



Environmental Impact Assessment

Project

Porth Cressa coastal defence project, St Mary's

Client

Isles of Scilly Council

Background

The proposed coastal defence site at Porth Cressa formed the backdrop to the island's main urban area of Hugh Town and its historic garrison. The Scillies are internationally important for wildlife, with the whole archipelago designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Heritage Coast and Marine Park.

The principal challenge of this project, one of the first to be scrutinised under the 1994 amended Environmental Assessment Regulations, was to devise a strategy for achieving essential defence works with minimum impact on the highly sensitive environment.

Description

The assessment required a study of both the marine and terrestrial environment and had to address the logistics of shipping in of all construction materials in potentially worse-case weather conditions, allocation of site storage capacity in an ecologically sensitive tourist area, and safeguarding the historic built fabric and archaeological features.

The planning application, with its supporting environmental statement, was successful and the coastal defence works were completed in the Spring of 1995.

Client benefits

Cost-effective and speedy resolution of a complex development project, to achieve both community and environmental protection.