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Document Title	Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme MLS report - Appendix A.2

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Carlo Grilli
Designation	Service Manager - Governance
Date	18/10/24

For Office Use Only:	
Library Reference	99/24
Date Received	18/10/24
Bulletin	Oct 24

Subject: (0031) Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Sent: 05/04/2024, 19:39:25

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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To: Service Manager-Governance,
Legal Services,
East Lothian Council,
John Muir House,
Haddington,
EH41 3HA

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.
A list of my objections are as follows:

1)Environmental impact – the construction of the defences will cause a huge amount of environmental upheaval, not only to the residents of Musselburgh but to the local and migratory wildlife around the Esk and Firth of Forth. The habitat destruction for nesting birds will be enormous. The Esk and surrounding area are a haven for many birds and other river and sea life such as otters. Musselburgh lagoons are a famous and extremely popular and valuable site for birdwatchers from all over the UK, why would you want to destroy this by driving birdlife away.

The pollution thrown out by building a concrete wall will be unacceptable in this day and age where we're trying to bring down CO2 emissions. This will affect everybody's health, particularly those with breathing difficulties.

2)The public have not been involved enough in this proposal. We should be given a vote, after all, we are the ones who will suffer from all the upheaval and inconvenience, please hear our voice.

3)Impact on house prices – This is of great concern to me as I live in a [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] at some point need to move. No one will be interested in buying a house with a building site beside it. Musselburgh will sadly become a town where no one wants to live.

4)Cost – The huge amount of money could be used for investment elsewhere. We are in a sad state of affairs where many residents (including myself) are unable to get a Doctors appointment at Riverside. This money could and should be used for more important things such as helping an ailing NHS, crumbling schools, community centres being closed down due to lack of funding and pitiful high streets, the list is endless.

5)Lack of exploration into alternative nature based solutions – There does not appear to have been much, if any, consideration into defences which work with the environment rather than against it. Cutting down trees can have a devastating effect on our ecosystem, raising temperatures by several degrees and thus exacerbating global warming. Trees are the lungs of the earth and need preserved rather than knocked down to make way for a wall.

6)Lack of direct access or view of the river – Mental health problems are rife in society, particularly post-covid. A simple thing such as sitting by the river or sea can be beneficial to our mental health. A walk along the seafront and up the Esk, watching the birds has helped [REDACTED] it's one of the reasons we love living in Musselburgh.

These are my main objections but there are many more I could list such as graffiti on the wall. How will engineering works affect properties. The new bridge at Goose Green, which there is absolutely no need for. Active travel paths – we already have perfectly good cycle paths.

My final plea is this : **Please listen to the residents of Musselburgh, we live here, it is our town!**

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email.

Yours Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: (0032) Fisherrow Harbour
Sent: 07/04/2024, 21:00:15
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Cc: [REDACTED]

Categories: [REDACTED]

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FAO
Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington

05/04/2024

We are writing to you to register our objection of this project as we feel we cannot accurately assess the long term plans for Fisherrow Harbour .

Our family have a long history of fishing from this port so we have a very strong emotional connection with this ancient structure .I myself have enjoyed sailing and rowing from this harbour therefore we are very concerned for its future .It will be surrounded by concrete walls but what of the harbour itself ,is it a listed building .a historic building / structure ? We are worried that work will be undertaken to the harbour but cannot see where the planning application is to see what is proposed for this maritime haven.We therefore object to any work to alter the harbour that has not passed scrutiny by having a separate planning application open to public consultation .

Yours

[REDACTED]

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection in writing and please let me know the next steps and estimated timescales

Yours

Subject: (0033) FW: MAIL: MFPS Objection from [REDACTED]
Sent: 09/04/2024, 13:39:32
From: Grilli, Carlo
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [20240408 MFPS Objection from \[REDACTED\]](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Legal [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 11:07 AM
To: Grilli, Carlo [REDACTED]
Subject: MAIL: MFPS Objection from [REDACTED]

Hi Carlo,

The attached arrived this morning.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Legal | East Lothian Council | John Muir House | Haddington
EH41 3HA | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
Please note my working days are Monday to Thursday

Verbal abuse and threatening behaviour is never acceptable. #zerotolerance

We're living through stressful times right now, and everyone's feeling it.

Our staff are doing their best to assist local residents and businesses whilst delivering essential services.

Please, be nice.



BE NICE
RESPECT US AS WE RESPECT YOU



CARLO GRILLI

SERVICE MANAGER - GOVERNANCE

LEGAL SERVICES.

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

JOHN MUIR HOUSE

HADDINGTON

EH41 3HA.

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL
RECEIVED
08 APR 2024
LEGAL & PROCUREMENT

RECEIVED
08 APR 2024




3rd April 2024

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

Dear Mr Grilli

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I am fortunate living on  that I am never likely to be directly affected by any flooding of my property or by any of the works directly involved in the proposed flood protection scheme.

However I wish to object to the proposed Scheme on the basis of the following.

1 Costs

There are no cost breakdowns in the public domain of the £53m required for flood prevention. The Council has been told the cost is likely to rise. How can the Council have voted this through with so little information? Why has no cap been put on the cost?

The escalating costs of this project should be scrutinised and capped to prevent further inflation of project and costs.

The Council has been misled about Cycle 1 funding and the eligibility for Cycle 2 funding.

I am a tax payer and so ultimately have to pay for the Scheme, I find the above unacceptable.

2 Science/data

The MFPS does not offer alternative scenarios. It is tied to a 1:200 year +climate change event. Scottish Government guidance says that a range of scenarios should be included. How could the Council judge what is necessary protection without being given a range of options?

East Lothian Council has commissioned a report on the coast from Dynamic Coast, but this is not yet available publicly – why and how is the Council making a decision without being open about all the evidence?

Local residents have asked to see the data underpinning the scientific calculations of the project team, but these requests have been ignored. What is the reason for the lack of transparency?

The project team say they have adjusted flood defence heights in response to local feedback. This amounts to fitting the science around the preferred outcome, rather than science/data leading to a properly calculated outcome. This makes no sense.

The Council was informed that Natural Flood Management (NFM) should be restricted to 3 interventions (use of 2 small reservoirs in the Pentlands, and a tree-catcher in Dalkeith Country Park). NFM could include a whole range of techniques to slow the flow of the

river throughout the catchments, and to encourage the natural dune system along the coast. The fact these were discounted at the start is wrong and the situation is made worse by the exclusion of NFM decided upon in October.

The Council halted inclusion of NFM on the advice of the project team in October 2023. The evidence to support this was a report on the Eddleston Water project. That report is flawed, and the science behind the report was presented to the Council in a misleading way. NFM can and should take centre-stage in flood protection.

All the indications are that the use of NFM, nature-based solutions and a flood resilience (rather than prevention) approach are preferred over building flood walls. Even in massive river catchments like the Severn, these approaches are being discussed and trialled. The flood walls in Brechin (built/renewed 2015) recently failed. The flood gates in Perth recently failed. Man-made interventions cannot prevent flooding downstream – we need to do more upstream to slow/store the water so it doesn't rush down through the town.

The Scottish Government is heading towards NFM. On 23 December 2023, [the Minister stated](#) "The Scottish Government recognizes the importance of natural flood management (NFM) measures in reducing, slowing or otherwise managing flood waters across catchments and along the coast while also delivering multiple environmental benefits." Why is ELC not in step with the Scottish Government?

For these reasons I wish to object to the proposed Scheme on the basis that the scheme is still over reliant on expensive "hard" solutions and not enough use has been made of less expensive "soft" solutions. I believe nature based "soft" solutions have been examined but dismissed because the examples looked at did not fully work. The learnings from these previous implementations should be used to provide improved implementations and not used as justification to continue to deploy "hard" solutions.

Also as a tax pay I ultimately have to pay for the Scheme. The continued dependence on expensive "hard" solutions will increase the cost to me through both central and local government .

3. Transparency and process

The engineers appointed to design the project have also been allowed to write the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). They carried out an options appraisal that ruled out all alternatives to the current scheme, without those options being made available for public scrutiny or debate. Throughout the scheme the consultants and engineers have not been subject to challenge or adequate scrutiny.

On 23 January 2024, the Council agreed to the scheme progressing, even though they had not had sight of the full EIA, only a 'non-technical summary'.

In January 2020, East Lothian Council cabinet voted through the preferred scheme. Given the value of the scheme, this should have been approved by the full Council. The Cabinet did not have the power to vote on a scheme of this magnitude.

Local residents have tried to engage with their Councillors (I wrote to Katie Mackie in February 2020) but letters and emails that were responded to were sent to the Project team to provide the response. If challenged, the Project team advise they are taking instruction from the Council. The lines between the Council and the project team are totally blurred.(I did not receive a reply other than from Katie saying there would be further consultation with residents). I also attended various presentations and submitted feedback but never received acknowledgment or reply.

4. Multiple benefits and active travel

The Scheme has become entwined with the Musselburgh Active Toun (MAT) proposals. But the cost of the MAT scheme is unknown and is likely to require a 30% contribution from ELC, which has never been openly discussed.

MAT proposals do not contribute to flood protection. Planning permission should be required for these paths and bridges, but the flood scheme has deemed permission. It is not clear which parts of the MAT will bypass planning due to being included in the flood scheme.

The proposed new Goose Green bridge does not add flood protection to the town.

The MAT proposals included in the scheme are now much grander than those originally discussed and consulted upon.

5. General amenity, health and well-being

The project will take at least 5 years to build. It will be a major cause of disruption. There will be pile-driving all along the river. There are many historic properties in the centre of the town at risk of damage from vibration.

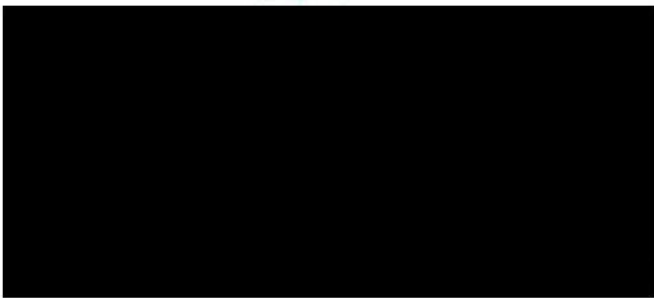
The banks of the Esk and Fisherrow Links are Common Good land, and any interruption to their use by the community should be compensated. Hundreds of people enjoy these amenities every day, where will they go to benefit from being in nature and by water?

Is it clear how many properties will be included as being 'protected' by the scheme? The number has risen and is variable on numerous documents from around 1,200 to 3,000 to 3,400. What is the truth? Where is the robust evidence? To achieve a viable amount of

'multiple benefits' there has to be a high number of properties protected and this scheme seems led by that consideration rather than by the actual risk.

I regularly walk with my dogs along the River Esk and the foreshore and so would be affected by the loss of amenity during installation and ongoing from the "hard" parts of the Scheme . Greater use of nature based solutions will also improve the amenity of the overall Scheme and thus retain the value of the riverside to the people of Musselburgh in the years before increased sea levels arise.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter in writing. Please advise me of next steps and timescales.



Subject: (0034) FW: OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024
Sent: 09/04/2024, 13:38:52
From: Grilli, Carlo
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [REDACTED] [Letter of Objection to MFPS-8 April 2024.docx](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:05 PM
To: Grilli, Carlo [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
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Dear Mr. Grilli,
Please see attached my letter of objection to the proposed Musselburgh Scheme 2024.
Kind regards,

Verbal abuse and threatening behaviour is never acceptable. #zerotolerance

We're living through stressful times right now, and everyone's feeling it.

Our staff are doing their best to assist local residents and businesses whilst delivering essential services.

Please, be nice.



BE NICE
RESPECT US AS WE RESPECT YOU

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8 April 2024

Mr. Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA
Email: [REDACTED]

RE: OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024

Dear Mr. Grilli,

I hope you are well and appreciate you will be receiving a number of communications on this topic. As such, I will aim to be as brief as possible.

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme 2024, as proposed by East Lothian Council.

I own a flat [REDACTED] in Musselburgh, [REDACTED]. Our building was constructed in [REDACTED] at considerable expense on the site of a historic building, strictly observing local architecture, building regulations and the riverside setting, only for that very setting now to be placed at risk by this Scheme. Please note my key objections as follows:

1. The demolition of a much-loved natural beauty spot and local hub to make way for the installation of a 'blockbuster' showpiece flood prevention infrastructure. It is clearly important to take urgent measures to manage local river and coastal flooding but this is not the river Thames or the Venetian Lagoon. I hope that the measures introduced can be aligned with a relatively small-scale environment. For example, the proposed flood wall would run along the front of my property, destroying every available view of the river for residents and tourists who take simple (and affordable) pleasure in strolling along the riverbank. The scale of the Council's proposed intervention risks destroying the charm of the local habitat and everything that contributes to this charm – damaging precious native flora, removing mature trees and disturbing valuable water fauna. They all play a vital role in maintaining the riverside walkway, one of Musselburgh's most celebrated landmarks. In my view, the Council risks throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Managing the flood plains shouldn't result in annihilating the riverfront in the process. The prime purpose of living anywhere is to feel safe and well, taking reasonable measures to remain so. The proposed Scheme does not appear to take into account local aesthetics, adapting any large-scale barriers accordingly to avoid them becoming visual, as well as physical restrictions.

2. Following on from the above, I accept that a significant level of flood protection is urgently required. However, I strongly object to what appear to be 'industry-standard' answers to a problem that needs to be tailored to a very unique set of circumstances. This is recognised as a problem of huge local significance with much to gain by resolving it well and being seen to listen to the concerns of the local community. I hope the Council can afford to take a considered, long-term approach to its solution. Have lessons been learnt from other flood protection schemes in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK? Has any thought been given to alternative (less expensive) mitigating measures? As you know, the river Esk has been restricted twice historically to help manage the water flow – firstly to accommodate the North British Railway line and secondly to create scenic riverbanks. This narrowing restricts the free flow of water, eventually creating an internal dam of river debris including fallen trees, plants, stones and earth. Even the occasional shopping trolley. Would the Council give more consideration to initially dredging the river to help improve local flood drainage, as well as reducing river levels in precisely those areas being targeted by the proposed Scheme?

3. Excessive costs. My understanding is that the budget for the river and sea sections of the proposed Scheme were recently estimated at c. £53 million, exceeding the original budget of £8 million. I am concerned that costs will continue to exceed budget with few visible controls to help manage any overspend. Each step in the rollout of the Scheme ought to be publicly scrutinised and approved prior to proceeding with an agreement to rollout the entire proposal. My second concern in this regard is that any money invested in this Scheme may be diverted from other equally important social and environmental initiatives. To avoid the excesses associated with large-scale, public projects (e.g. the Edinburgh Trams, High Speed 2-HS2), the costs of the Musselburgh Flood Protections Scheme need to be widely supported by the local communities who stand to benefit (or suffer) the most from the outcome. This does not appear to be the case in Musselburgh and amongst its neighbours.

I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter and advise me of any further public debate on this issue.

Kind regards,

████████████████████

From: Legal
Sent: 09 April 2024 10:48
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Cc: Grilli, Carlo
Subject: (0035) Objections letter received
Attachments: 20240409 MFPS Objection letter from [REDACTED].pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning

Please find the attached objection letter which was received today in the post.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Legal | East Lothian Council | John Muir House |
Haddington EH41 3HA | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

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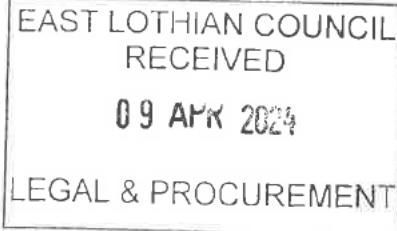
We're living through stressful times right now, and everyone's feeling it.

Our staff are doing their best to assist local residents and businesses whilst delivering essential services.

Please, be nice.



BE NICE
RESPECT US AS WE RESPECT YOU



4th April 2024

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA



Dear Mr Grilli,

Re: Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

I hope this letter finds you well. In it, I object to the recently published *Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme*.

The proposed construction directly affects me, as I have a [REDACTED] property. My family have lived in Musselburgh, in the river's vicinity, for the greater part of my life. Consequently, I have knowledge, experience and insight concerning the potential dangers and community benefits of the River Esk.

I exercise by the river, walk my dog along its banks, and use its bridges and footpaths en route to and from Musselburgh's shops and amenities.

I object to the published scheme because:

It is a vast and unnecessary expense

- Vast because the current estimate of the cost of the scheme itself is £53.9m. This is on top of £78.6m for repair and maintenance of the sea wall and ash lagoons. Quite some hike from the original estimate of £8.9m only eight years ago (source news.stv.tv 24th January 2024)
- Unnecessary because the river almost never floods. The last Musselburgh flood event was in August 1948.
 - The Annual Exceedance Probability of the River Esk in Musselburgh is 0.5% (source: www.transport.gov.uk). Flood defences last for between 30-50 years (source: <http://thefloodhub.co.uk>). A flood once every two hundred years means that by the time the Esk floods next, the flood defence scheme will no longer be fit for purpose.

- If the cash strapped council must spend millions of pounds that it claims it does not have to spend on local services; could it, please use it for something other than an ill-advised bet?

The proposed flood defences threaten the historic value of Musselburgh

- To date the council has paid too little attention to the historical significance of Scotland's oldest town. A concrete girdle gripping Musselburgh's main artery would irreversibly despoil the beautiful architecture that underpins not just the town's, but Scotland's, urban history. You can dry out soggy foundations once the next expected flood hits in 2148, but desecration is forever.

There has been a systematic failure to thoroughly investigate natural flood management, or other, similar, better, more environmentally sustainable solutions

- Engineered flood structures, such as floodwalls, can provide a false sense of security. They almost always make flooding worse (source: <http://thefloodhub.co.uk>). Because:
 - Floodwalls unnaturally confine rivers within narrow channels, causing water to rise higher and flow faster than it would naturally. This leads to more powerful and rapid flooding downstream and/or creates bottlenecks that cause flooding upstream.
 - The enhanced depth and water velocity of an engineered concrete channel is a far greater threat to life than a naturally managed water course (source: www.wildlifetrusts.org).

- Additionally, these structures can fail catastrophically during large floods, releasing massive amounts of water, further threatening lives and property.
- In contrast, **natural flood management**, such as contoured meandering and river management, allows safe overflow onto adjacent land, this natural flood storage will *slow and reduce the depth* of the water flow.
- Natural flood management mitigates the potential for failure that is inherent in engineered structures. Meanwhile, ecological river management provides a valuable ecosystem, a habitat for wildlife, and a far better social facility for Musselburgh
- The council could even leave things entirely alone. Even if global warming causes the Esk to flood twice as often as the current science suggests, a flood once a century is still better value than a defence system with the life expectancy of a camel.
 - That means an immediate choice between spending over £50m on a flood protection scheme whose design will fail within fifty years; or spending absolutely nothing on a plan whose design will fail every two hundred years.
 - However, if we must develop flood defences for a distant event, let us at least develop an intelligent solution that is ecologically sound, environmentally sustainable, non-degrading (and thus extant in 2148), less expensive and offers a modicum of value for money.

Financial and aesthetic damage

- The Esk is a tourist trap. In summer people who visit the area walk beside it. They visit the local shops. They spend money.
 - A massive flood barrier will substantially reduce the recreational and amenity values of the riverside's green spaces.
- The proposed flood wall will be to the detriment of tourism, local amenity and local life. It will be, at worst, an eyesore and, even at best, a barrier to life:
 - A physical barrier to stymie riverside access.
 - An aesthetic barrier that cannot blend with either the established greenery or the centuries old architecture
 - Concrete flood walls will be visually intrusive and detract from the natural character and aesthetics of Musselburgh's urban conservation areas.
 - A bland barrier that will inevitably invite graffiti
 - A psychological barrier that divides people from a natural feature, each other and the town.
- Short of inviting Banksy for a permanent residency, none of the above will benefit Musselburgh

Habitat destruction

- Damage to Mature Trees:
 - Literally scores of beautiful trees that lie adjacent to the proposed flood defence, and others all along the river, are earmarked for destruction.
 - Further mature trees will be damaged or destabilized due to the excavation and construction work required. Root damage, for example, is unavoidable
 - The flood defences will bring habitat destruction, ecological harm and massive carbon release. They will damage the environment even before the ecologically ruinous concrete turns in its hopper.
- Potential for Habitat Loss:
 - The construction of flood defence infrastructure will inevitably decrease biodiversity and negatively impact wildlife populations.

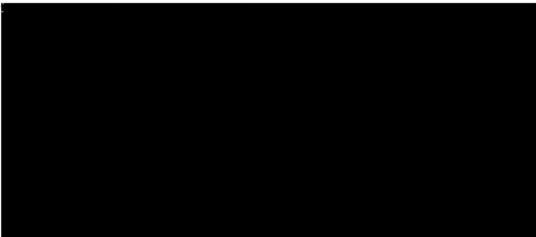
- Damage to the human habitat:
 - Some of the buildings in the Esk area date to the 16th century. Much of the housing stock is 19th century. The flood defences will cut through a conservation area. It will be impossible to integrate an enormous 21st century construction project into the surrounding landscape without architectural violation.

In total, the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the proposed Musselburgh flood defence walls will cause harm to urban and wildlife habitats. It will destroy trees and damage a conservation area. The plan will be to the detriment of tourism, harmful to social well-being, threaten health and safety and hobble the quality of local life. Meanwhile, any benefits are vanishingly small. This is an unintelligent proposal that lacks logic, fiduciary cohesion and forward thought. I urge the council to stop this damaging plan in its tracks.

A Musselburgh flood wall is not a useless idea. It is much worse. The concept is societally, financially and environmentally toxic.

Thank you for your consideration. Please be kind enough to acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing, and advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Yours sincerely,



James Foundation
Royal Mail Support Item
085 2124



MR C CRILLI
SERVICE MANAGER - GOVERNANCE
LEGAL SERVICES
EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
JOHN MUIR HOUSE
HADDINGTON
EH41 3HA



Subject: (0036) Objection to FPS
Sent: 09/04/2024, 20:19:08
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [REDACTED]

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Name: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

I wish to object to the proposed flood prevention scheme for the following reasons:
-The suggested designs and interventions are disproportionate compared to the actual risks of flooding that Musselburgh faces.
-They are worryingly costly.
-The designs themselves will harm the natural landscapes of Musselburgh and reduce the day-to-day wellbeing of Musselburgh residents -I have not seen any alternative designs or plans of action put forward, having only moved to Musselburgh in November 2023 this may pre-date my residence here, but I still feel alternatives should be detailed in the current communications so newer residents can get the full picture.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: Legal
Sent: 10 April 2024 11:28
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Cc: Grilli, Carlo
Subject: (0037) Mail - MFPS Objection letter from [REDACTED]
Attachments: 20240410 MFPS Objection letter from [REDACTED].pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning

Please find the objection letter which arrived in the post today.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Legal | East Lothian Council | John Muir House |
Haddington EH41 3HA | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

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We're living through stressful times right now, and everyone's feeling it.

Our staff are doing their best to assist local residents and businesses whilst delivering essential services.

Please, be nice.



BE NICE
RESPECT US AS WE RESPECT YOU



East Lothian Council

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
Haddington
EH41 3AH



8th March 2024

Dear Sir,

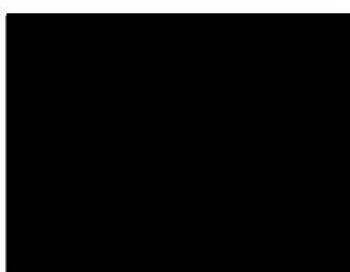
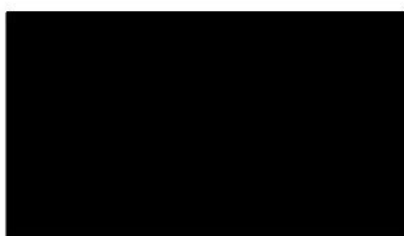
I write with regards to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme and would hereby like to submit my objections to the current proposals.

1. The overall height of the defense wall is excessive and views of the river will be blocked to most people who walk alongside it.
2. A large expanse of concrete will not only look hideous, but will also provide an extensive canvas for any would be artist with a spray can.
3. Residents whose properties line the river will have their unhindered view obliterated by the proposed wall.
4. Presently, river walks attract visitors to Musselburgh and generate revenue for local businesses. But the wall will diminish the numbers seeking such pleasures.
5. Generations of swans along with geese and ducks have historically nested and inhabited the river and are an integral part of what makes the river attractive. If visitors can no longer feed them, we risk the birds migrating to other destinations. This would be a great loss to Musselburgh.
6. The active travel path would be better placed on the other side of the river which offers wider areas of grassland and would support increased traffic more readily.

Although we believe a solution must be found to combat future flooding, we don't believe the current plan is far seeing enough. We believe that such a plan won't only mar an area of natural beauty but also that future generations will view such a structure as our generation view the brutalist architecture of the fifties and sixties - as ugly, a blot on our landscape and a huge error of judgement on the part of the decision makers.

We would greatly appreciate acknowledgement of this letter and ask that we be kept abreast of any future developments.

Yours faithfully,



EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
RECEIVED
10 APR 2024
LEGAL & PROCUREMENT

British Heart
Foundation

Royal Mail
Edinburgh



CARLO GRILLI
SERVICE MANAGER
LEGAL SERVICES
EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
HADDINGTON
EH41 3AH.

RECEIVED
10 APR 2024

Subject: (0038) Objections to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

Sent: 10/04/2024, 12:59:39

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Wednesday, 10th April.

Carlo Grilling,
Service Manager- Governance
Legal Services,
East Lothian Council,
John Muir House,
Haddington,
EH41 3HA

Objection1: Use of concrete.

Objection2: Cost of Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I have lived happily in Musselburgh for [REDACTED] and have experienced many weather extremes but never any significant flooding in our town.

The threat of flooding in Musselburgh is rising due to climate change and protective steps must be taken.

I object strongly to the 38,000+ tonnes of concrete which will be used if Jacob's Flood Protection Plan is implemented.

Every single person in this country and in the world is being urged to cut the carbon footprint.

I object to the massive emissions this scheme will cause.

I have grave concerns for local people who may well be vulnerable to inhaling the carbon dust in the atmosphere over the number of years this engineered plan will

take to be completed. (This is mentioned in the E.I. A.)

In addition, the felling of trees necessary for Jacob's plan to be carried through, will reduce the amount of carbon our local trees can absorb and lock in; thus adding to the carbon footprint.

I quote from The Guardian, Monday, January, 27th, 2024 " HOLDING BACK FLOODS."

"We cannot engineer a way out of this --- let nature play a role."

"Hydrological data from across our country over the last 15 years reveals evidence that no artificial defence will be enough to stop the water.

Records for rainfall, peak river flow and flooding are repeatedly being broken.

I acknowledge the very small part that nature plays in the Jacob's plan for Musselburgh Much more work on land upstream of the 'at risk' Esk area is required to find ways of holding rainwater and releasing it ore gradually into the North and South Esk rivers.

Acting on solutions to be found in a study of coastal ecosystems will be much more likely to protect our coast and may even be able to increase the store of carbon.

Those solutions are already being used with some success in other parts of the country.

NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT IS PREFERABLE AND MORE SUCCESSFUL.

2. Cost of Musselburgh's Flood Protection Scheme.

I object to using £35 million pounds and most probably more to provide a scheme which may well fail by the time it is required. Time is moving on and progress is continually being made.

Concrete walls will destroy the beauty of Musselburgh's river and coastline.

I object to the £35 million+ pounds being paid for a scheme which, after completion, will have a high maintenance cost to be borne by local taxpayers.

I am [redacted] years old and am lucky enough to be able to take advantage of East Lothian [redacted] active project [redacted]

Our walks [redacted], use riverside, the coastal path and the Promenade.

Should this scheme go through, all of those pleasures [redacted] would be severely reduced and limited.

In fact life and well-being for Musselburgh citizens will be catastrophically diminished.

Yours sincerely and faithfully,

[redacted signature]

Subject: (0039) FW: Objection letter to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme
Sent: 10/04/2024, 16:29:49
From: Grilli, Carlo
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:00 PM
To: Grilli, Carlo [Redacted]
Subject: Objection letter to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

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[Redacted] attached a document

 [Redacted] has attached the following document:

 Objection of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Snapshot of the item below:
OBJECTION TO MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

[Redacted]

7 April 2024
Carlo Grilli
Service Manager - Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA
[Redacted]

Dear Mr Grilli
I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh flood Protection Scheme. I am a resident of Musselburgh and I believe the value of my property and my mental health will be affected by the proposed scheme. Musselburgh currently has a beautiful coast line that attracts many families to live and socialise in the area. Our house prices are buoyant as a

result of this. A lack of green spaces, less trees, less wildlife etc. will prevent people wanting to move here, which will have a detrimental effect on our property prices putting many people into negative equity.

As well as this, I object to the published scheme because:

1. I object to mature trees being felled.

All up to date research indicates planting more trees reduces flooding.

There is a number of ways trees can help to reduce or prevent flooding:

- By direct interception of rainfall,
- By promoting higher soil infiltration rates,
- Through greater water use
- Through greater 'hydraulic roughness' i.e. water experiences increased frictional resistance when passing over land.

1. I object to the narrowing of the river.

On looking through the Gov.uk Environmental Agency pages. I have not found anything that says narrowing the water channel helps prevent flooding. However, I have found this which claims the opposite:

- **Increased Flow Velocity:** A narrower channel may lead to faster water flow, which can exacerbate erosion and increase the risk of flooding downstream.
- **Reduced Floodplain Capacity:** Narrowing a river restricts its ability to spread out during heavy rainfall or snowmelt. This reduced floodplain capacity can lead to higher water levels and more severe flooding.

Furthermore East Lothian Council has commissioned a report on the coast from Dynamic Coast, but this is not yet available. Therefore, why and how is the Council making a decision without being open about all the evidence.

2. I object to the Proposed new Goose Green Bridge.

This does not offer any flood protection. Yet it will have a devastating effect on the wild birds (including endangered Kingfishers) who nest and feed at the mouth of the river. Furthermore, the ramps are so big they will take over the grass amenity spaces at both sides of the river mouth.

3. I object to the Active Travel Route

This is not part of the Flood Prevention Scheme. Therefore, proper assessment of the need for it, and planning permission for new paths and bridges that are part of it, need to be sought separately.

Musselburgh currently has excellent paths that are used continually by cyclists and walkers. Laying further concrete paths alongside those already in existence, will destroy the grass feeding sites for the geese who live and migrate to Musselburgh every year and will further reduce green amenity areas for families and walkers.

4. I object to the rising costs of FPS.

It is not conceivable that the Scottish Government and East Lothian Council should be spending the amount of money required for this outdated scheme in Musselburgh, when so much more is needed in the county. Such as road repairs, services for older adults, repairs to the Brunton Hall, ongoing storm and flood damage to Haddington, North Berwick and Dunbar. Furthermore, I believe there is no budget for the ongoing upkeep and inevitable graffiti removal for the walls. Therefore, they will become an eyesore.

5. I don't believe the scheme is needed. In the last month we have had above average rainfall coinciding with high tides and we have had no significant flooding.

In Conclusion.

This current scheme goes against the latest information that states nature based solutions are the best protection against flooding. There has been no evidence a complete assessment of nature based solutions for Musselburgh has been sought. Councillors have voted on a scheme without having or understanding the full facts. East Lothian Council and Jacobs have attempted to get the public on board by scaremongering, using false images such as cars floating down a flooded high street. This is unlawful advertising because there is no evidence this will ever happen.

My mental health and the mental health of many more people will be affected by the current proposed FPS. Everyday in Musselburgh people can be seen strolling, or dog walking along the side of the Esk from the Jooglie Brig to Goosegreen and along the promenade. They are admiring the sea, the river and wildlife that live and feed there. They listen to the sound of the waves, the birds and the children playing on the sand. All along the promenade there are memorial benches. People go there to quieten their minds, heal their hearts and be at one with nature. Doctors now describe getting out amongst nature as a cure for anxiety and depression.

If this scheme goes ahead many people will be devastated when they see the trees that have healed their depression being pulled down and killed, the birds they have admired and fed moving on elsewhere. The amenity ground they exercise on becoming a building site. Years of air and sound pollution caused by pile driving. The house they have put their life savings into, greatly reduced in value and becoming unsaleable. Yet, all of this could be avoided with the use of nature based solutions that enhance our natural environment, not destroy it.

Yours sincerely

References to back objection 1.

Institute of Chartered Foresters

<http://www.charteredforesters.org/trees-can-reduce-floods>

Woodland Trust

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org-uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/flooding/>

The Heart of England Forest

<http://heartofenglandforest.org/news/trees-and-natural-flood-mangagement>

Reference to back objection 2.

Ref: <http://environmentalagency.blog.gov.uk/2015/10/20/engineering-with-nature-to-help-reduce-flooding>

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Our staff are doing their best to assist local residents and businesses whilst delivering essential services.

Please, be nice.



East Lothian
Council

BE NICE
RESPECT US AS WE RESPECT YOU

Subject: (0040) FW: Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection - requires response
Sent: 10/04/2024, 16:32:56
From: Grilli, Carlo
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Cc: [REDACTED]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thank you for your engagement with the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. This email is to confirm that your correspondence has been received and has now been forwarded to the objection inbox.

Under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, the notification of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme commences on Thursday 21st March 2024. Objections can be made about the proposed scheme until Wednesday 24th April 2024.

All correspondence received in connection with the proposed scheme will remain unread until the end of this objection period.

Kind Regards,

East Lothian Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Grilli, Carlo [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection - requires response

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Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

Dear Carlo Grilli and team,

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. I am a resident of Musselburgh and frequently enjoy walks along the River as well as accessing many of Musselburgh's amenities. I object to the published scheme because:

I believe that with scientifically proven methods there are better ways to deal with flood prevention- ones that will work WITH nature and not against it, protecting wildlife/ecosystems and also keeping the leafy green outlook around the river.

Scottish government guidance says that councils should consider multiple options and MFPS does not offer alternative scenarios, it excludes natural flood prevention. This is out of line with Scottish governments desire to have more NFP.

I have also been made aware that the public have had no information about the scientific calculations of the proposed plans- keeping this information secret is clearly not keeping the taxpayers/ local residents informed and denying them information which will allow them to have their say in the proposed scheme. It feels like consultation has been tokenistic.

I worry that the disruption of the proposed work will have a negative effect on residents of Musselburgh and deter visitors and put people off of buying property in or moving to Musselburgh. It could destroy our town. Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales. I am grateful if you could send this to my email.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

Of [Redacted]

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We're living through stressful times right now, and everyone's feeling it.

Our staff are doing their best to assist local residents and businesses whilst delivering essential services.

Please, be nice.



BE NICE
RESPECT US AS WE RESPECT YOU

Subject: (0041)FW: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11/04/2024, 17:08:23
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [701909-JEC-S5-W15-XXX-DR-Z-0001.pdf](#)
[701909-JEC-S5-W14-XXX-DR-Z-0001.pdf](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon,

Further to the provision on the above information I would like to raise an objection to the lack of a flood gate. I was part of the consultation that took place on site and various views were expressed but there was not a consensus on the provision of access to the beach from [REDACTED]

Some residents were of the view that to provide improved access and a flood gate would encourage people to park in the area and cause congestion as well as increased rubbish pollution.

From my perspective, as the home owner of [REDACTED] convenient access to the beach is very important and not to facilitate this will be detrimental to the quality of our lives but also impact on the value of the property.

I purchased the property in [REDACTED] and a key thinking in my rationale was access to the beach which we use on a daily basis – to walk dogs, to walk into work at the [REDACTED], to rest and recuperate, to wander the shores and also to regularly undertake litter picks.

It is a beautiful facility that will be denied to local residents in the absence of a flood gate. I believe it will also devalue the property as a result. The issue around rubbish could be resolved through the provision of bins and notices to encourage people to keep the beach clean.

Please let me know how further consultation can be undertaken on this matter.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme <musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme <musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Many thanks for getting in touch with the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

All the Scheme documents, and Environmental Impact Assessment are available online at our dedicated website www.musselburghfloodprotection.com, and available to view at the Brunton, John Muir House and Dalkeith Library.

I've also attached the relevant drawings for your particular location (Work section 14 and 15). To the rear of your property the proposal is for a flood wall with wave return, offset approx. 2.6 metres from your existing garden wall, at a height of approx. 1.69 metres. To the west of this wall, at Edinburgh road, the proposed flood defence type changes to an embankment – almost similar to what is there currently in terms of height (maximum 200mm higher in some areas) and location.

Following consultation with the owners/occupiers of this area of Edinburgh Road, the desire from them was for no formal flood gate to be installed, and as such, none are currently proposed at this location.

I hope this covers the information you are looking for, but please do get back in touch if you require anything else.

Kind Regards,
Rachael Warrington

Stakeholder Manager - Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme
Structures and Flooding

East Lothian Council | Road Services | Infrastructure | Partnerships & Community Services
Penston House | Macmerry Industrial Estate | Macmerry | East Lothian | EH33 1EX

[REDACTED] | rwarrington@eastlothian.gov.uk



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 11:03 AM
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme musselburghfps@eastlothian.gov.uk
Subject: [REDACTED]

Good morning,

I am the home owner of [REDACTED] and have been advised informally that East Lothian's plan is to have a continuous wall which will block our access to the beach. This is currently a sometimes treacherous descent but my understanding, and that of some of my neighbours, was that this access point would be improved to enable all users to gain entry to the beach with a flood gate for protection.

Can you advise what the actual proposal is please and I can then decide if I need to submit a formal objection. I know to do this I need to use another email address.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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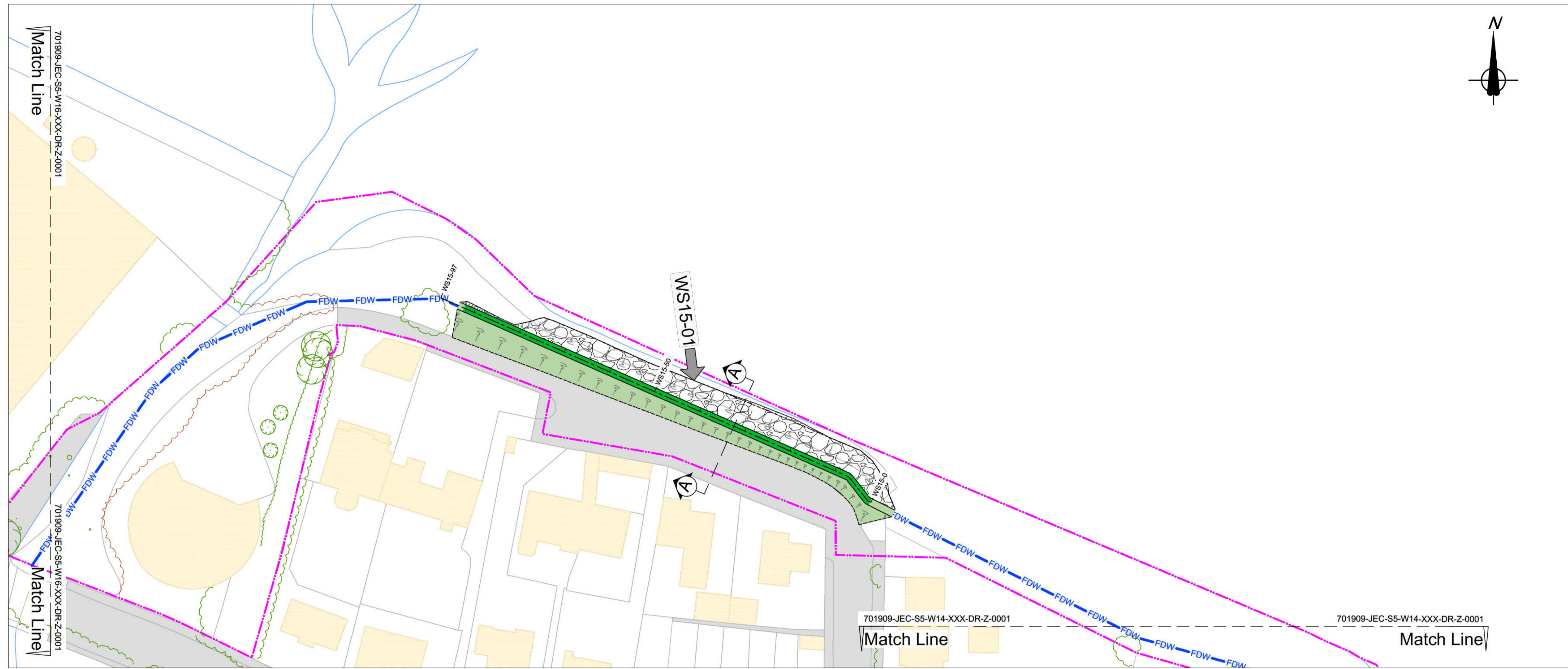
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Our staff are doing their best to assist local residents and businesses whilst delivering essential services.

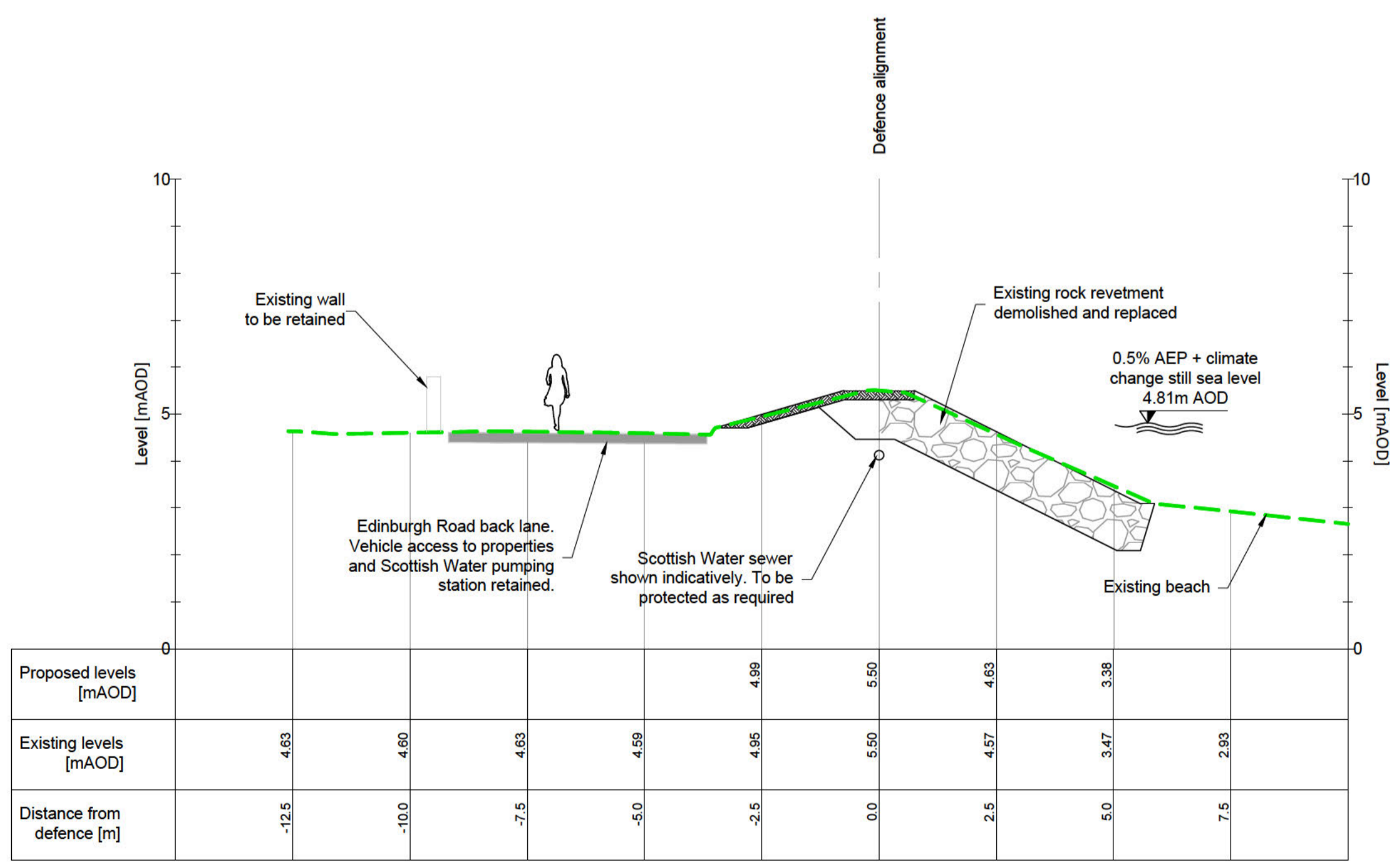
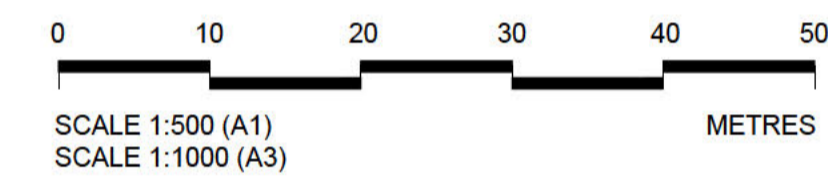
Please, be nice.



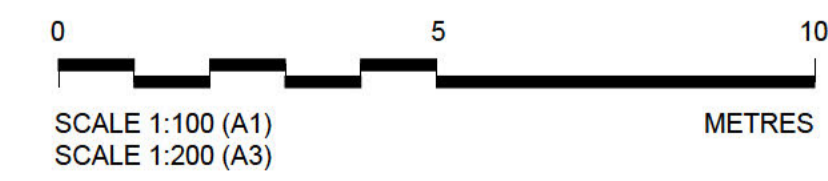
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PLAN
 SCALE (A1) 1:500
 SCALE (A3) 1:1000



CROSS-SECTION A-A
 SCALE (A1) 1:100
 SCALE (A3) 1:200



- GENERAL NOTES**
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
 - ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES RELATIVE TO ORDNANCE DATUM NEWLYN (MAOD) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
 - DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING.
 - THIS PLAN IS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 SECTION 60 AND SCHEDULE 2.
 - THE FLOOD PROTECTION OPERATIONS DETAILED ON THIS PLAN ARE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ACCOMPANYING FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME OPERATIONS DOCUMENT (701909-JEC-S5-ZZZ-XXX-RE-C-0001).
 - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE ACCOMPANYING EIA REPORT (701909-JEC-S5-XXX-XXX-RE-I-0001).
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 - VEGETATION OMITTED FOR CLARITY.
 - INDICATION OF A PERSON REPRESENTS SOMEONE WHO IS 1.6M TALL.
 - CHAINAGE REFERS TO THE DISTANCE ALONG THE FLOOD DEFENCE ALIGNMENT FROM THE BEGINNING OF A GIVEN WORK SECTION.
 - AEP (ANNUAL EXCEEDANCE PROBABILITY) IS THE PROBABILITY OF A FLOOD EVENT OCCURRING IN ANY GIVEN YEAR.

LEGEND

Limit of land upon which entry may be required for the purposes of carrying out the proposed operations and of executing temporary works

Proposed flood defence embankment	
Proposed flood defence wall	
Proposed flood gate	
Presumed active travel route	
Proposed pedestrian footpath	
Proposed bridge and ramp	
Trees and wooded area to be retained where possible	
Trees and wooded area to be removed	
Existing building structure	
Existing watercourse	
Existing road or footpath	
Proposed enhanced landscaping	

PO1	FOR SCHEME APPROVAL	26/02/24	MM	EM	JB	KN
Rev.	Description	Date	Author	Checker	Reviewer	Approver

Document Control



Project Title
MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

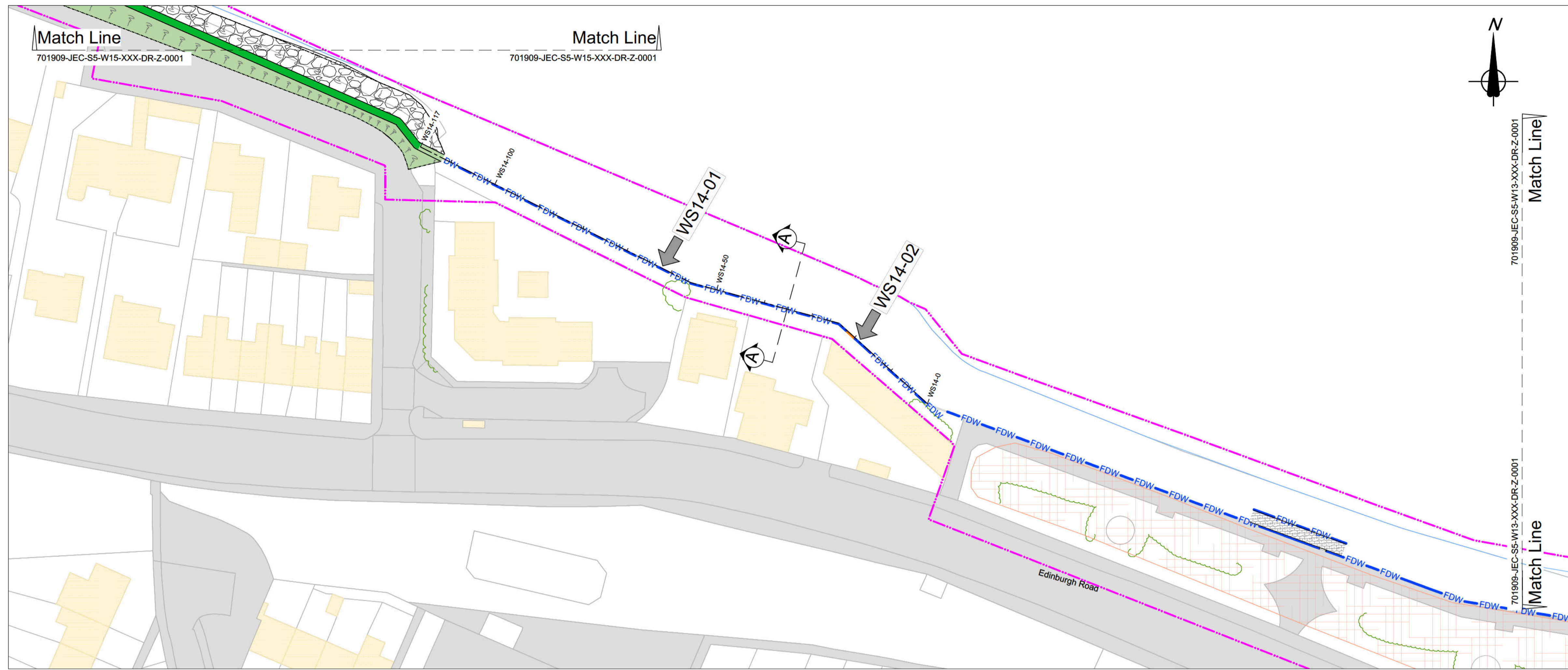
Drawing Title
FLOOD PROTECTION OPERATIONS WORK SECTION 15
37 TO 59 EDINBURGH ROAD



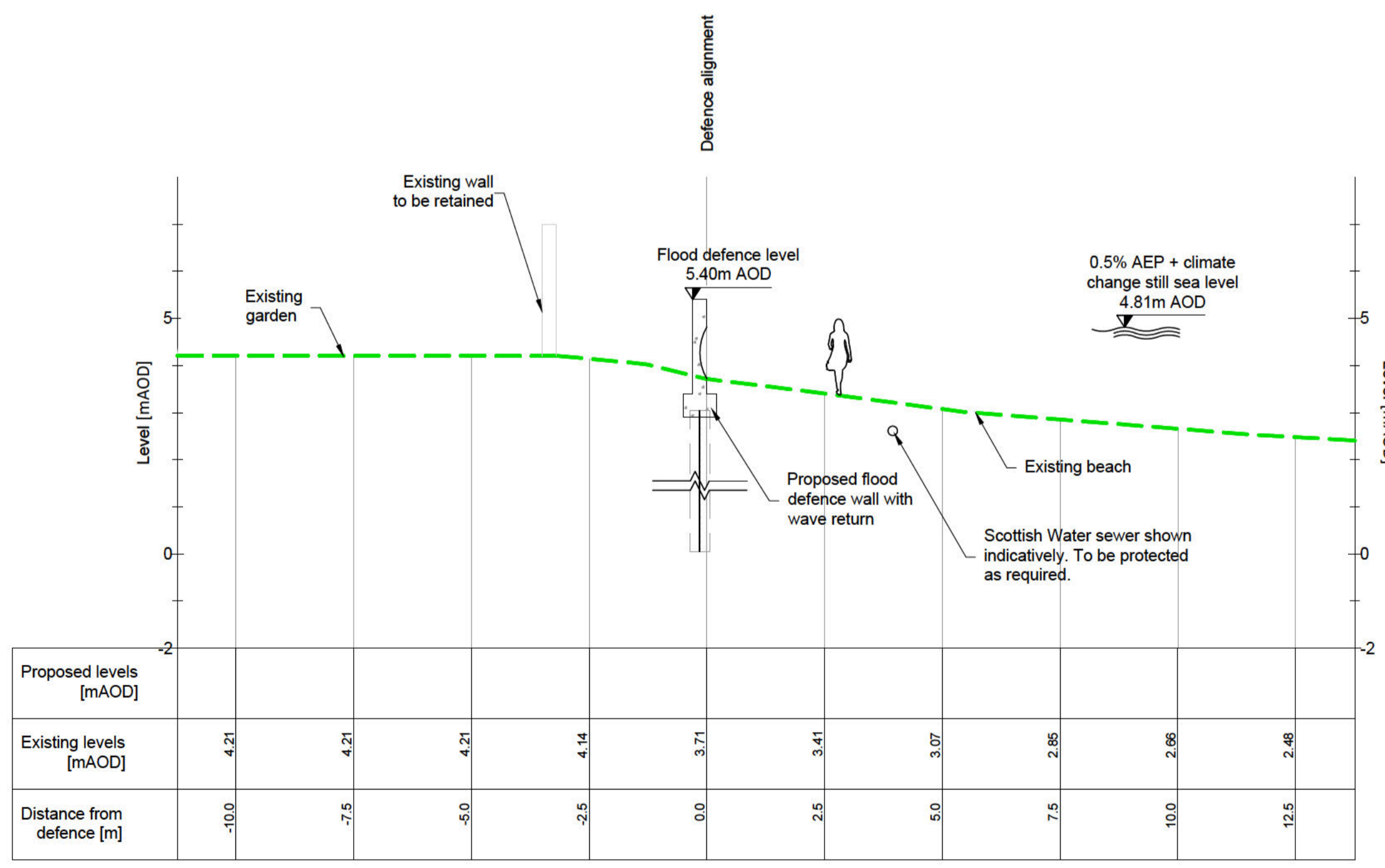
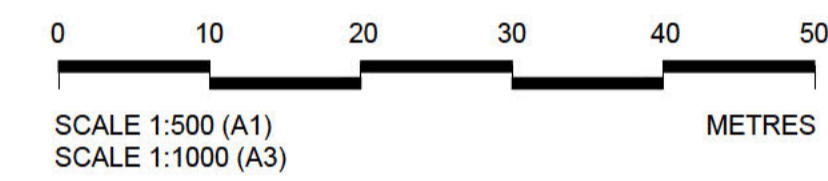
Originator	Checker	Reviewer	Approver
MM	EM	JB	KN
Suitability	Status	Revision	
S4 - SUITABLE FOR STAGE APPROVAL	S4	P01	
Drawing number	Scale		
701909-JEC-S5-W15-XXX-DR-Z-0001	1:500		

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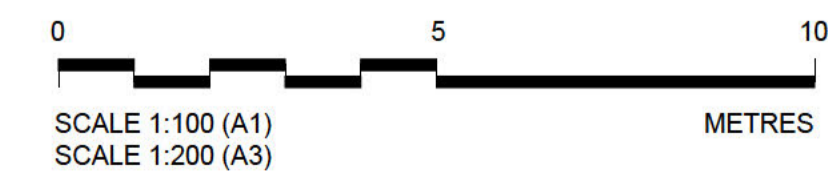
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PLAN
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SCALE (A3) 1:1000



CROSS-SECTION A-A
SCALE (A1) 1:100
SCALE (A3) 1:200



- GENERAL NOTES**
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Existing watercourse	
Existing road or footpath	
Proposed enhanced landscaping	

PO1	FOR SCHEME APPROVAL	26/02/24	MM	EM	JB	KN
Rev.	Description	Date	Author	Checker	Reviewer	Approver
Document Control						



Project Title
MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Drawing Title
FLOOD PROTECTION OPERATIONS WORK SECTION 14
29 TO 35 EDINBURGH ROAD



Originator MM	Checker EM	Reviewer JB	Approver KN
Suitability S4 - SUITABLE FOR STAGE APPROVAL	Status S4	Revision P01	Scale 1:500
Drawing number 701909-JEC-S5-W14-XXX-DR-Z-0001			Scale 1:500

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