, who was supportive of moving forward work on oceans – especially on improved data and marine mapping.

Minister Coffey also used a meeting with stakeholders from Pew Environmental Trust and the High Seas Alliance as an opportunity to discuss improving biodiversity in the marine environment.

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## **Consultation outcome: BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker review**

*Updated:* Government response published.

The quarterly BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker provides a valuable source of evidence for the department in its development of energy policy. It originated in DECC in 2012, and to date there have been 24 waves of data collection.

However with the creation of BEIS, the department's priorities are now broader and include other policy areas where data on public attitudes would benefit policy formation, so we are considering whether to extend the survey to cover this wider range.

The review covers:

- the survey topic areas
- the frequency of the survey
- the sample size
- its outputs

To inform this review we would like to understand how the statistics are currently used and their value to users, as well as the impact of any proposed changes.

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# Press release: Holmwood drilling site consultation extended and new date for drop-in event

*Updated:* New date for drop-in event in Holmwood.

The Environment Agency invites residents living near the Holmwood oil and gas exploratory site in Dorking, Surrey, to a re-scheduled 'drop-in' event as part of its consultation on a permit application.

The public information event (cancelled last week due to safety concerns caused by the bad weather) will take place between 2.00pm and 7.30pm, Thursday 15 March 2018 at:

Dorking Halls (Martineau Hall)

Reigate Road

Dorking

RH4 1SG

Visitors will be able to discuss the application and the process being followed to determine it, and talk to Environment Agency representatives about how they regulate oil and gas activities.

The consultation period has also been extended by 2 weeks with a new closing date of 29 March 2018 (formerly 15 March). Consultation is on the application by Europa Oil & Gas Limited for a bespoke environmental permit, which is currently being considered by the Environment Agency.

Further information on the applications, a copy of our draft decision document and details of how to comment can be found [online](#).

An Environment Agency spokesperson said:

We were disappointed to have to postpone the event last week, due to bad weather. Our aim is to give everyone a chance to understand the proposed activity and to be able to attend, but without putting themselves at risk through travelling in hazardous conditions. This is an opportunity for local people to find out more about the operations at Holmwood and how we regulate these activities.

An environmental permit sets out stringent conditions that a site must adhere to. We will not issue an environmental permit for a

site if we consider that activities taking place will cause significant pollution to the environment or harm to human health.

Although we are minded to approve the applications for the bespoke and standard rules permit, we are still in the determination process and a final decision has not yet been made. We want to hear from the public and understand people's views on the application. Everybody has the chance to see what the permits may look like and to raise any additional concerns before we make any final decision.