

# DESIGN – TECHNICAL NOTE

JBA Project Code 2014s1358  
Contract Isle of Man Sea Defence Options  
Client Department of Infrastructure, Isle of Man Government  
Day, Date and Time 26/08/2014  
Author Alec Dane  
Subject Ramsey Harbour – Option RH2 – Set Back Walls



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## 1 Aim

JBA have been commissioned by the Department of Infrastructure (DoI) to develop a number of technically viable solutions to address the still water level flooding in harbour environments and wave overtopping in open coast environments, at seven coastal sites across the Isle of Man.

This technical note covers the design assumptions, decision making process and methodology for the design of Option RH2, an option to place a set back wall in Ramsey Harbour to prevent still water level flooding. Still Water Level (SWL) flooding occurs where the water level exceeds the defence crest level and water inundates the hinterland. No consideration for the design of performance against wave overtopping has been undertaken as the environment is considered to be suitably sheltered from wave action.

The scope of works does not include a formal options appraisal process. However a high level Multi Criteria Analysis will be undertaken with input from key stakeholders to help determine which option best satisfies the project criteria. The option proposed has been developed based on technical feasibility, engineering judgement, environmental impact, cost and consideration of the long term vision and key criteria determined by the project stakeholders.

## 2 Assumptions

The following assumptions have been used during the development of the concept design.

### 2.1 Datum

All elevation and depth measurements presented in the conceptual design of defence options will be presented in Douglas02 datum.

### 2.2 Baseline conditions

The land surrounding Ramsey Harbour is at risk of still water level flooding. In order to design an option that efficiently reduces still water level flood risk, it is important to look at the baseline conditions.

#### 2.2.1 Existing defence geometry

The existing defences reflect a typical inner harbour environment. Quay walls situated at ground level throughout the harbour provide access to boat users while offering some level of protection against still water level flooding.

During the winter storms of 2013/2014, the water level exceeded the quay walls on the southern side of Ramsey Harbour and flooded residential and commercial property behind.

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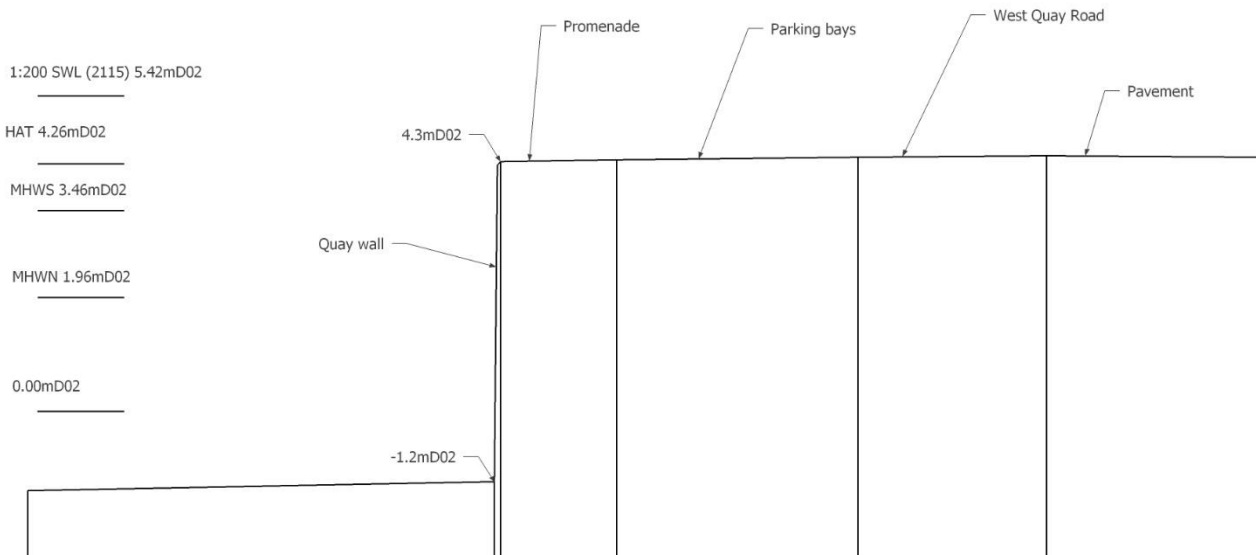


Figure 2-1: Existing section through Ramsey Harbour

The existing defence geometry has been summarised in the table below:

Attribute	Dimension
Quay wall crest level	4.3mD02
Quay wall toe level	-1.2mD02
Quay wall height	5.1m

Table 2-1: Existing defence geometry summary

## 2.2.2 Current still water level flood risk

Based on the predicted extreme water levels from the Environment Agency Coastal flood boundary conditions for UK mainland and islands project<sup>1</sup>, the existing defences are offering a 1 in 2-year level of protection under the present day scenario and a 1 in 1-year level of protection against still water level flooding in 2115 (including the effects of climate change).

## 2.3 Design life and level of protection

The structure has been designed to achieve the following design standards:

- **Design life:** 100 years
- **Design storm event:** 1 in 200-year event (including climate change)

## 2.4 Climate change

By selecting a design life of 100 years, it is important to factor in the predicted effects of climate change.

Within UKCP09 estimates for sea level rise are provided under low, medium and high emissions scenarios. Within the three scenarios the estimate is further refined by 5<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile confidence ratings. In simple terms this should be interpreted as the relative likelihood of the projected change being at, or less than, the given change. For this study it is proposed that the medium emissions scenario is considered and that the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile confidence rating is used. This gives a projected sea level rise of 640mm by the

<sup>1</sup> Coastal flood boundary conditions for UK mainland and islands, Project: SC060064/TR2: Design sea-levels. Environment Agency, Feb 2011.

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year 2115 for Ramsey.

## 2.5 Hydrodynamic data

The hydrodynamic data, used to design the harbour defences to a 1 in 200-year standard of protection in 2115, has been sourced from the Environment Agency Coastal flood boundary conditions for UK mainland and islands project<sup>2</sup>, which developed a consistent set of design sea levels for Scotland, England and Wales.

The extraction point used for this project is located at Port Erin. Other ports located around the Isle of Man have used the JBA Coastal flood boundary data model, to interpolate the values around the Isle of Man, based on Port Erin extreme water levels. Table 2.2 provides the estimate for high water extremes in Ramsey, including sea level rise for the year 2115.

Table 2-2: Extreme Sea Levels in Ramsey

Return Period (year)	mD02	Extreme Still Water Level in Ramsey
1	2014	4.16
2		4.25
5		4.36
10		4.45
20		4.53
25		4.56
50		4.64
75		4.68
100		4.71
150		4.75
200		4.78
250		4.81
300		4.82
500		4.87
1,000		4.94
10,000	5.13	
1	2115	4.80
2		4.90
5		5.01
10		5.10
20		5.18
25		5.21
50		5.28
75		5.33
100		5.36
150		5.40
200		5.43
250		5.45
300		5.47
500		5.52
1,000		5.59
10,000	5.78	

## 2.6 Performance standards

For coastal defences, the performance standards can typically be split into two areas, the still water level performance and wave overtopping performance.

### 2.6.1 Performance standard 1 – still water level flood risk

The structure will be designed to prevent still water level flooding from the design storm event (1 in 200-year storm) in 2115 (including an allowance for climate change). The structure crest will therefore be

<sup>2</sup> Coastal flood boundary conditions for UK mainland and islands, Project: SC060064/TR2: Design sea-levels. Environment Agency, Feb 2011.

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designed at this level plus an additional freeboard allowance (150mm for hard defences).

## 2.6.2 Performance standard 2 – wave overtopping risk

Due to the enclosed nature of Ramsey Harbour, it is assumed that the quay walls are subject to minimal wave overtopping. Therefore, this option will not be designed to meet any wave overtopping performance standard.

## 2.7 Ground conditions

No geotechnical or ground condition information has been made available as part of this study. Therefore, all designs of defence structures have been progressed assuming poor ground conditions e.g. low bearing capacity. This should provide a conservative approach to the development of the concept design. The levels presented in the drawings represent finished defence levels, so would require consideration of potential settlement which would be taken into account during detailed design.

## 2.8 Structural design

A full structural design has not been included within this study as the scope of works did not include geotechnical investigation or analysis. All designs will be reviewed by a structural engineer to confirm that the design principles adopted are acceptable.

## 2.9 Existing defences

This option seeks to raise the flood defence crest level behind the existing line of defence. This provides a technical risk, whereby the overall design life of the structure will be dictated by the current condition of the asset and the estimated residual life, rather than that of the newly designed defence. In these circumstances, the design will not conform to the target design life of 100 years.

For the purpose of progressing the concept design option, it is assumed that the existing quay wall will be maintained to preserve and improve the current condition of the asset for the length of the 100 year design life of the newly proposed structure.

## 2.10 Fluvial flood risk

The analysis of the fluvial flood risk has not been included as part of this commission. The defence option proposed does not seek to reduce the fluvial flood risk to a given performance standard.

## 2.11 Services information

No detailed services information was provided as part of this study and a services search is not included within the scope of works. However, the location of more critical services has been identified by DoI. These critical services were considered in the development of the concept design options. If the project progresses to outline and detailed design it will be essential that a full service plan is developed. This is particularly important for this set back wall option where the likelihood of services in close proximity is very high.

## 2.12 Environmental impact

This commission does not include any formal Environmental Impact Assessment or Landscape Visual Impact Assessment. If the project progresses to outline and detailed design, a more in depth study of the environmental impacts will be required.

## 2.13 Reinstatement and finish details

The development of landscape and architectural enhancements are outside the current project scope of works. It is assumed that following construction the surrounding area will be re-instated to a condition similar to the present. However, during the detailed design stage further architectural and landscape enhancements could be considered.

## 2.14 Contaminated land

No information regarding the location of areas of contaminated land has been provided as part of this commission. Therefore all design options have been developed with the assumption that none of the areas are subject to contaminated land constraints. An invasive contaminated land survey should be undertaken

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at all locations prior to detailed design to enable detailed assessment of suitable construction techniques and options for removal or re-use of excavated material.

To progress concept design options as part of this study the following have been assumed:

- No investigation of contamination issues at individual development sites; and
- Development flood defence options may require some contaminated land treatment depending on the result of the investigations.

## 2.15 Tie in details

Tie-in details between old and new defences have been considered at a conceptual level. The key consideration has been to develop an option that does not create an area of outflanking or weak point, where flood water can bypass the defences and flood the hinterland.

## 3 Standards, guidance & reference documents

All design assumptions have been developed using the following reference material:

- BS 6180 1999: Barriers in and about buildings, code of practice
- BS EN 6349-1-1:2013, Maritime works, General, Code of practise for planning and design.
- CIRIA (2010), The use of concrete in maritime engineering – a guide to good practise
- Cobb, F (2009), Structural Engineers Pocket Book (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- DEFRA (2009) UK Climate Projections 09
- Environment Agency. (2010). Fluvial Design Guide.

## 4 Design development

The following provides a brief summary of how the key design elements were selected.

### 4.1 General form of defence

The set back walls have been designed as reinforced concrete cantilever retaining walls. They have been designed to sit on an existing fence line situated between 2 and 5m from the quay wall edge with a total length in the order of 480m.

The wall specifies no piled foundations due to the need to limit disturbance to the quay wall structure which is of unknown condition. Instead the wall will achieve stability against sliding and overturning through a cantilever and base key.

#### 4.1.1 Defence crest level

The defence crest level is situated at 5.60mD02. This has been calculated using:

- 1 in 200-year still water level in 100 years time (including the effects of climate change) – 5.43mD02
- Freeboard allowance for hard defences – 150mm.

#### 4.1.2 Wall height and foundation cover

To aid in the constructability of the defence, a shallow foundation is proposed. This specifies a minimum cover of 300mm from the top of the foundation to ground level. This gives the wall a total height of 1900mm. The wall height above ground level is equal to 1300mm, which is in compliance with BS 6180 for the minimum height of concrete barriers and handrails for horizontal guarding (1100mm).

The foundation cover is to be made of suitably compacted fill topped with a paved surface to be in keeping with the existing landscaping design.

#### 4.1.3 Wall thickness and reinforcement cover

The wall thickness has been defined, allowing for 200mm wide reinforcement cage with a minimum 50mm

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concrete cover. This allows for a wall thickness of minimum 300mm.

## 4.1.4 Base slab dimensions

The cantilever base slab has been designed at a conceptual level to provide stability to the wall. This has been achieved through using rules of thumb (Cobb, 2009), considered acceptable for the structural design of concept walls:

- Base slab width  $0.8H = 1600\text{mm}$
- Base slab thickness = stem thickness =  $300\text{mm}$
- Toe protrusion =  $300\text{mm}$

The length of the toe protrusion has been minimised as much as possible, to reduce excavation on West Quay Road.

## 4.1.5 Structure reinforcement

The proposed new concrete wall will have a nominal 200mm wide steel reinforcement cage, this should be considered in more detail during the detailed design phase. The structural design of the proposed raised wall is beyond the scope of this study.

## 4.1.6 Concrete mix design

The concrete mix design should consider a number of factors, firstly issues associated with the heat of hydration and thermal cracking as detailed above should be investigated. Secondly, the type of exposure that the concrete is subjected to and its resistance to the ingress of chlorides which will cause corrosion to any reinforced elements must be assessed. The properties of the concrete for the raised harbour walls are suggested below based on guidance from EN 206-1:2000:

- **Density:** A typical concrete density of  $2.4\text{t/m}^3$
- **Grade:** C40/C50
- **Exposure class:** XS3 for concrete in a tidal, splash and spray zone
- **Aggregate diameter:** 20-40mm selected in accordance with EN 12620:2002
- **Workability:** Slump class S2 (50-90mm)

However, this specification will be subject to modification during refinement in detailed design.

## 4.2 Maintaining hydraulic impermeability

It is essential that the flow path between the old and new defences is cut off to prevent water infiltrating under the new defence. It is assumed that this defence will achieve this through provision of an impermeable surface on the seaward side of the set back wall to prevent water infiltration into the promenade area. This will require further analysis during detailed design.

## 4.3 Drainage

The design does not provide additional open drainage through the new structure, due to the need to provide a still water flood protection. If the existing highway drainage is insufficient to drain any surface water in the hinterland, flap valve drainage could be installed through the new set back wall.

## 4.4 Wall cladding

Additional cladding may be incorporated into the visible wall faces to keep the defences in-keeping with the surrounding environment. The use of different forms of cladding and capping kerbs will be explored in more detail during detailed design.

## 4.5 Access for the public

By providing a physical barrier between the promenade and West Quay Road, it is necessary to provide designated access routes for the public to access either side.

To maintain access there are three possibilities. Their advantages and disadvantages are discussed in

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Table 5-1. Should this option be taken forward, the best method to facilitate public access should be explored in more detail during the detailed design phase.

**Table 4-1: Possibilities to maintain public access to the promenade**

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Build concrete stepped platforms over the defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Will form a seamless defence with no weak points</li><li>- Can form a visually pleasing feature that can be incorporated into a landscape enhancement.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Likely to be a costly solution</li><li>- Larger volume of concrete required</li><li>- Marginal health and safety risk increase</li></ul>
Build stainless steel stepped platforms over defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cheap</li><li>- Will form a seamless defence with no weak points</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Unsightly</li></ul>
Place gaps through defence for demountable barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- No increase in health and safety risk</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Technical risks associated with demountables and short design life</li><li>- Performance of wall is reliant on demountables being deployed manually</li></ul>

## 4.6 Tie in details

It is anticipated that the defences will tie in with the infrastructure so as to avoid creating a point of weakness. Where access is considered critical, raised stepped platforms or gaps for demountable defences will be placed to allow the public to freely walk between the promenade and road.

## 4.7 Architectural enhancements

The new walls provide the opportunity to re-develop the promenade area, with more architectural enhancements, creating a more visually pleasing environment. This has not been considered during concept design, but the new walls could incorporate additional seating, material textures and forms, plant boxes and trees that could improve the current landscape.

## 4.8 Public safety

Public safety has formed a key consideration during the concept design development phase. The main risks associated with this option are the issues surrounding the future public usage of the structure. In providing a physical barrier between the public and the harbour, the risk of injury from slips, trips and falls is increased. The wall is situated at 1300mm above the upper promenade deck level which complies with the recommended guidance for minimum barrier height for horizontal guarding. However, the use of signage should be considered to warn members of the public of the risks associated with climbing on the rear wall.

For further information on all the risks considered, mitigated or reduced please refer to the Designers Hazard Inventory.

## 5 Technical risks summary

The following are considered to represent the key risks highlighted during the development of this concept design.

### 5.1 Unknown ground conditions

Due to the unknown ground conditions it is possible that the current design will require modification in order to achieve structural and geotechnical stability.

### 5.2 Integrity of the quay walls

Working in close proximity to the quay walls, which are of unknown structural integrity represents a technical risk during construction. Care should be taken to minimise plant movements on the existing walls and limit excavations directly behind the wall.

In addition, the 100 year design life of the flood defence is dependent on the structural integrity of the quay walls. This design assumes that the quay walls will not be allowed to deteriorate further as this may undermine the newly proposed set back wall. It is recommended that a full asset inspection be undertaken

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prior to detailed design, to quantify the residual life of the structure and allow for the development of more tailored remediation measures.

## 5.3 Tie-ins with existing defence

It is essential that the design level is maintained throughout the harbour to prevent the development of a low point where water can bypass the defences. The tie-ins have been considered at a conceptual level but will require careful consideration during detailed design.

## 5.4 Maintaining hydraulic impermeability

Currently no flow path investigation has been completed to determine the potential route of water levels that exceed the connection between the new and old defences. For the purposes of progressing the concept option, it is assumed that the use of an impermeable promenade surface will prevent water infiltrating below the promenade and up on the rear side of the set back wall. This will require further investigation during detailed design.

## 5.5 Vehicle collisions with new set back wall

The new set back wall is situated in close proximity to the car parking on West Quay Road. The walls have not been designed to take the impact of a vehicle collision. Should a vehicle collide with the wall, the defence will be weakened or breached and the integrity of the flood defence undermined. To mitigate this risk, parking bollards could be installed in front of the new wall.

## 5.6 Road closure during a storm event

The design includes the use of flood gates to close off parts of East Quay road during a storm event, to prevent water from outflanking the set back wall. The logistics of the closure of this road should be considered by DoI. It would be beneficial to hold stakeholder engagement meetings to inform of this process, and set up a traffic management plan for times of closure. Personnel on the ground during closure would be beneficial to inform and advise residents of other access points to Ramsey East Quay.

## 5.7 Fluvial flood risk

No analysis of the impacts of this scheme on fluvial flood risk has been undertaken as part of this study.

## 5.8 Services

Limited services information has been provided as part of this study. If the project progresses to outline and detailed design it will be essential that a full service plan is developed. A number of services have been identified on the proposed line of defence, which could cause issues with the design.

## 5.9 Construction accessibility

Prior to the development of outline designs it would be advisable to appoint a construction contractor to provide constructability advice. Although the site is considered reasonably accessible it would be beneficial to confirm the proposed methods of construction and temporary works required.

## 5.10 Stakeholder requirements

A Multi Criteria Analysis was completed as part of this study to try and determine the key considerations of the project stakeholders. It is anticipated that during the course of a formal options appraisal project stage that more in depth stakeholder consultation will be completed. The results of which may lead to changes in the concept designs that have already been developed.

## 5.11 Environmental impacts

No formal Environmental Impact Assessment was completed during this project stage. It is anticipated that during the course of an options appraisal stage that an in depth assessment of the environmental impacts associated with all proposed options would be considered. This process may result in changes being made to the proposed designs.