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Mr D Morris
Marine Licensing Case Officer
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

28 September 2017

Dear Mr Morris,

I am writing to inform you of the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) decision regarding The Dover Harbour Board's (DHB) application to dredge Area 521 of Goodwin Sands (Licence: MLA/2016/00227) with regards to the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 (POMRA).

At the Goodwin Sands meeting held in London on 30 November 2016, the Department stated it would only be in a position to decide on whether a POMRA ruling needed to be enforced in the proposed Goodwin Sands Dredging Area 521 after a series of surveys had been conducted. The Department has now reviewed and considered all of the sonar and magnometer surveys carried out and supplied by the organisations listed at Annex A.

The MOD's review of the licence application has concluded that whilst the surveys found anomalies in Area 521, these were not indicative of any aircraft or vessels. In addition, there was no significant data in the surveys conducted to support the possibility of finding human remains or ordnance housed in any of the anomalies highlighted. This conclusion is further supported by the MOD's own historical material which could not specify any individual wrecks or downed aircraft within Area 521.

In light of the above the SoS cannot utilise his powers under the POMRA to make a designation in respect of Area 521.

The MOD respects that the POMRA element is only one of several factors that needs to be considered by your organisation in order to form a final decision.

Yours Sincerely,

N Halford
Head Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre

Annex A

List of Surveys reviewed for MOD's POMRA Licence decision on the Dredging Area of Goodwin Sands

HaskoningDHV UK LTD

Dover Harbour Board

Goodwin Sands Aggregate Dredging Scheme Marine Licence Application Response to MMO Clarification Requests, December 2016

Reference: I&BPB1552R001F0.1 Revision: 0.1/Final Date: 10 August 2017

Clinton Marine Survey AB

Goodwin Sands Magnetometer Survey - 2017009-Dhb-Cms-Goodwinands-Surveyrep - Revision 1

Peter Holt 3H Consulting Ltd

Goodwin Sands - Archaeological Review of Geophysical Data - September 2017

Wessex Archaeology

Goodwin Sands Archaeological Review of Geophysical Data (2017)

Annex Ref: 111511.03 - August 2017

Wessex Archaeology

Goodwin Sands Archaeological Review of Geophysical Data (2017)

Annex Ref: 111511.02 - August 2017

Marinet's letter to MOD dated 20 Sep 17