

27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Sir or Madam

## Securing a steep bank at the Ladies' Pool, Vallette, St. Peter Port

Along with this covering letter you should find details of our proposed works to secure a steep bank with netting, alongside one of the upper terraces at the Ladies' Pool, Vallette.

*The eroded earth bank in Spring 2021. (The cabins on top of the bank relate to the Vive La Vallette works to the café and changing rooms.)*



This area of our coastline was inspected in 2020 the local consulting engineers Dorey Lysle and Ashman (DLA). They identified that the earth bank to the north-east of the Ladies' Pool had been eroded. It was noted that there was a risk of landslip, or falling debris, presenting a hazard to the public. To provide protection to pool users, and to limit further erosion in the area, it was proposed that a retaining wall be erected on the existing rock. This proposal was approved under application FULL/2021/0932.

A further review by specialist geotechnical engineers confirmed that it would be prudent to also secure the steep bank above this retaining wall. We were advised that a light-gauge netting (formed from steel wire approx. 4mm diameter) would provide adequate protection. We have been advised that this would not impede the regrowth of vegetation, and that most of the netting will be concealed by this growth.

It is proposed that the existing vegetation be cut back, but not removed, prior to the installation of this netting. It is anticipated that this vegetation will re-establish itself, providing the dense cover shown in the photograph overleaf.

As an alternative; the excavation and re-landscaping of this coastal bank was considered. This would, however, cause considerable disruption to the public during the works, and would result in the loss of amenity (the grassy viewing area on top of the bank).

We have been advised that this netting can be safely installed once the contractors carrying out works for Vive La Vallette have vacated the area at the top of the bank. The proposed work to build a retaining wall and level planted area at the foot of this bank makes these works somewhat safer.

It is understood that Vive La Vallette, alongside other local interest groups, hope to restore and replant the plateaux at the top of this bank – forming a public viewing area. These soil-nailing and netting works will secure this bank and enable the provision of this new public amenity area.

Statement of sustainability (IDP Policy GP9): The Strategic Land Use Plan sets out expectations that all new development should demonstrate the wise use of natural resources, incorporate appropriate sustainable construction techniques and mitigate, adapt and become more resilient to climate change.

In accordance with this expectation this proposal is for a sustainable enhancement, with the prudent use of natural resources, stainless steel netting and soil nails (restraints) are to be used. These are expected to have an indefinite lifespan, and the use of open netting is not expected to be detrimental to biodiversity in this area. While the carbon footprint associated with stainless steel is relatively high, the long life of this material, (and the possibility that it can be easily recovered and 100% recycled), makes it an environmentally appropriate choice.

It is expected that this solution will provide effective and durable protection for the users of the pool, while limiting visual and environmental impacts as far as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Armstrong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Armstrong  
Project Structural Engineer  
Property Services