



David Bloom &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

**Planning Enforcement ENF/17/00049**

1 message

[REDACTED] (NE) <[REDACTED]>  
To: "david.bloom@canterbury.gov.uk" <[REDACTED]>

15 June 2018 at 16:41

Dear David

Thank you for contacting Natural England regarding the development of oyster trestles on the foreshore at Whitstable.

Designated sites

From the information provided I can confirm that the aquaculture operations occur within the following sites that are designated for nature conservation -

The Swale Special Protection Area (SPA) & Ramsar – designated for coastal bird species and intertidal habitats.  
The Swale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – designated for coastal bird species and intertidal habitats.  
The Swale Estuary Marine Conservation Zone – designated for a range of intertidal and subtidal sediment habitats.

Assessment of Activities

Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) are undergoing a process of assessing aquaculture activities and will be working closely with Natural England to understand and mitigate the potential impacts of aquaculture operations on designated sites, therefore we advise that the council liaises closely with Cefas on any assessments. I understand that the remit of Cefas is to assess activity already in place and not new activity; due to the planning complexities surrounding this particular case I would urge the council and Cefas to work together to clearly define the extent of trestles that are operational and permitted, and the subsequent responsibility of assessment for your respective organisations.

Information needed for assessment and NE advice

At this time NE is unable to provide advice on the impacts to designated sites due to insufficient information. The sort of information that would be needed would include (but is not limited to) where trestles and other infrastructure is located (ie footprint of activity) in relation to protected habitats; access routes; type of access e.g. vehicles and/or people on foot?; how often access occurs including seasons and time of day; history of using Pacific oysters within operations and if they are diploid and/or triploid. NE needs to clearly understand all the activity that is taking place in order to provide advice on assessments (i.e. that which is already permitted as well as activity covered by this enforcement), hence why close working with Cefas is needed.

If you have any questions regarding this advice please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Due to the sensitive nature of this case, I would appreciate it if my direct contact information is not made public.

Kind regards

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