

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement for Old Bursledon Conservation Area Appraisal



Black-tailed Godwit, River Itchen,
Portsmouth Harbour

Eastleigh Borough Council

Screening Statement

14 February 2011

Amendment Record

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Abbreviations

SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment

Executive Summary

Introduction

This report explains the process of screening for Habitats Regulations Assessment. It has been prepared by Eastleigh Borough Council and provides an opinion, for consultation with Natural England and others, on whether the Old Bursledon Conservation Area Appraisal requires full assessment under the Habitats Regulations for its effects on European sites.

European sites are areas of international nature conservation importance that are protected for the benefit of the habitats and species they support. The following sites have been included in this study because they could be at risk of experiencing negative impacts as a result of the plan:

- ▶ Solent Maritime SAC
- ▶ Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar

Findings

The Council has assessed the management proposals associated with the Old Bursledon Conservation Area Appraisal and has not identified any proposals that may detrimental affect the above sites of European importance.

Consultation Arrangements

This report is open to consultation between.

All responses to the consultation should be sent to:

Kitty Budden

Planning Policy and Design

Eastleigh Borough Council

Civic Offices

Leigh Road

Eastleigh

SO50 9YN.

In responding to consultation, Eastleigh Borough Council would be grateful if respondents could pay regard to the questions provided within Chapter 4 of the main report.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Eastleigh Borough Council is considering the need to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its emerging Old Bursledon Conservation Area Appraisal. The assessment will focus on the possible effects of the plan on the nature conservation interests of the Solent Maritime SAC and the Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar.

1.2 Purpose of this Report

This report addresses the earliest stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment. It documents the initial evidence gathering process and states whether or not a full appropriate assessment will be required for the plan. The report shows that there are two European site within the vicinity of Old Bursledon Conservation Area and, potentially, under the influence of the emerging plan.

The outputs of the report include information in relation to:

- ▶ The Habitats Regulations Assessment process (Section 1.3);
- ▶ The plan in question (Section 1.4);
- ▶ Evidence gathering in relation to the European sites (Chapter 2);
- ▶ A Screening Statement as to the need for full appropriate assessment (Chapter 3).

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment of Land Use Plans

The application of Habitats Regulations Assessment to land use plans in the UK is a relatively new practice that derives from an October 2005 European Court of Justice Ruling on the transposition of European Union Directive 92/43/EEC *on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora* (the Habitats Directive). The ruling found that the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) failed to correctly implement the intention of the Habitats Directive in that it only required the application of HRA to projects, as opposed to plans and programmes¹.

Consequently, HRA must be applied to all Local Development Documents in England and Wales. HRA aims to assess the potential effects of a land use plan against the conservation objectives of any sites designated for their nature conservation importance as part of a system known collectively as the Natura 2000 network of European sites.

¹ The Regulations have been revised as a result of the ruling and currently exist as the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (the Habitats Regulations).

European sites provide ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites which are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the European Union. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs, designated under the Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs, designated under European Union Directive 79/409/EEC *on the conservation of wild birds* (the Birds Directive)). Government policy (PPS9ⁱⁱ and Circular 06/05ⁱⁱⁱ) recommends that Ramsar sites^{iv} are treated as if they are fully designated European sites for the purposes of considering development proposals that may affect them. This report takes the same approach.

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the assessment must determine whether or not a plan will adversely affect the integrity of the European site(s) concerned. Where negative effects are identified, the process should consider alternatives to the proposed actions and explore mitigation opportunities. If it is impossible to avoid or remove the perceived adverse effect, the plan-makers must demonstrate, under the conditions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest to continue with the proposal. This is widely perceived as an undesirable position and should be avoided if at all possible.

1.4 Background to the Plan

The document this screening assesses is a review of the existing Old Bursledon Conservation Area, which includes proposed management strategies for improving the conservation area. Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, as defined by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 S69.

It is the statutory duty of a Local Planning Authority, (LPA), as set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 S71, to review the designation of conservation areas, formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas, and submit them for consideration to a public meeting in the area to which they relate.

ⁱⁱ ODPM (2005): *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*.

ⁱⁱⁱ ODPM (2005): *Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System*.

^{iv} UNESCO (1971): *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat*. (Ramsar (Iran), 2 February 1971, UN Treaty Series No. 14583).

2 European Sites

2.1 Scope of the Study

European sites of nature conservation interest can be affected by land use plans in a number of different ways. These include the direct footprint of new development, the type of use the land will be put to (for example, a noise emitting use), the pollution a development generates, the resources it uses (during both construction and operation) and increased recreational pressure as a result of development.

Best practice guidance^v on Habitats Regulations Assessment suggests that all European sites within the area of coverage of a plan, together with all those within a 10km buffer zone should be considered as potential receptors for negative effects. In addition to these, other European sites further than 10km from the area of coverage of a plan may also be affected. This is particularly the case where there is potential for developments resulting from the plan to generate water-borne pollutants, or where there are particularly high demands for water resources.

The following European sites are wholly or partially within the area covered by the plan, or close to it, and may potentially be affected by activities arising from the plan:

- ▶ Solent Maritime SAC
- ▶ Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar

Figure 1. shows these sites and how they relate to the area in question.

^v David Tyldesley and Associates (for English Nature, 2006): *Draft Guidance: The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations*. [Please note: similar guidance is being prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates for Natural England but is not yet available. In the absence of this document it has been agreed with Natural England and the Environment Agency that the guidance prepared for RSS and SRS is suitable for use with LDD.]

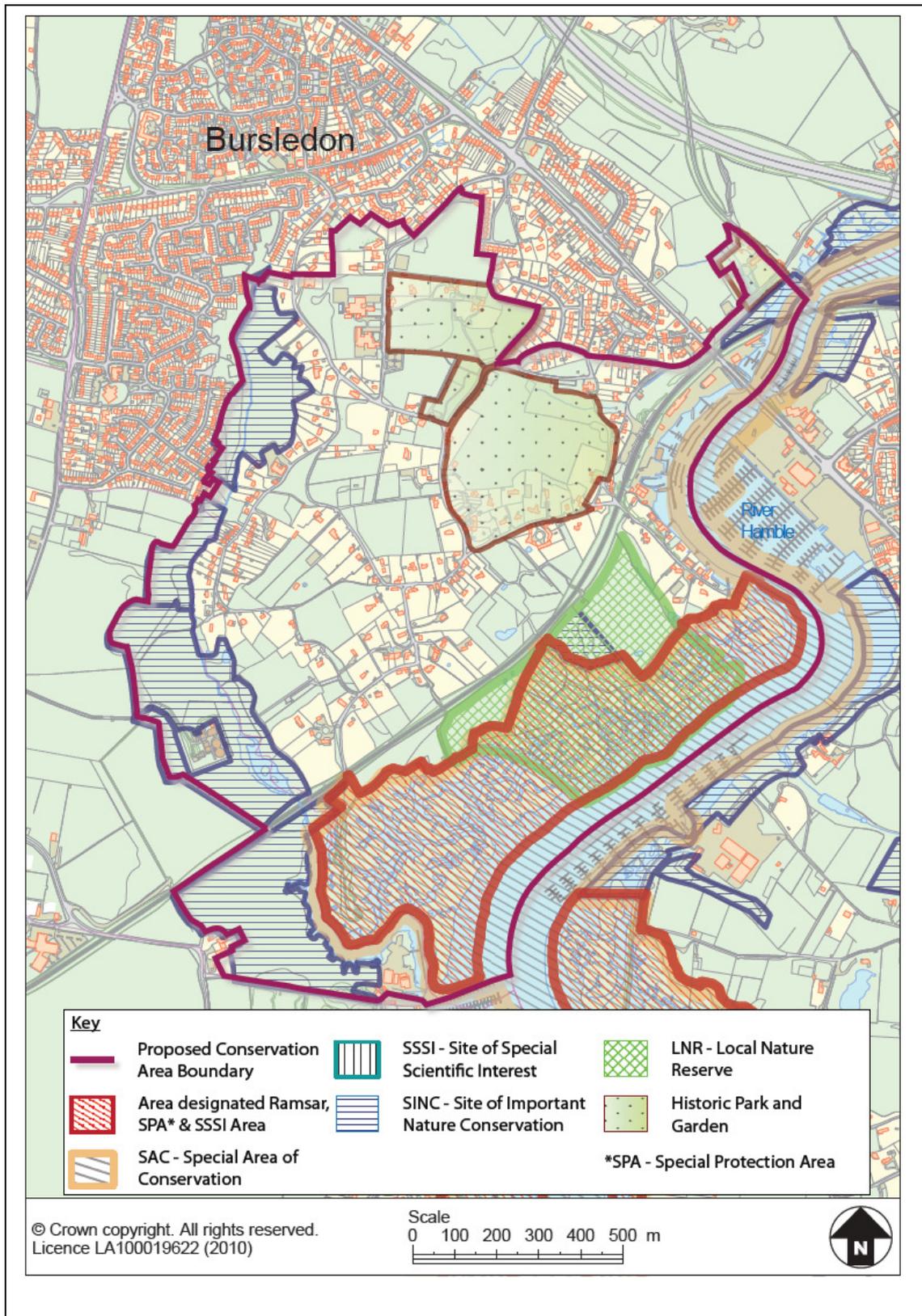


Figure 1. Map Showing the Geographical Relationship Between the Site and the Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar.

2.2 Site Descriptions

The site is an area of primarily residential development on the west bank of the River Hamble, to the south of the M27 in the south of Eastleigh Borough. The rural village is located between Lincegrove and Hacketts Marshes to the south and the M27 motorway bridge to the north. The majority of the village has been separated from the river by the railway around 1889. Some boatbuilding yards, a public house and a small number of residential units occupy sites on the western bank of the Bursledon Pool. There are mooring pontoons at various points along this section of the river.

2.3 Qualifying Features

The qualifying features of the site (that is, the reasons for which the site was designated) are as follows.

- ▶ Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
- ▶ Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*
- ▶ Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
- ▶ Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*
- ▶ Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*
- ▶ Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
- ▶ Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
- ▶ Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
- ▶ Teal *Anas crecca*

2.4 Conservation Objectives

All SACs and SPAs have agreed nature conservation objectives, and progress towards these objectives can be taken as an indicator of favourable conditions at the site. Ramsar sites do not have agreed conservation objectives, but in most instances overlap with SPAs.

The conservation objectives of the above listed sites are as follows.

To maintain*, in favourable condition, the following habitats:

- Grazing marsh comprising neutral grassland
- Fen, marsh and swamp
- Broad-leaved woodland
- Littoral sediment
- Supra Littoral sediment

- Coastal lagoon
- Coastal and inundation grasslands
- Standing water
- Boulder and cobble shores
- Saltmarsh and fringing habitats
- Intertidal sand and mudflat
- Reedbed
- Reedbeds and open water with marshy grassland and scrub
- Permanent grassland
- Vegetated shingle
- Saline lagoons
- Intertidal mudflats, sandflats and shingle
- Mixed sediment shores
- Estuarine and marginal habitats
- Marshy grassland/fen meadow
- Grazed swamp
- Shallow coastal waters

To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats of:

- Populations of migratory bird species of European importance, with particular reference to dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
- Populations of the Annex 1 species of European importance, with particular reference to Mediterranean gull, sandwich tern, roseate tern, common tern and little tern.

* Maintenance implies restoration, if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

2.5 Vulnerabilities and Opportunities

Every European site has distinctive characteristics that make it vulnerable to a variety of impact-inducing activities. Many sites, due to their location or condition, also offer various opportunities for improvement.

The vulnerabilities and opportunities of the above named sites are as follows:

Vulnerabilities:

- Water level management
- Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)
- Changes in flow velocity
- Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)
- Extent of suitable foraging habitat
- Changes in creek system pattern
- Coastal defences / coastal squeeze
- Sea level rise
- Sedimentation regime
- Physical loss - removal
- Physical loss - smothering
- Physical damage - abrasion/erosion
- Physical damage - selective extraction
- Non-physical disturbance - noise
- Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance
- Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds
- Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds
- Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading
- Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading
- Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction
- Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species
- Predation - domestic animals
- Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)
- Obstruction to sight lines
- Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats
- Food availability

Opportunities:

- Sensitive management of port operations (including dredging), recreation (on/off shore) and coastal defence.
- Implementation of management scheme for Solent complex of European marine sites (SEMS).
- Implementation of coastal initiatives including Shoreline Management Plan, Estuarine Management Plans, etc.

(All information taken from PUSH HRA assessment website.)

3 Effects of the Plan

3.1 Background

Section 1.4 described the aims, objectives and geographic coverage of the plan. This chapter will consider the various options available in order to achieve these aims and objectives and, acknowledging that the plan is not necessary to European site management, state whether or not they are likely to have significant adverse effects on site integrity, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Site integrity can be described as follows:

“The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.”^{vi}

3.2 Consideration of Effects

All proposals have been screened for potential effects on the European sites in question (see appendix C).

The Council has not identified any proposals that may have a detrimental effect on these sites.

3.3 In Combination Test

Other plans and projects being implemented or prepared for in the area may also have the potential to cause negative effects on the integrity of European sites. These effects may be exacerbated when experienced in combination with the effects of the plan in question, possibly leading an insignificant effect to become significant. It is therefore important to consider what effects the plan could have in combination with other plans and projects.

It is not felt that there are any in combination effects from this or any other plan policies or programmes.

^{vi} ODPM (2005): *Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System.*

3.4 Screening Statement

Based on the information given above, it is Eastleigh Borough Council's considered opinion that the Bishopstoke Conservation Area Appraisal will not require full appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations in order to ascertain whether or not it will lead to significant adverse effects on site integrity, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

This opinion is subject to consultation with Natural England and other key stakeholders and the public, and may be revised in light of any comments given.

4 Conclusions

4.1 Summary

This document has set out the Council's statement on the need for Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Old Bursledon Conservation Area Appraisal. It is the Council's opinion that the plan will not lead to any adverse effects on the integrity of European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

4.2 Consultation Arrangements

This report is open to consultation between ?? to ??.

All responses to the consultation should be sent to:

Kitty Budden

Planning Policy and Design

Eastleigh Borough Council

Civic Offices

Leigh Road

Eastleigh

SO50 9YN

In responding to consultation, Eastleigh Borough Council would be grateful if respondents could pay regard to the following questions:

1. Are all relevant European sites with the potential to be affected by the plan identified within this report? Do you know of any others that should also be included?
2. Have the correct vulnerabilities and opportunities facing each European site been identified? Can you think of others that have not been listed?
3. Do you agree with the type of effects that are considered in the report? Is it possible that other effects could be experienced at the European sites in question as a result of the plan?
4. Are there other plans or projects that should be included for the 'in combination' assessment?
5. Do you agree with the screening statement?

Appendix A: Solent and Southampton Water SPA

Qualifying Features:

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*:

49 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997).

All sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the national Little Tern breeding population were selected after consideration.

The sites within the suite are distributed throughout the UK breeding range, from sites on the east coast of Scotland, to the west, east and south coasts of England. Most sites are multispecies SPAs, of importance also for a range of other breeding seabirds.

There is a very long recorded history of occupancy at some of these SPAs with records from the 19th century for a few sites, however, the historical impacts of disturbance, habitat change and past persecution mean that the locations of many colonies have changed.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*:

231 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997).

All sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the national Sandwich Tern breeding population were selected after consideration.

The sites within the suite are distributed throughout the breeding range of the population in the UK, and cover major population centres, from sites on the east coast of Scotland, to the west, east and south coasts of England, and three sites in Northern Ireland. All sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other breeding seabirds.

There is a very long recorded history of occupancy at some of these SPAs with records from the 19th century for a few sites, however, the historical impacts of disturbance, habitat change and, in the 19th century, persecution, mean that the exact locations of many colonies have changed.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*:

267 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997).

All sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the national Common Tern breeding population were selected after consideration.

The sites within the suite are distributed throughout the UK breeding range and cover the major population centres, including sites in Northern Ireland, North Wales, both the west and east coasts of Scotland, as well as the west, east and south coasts of England. Most sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other breeding seabirds.

There is a very long recorded history of occupancy at many of these SPAs with records from the 19th century for many sites.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*:

2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1994-1998).

All sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the national Mediterranean Gull breeding population were selected after consideration.

The sites within the suite include all regular breeding localities in the UK, including sites on the south and east coasts of England. All these sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other breeding seabirds.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*:

2 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997).

All seven sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the national Roseate Tern breeding population were selected after consideration.

The sites within the suite include most regular breeding localities in the UK, including all major sites in Northern Ireland, north Wales, Scotland, and England. All these sites are multispecies SPAs, of importance also for a range of other breeding seabirds.

There is a very long recorded history of occupancy at many of these sites with some records dating from the 19th century.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*:

1,125 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7).

All 12 sites in the UK supporting more than 1% of the international population were selected after consideration.

The sites include all the main non-breeding areas of Black-tailed Godwits in the UK, from the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary in eastern Scotland, to the main wintering areas on the west, east and south coasts of England, as well as in Northern Ireland. All sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds.

There is a long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*:

7,506 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7).

All sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the international population of Dark-bellied Brent Geese were selected after consideration.

The sites are distributed throughout the full range of the population in England, from the Humber in the north-east, to the Exe Estuary in the south-west. Most of the sites are multispecies SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds. There is a very long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*:

552 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7).

All 24 sites in the UK that support more than 1% of the international population of Ringed Plover in either the passage or winter periods were selected after consideration.

The sites within the suite are distributed throughout the range of the non-breeding population in the UK, including Northern Ireland, the Outer Hebrides, and sites along the south, east and west coasts of England, and South Wales. All sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds. There is a long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites.

Teal *Anas crecca*:

4,400 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7).

All eight sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the international population of Teal were selected after consideration.

The sites are distributed throughout the population's UK, from sites in Northern Ireland and Wales, to the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet in northern Scotland, to sites on the English south coast. All of the sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds. There is a long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites.

Conservation Objectives:

Medina estuary:

- Subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated: Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)
 - Neutral grassland
 - Fen, marsh and swamp
 - Broad-leaved woodland
 - Littoral sediment(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.

Yar estuary:

- Subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated: Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)
 - Grazing marsh comprising neutral grassland
 - Supra Littoral sediment
 - Littoral sediment
 - Coastal lagoon(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.

Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Boulder and cobble shores
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal sand and mudflat+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Boulder and cobble shores
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Lymington River Reedbeds:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Reedbed
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Reedbed

- Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Ryde Sands and Wooton Creek:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal and ringed plover.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal sand and mudflats*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Sowley Pond:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species +of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water+ teal.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Titchfield Haven:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Reedbeds and open water with marshy grassland and scrub+ common tern.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species +of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Reedbed and open water with marshy grassland and scrub+ teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Reedbed and open water with marshy grassland and scrub*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Hurst Castle and Lymington River:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal with saltmarsh and shingle+ mediterranean gull, sandwich tern, common tern and little tern.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal with saltmarsh and shingle
 - Grazing marsh
 - Permanent grassland+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal with saltmarsh and shingle
 - Grazing marsh
 - Permanent grassland
 - Reedbed/open water
 - Vegetated shingle
 - Saline lagoons*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Eling and Bury Marshes:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal mudflat
 - Saltmarsh and fringing habitats+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal mudflat
 - Saltmarsh and fringing habitats*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Hythe to Calshot Marshes:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

- Mixed sediment shores
 - + dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
 - To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
 - Mixed sediment shores
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

King's Quay Shore:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
 - + dark-bellied brent goose and teal.
 - To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen estuary:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Estuarine habitats
 - Intertidal mudflats and shingle
 - Coastal and inundation grasslands
 - + dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
 - To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Estuarine habitats
 - Intertidal mudflats and shingle
 - Coastal and inundation grasslands
 - Reedbeds
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Lincegrove to Hackett's Marshes:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:

- Estuarine and marginal habitats
 - + dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
 - To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Estuarine and marginal habitats
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Lower Test Valley:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Marshy grassland/fen meadow
 - Grazed swamp
 - Reedbed
 - Saltmarsh
 - + dark-bellied brent goose, teal ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
 - To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Marshy grassland/fen meadow
 - Grazed swamp
 - Reedbed
 - Saltmarsh
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Newtown Harbour:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Shingle
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
 - Shallow coastal waters
- + sandwich tern, common tern and mediterranean gull.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- + dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular

reference to:

- Coastal grassland
- Standing water
- Saltmarsh
- Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

North Solent:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Standing water
 - Shallow coastal waters
 - Shingle
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats+ mediterranean gull, sandwich tern, roseate tern, common tern and little tern.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Saltmarsh
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Thorness Bay:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Saltmarsh
 - Reedbeds
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
 - Mixed sediment shores+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Coastal grassland
 - Standing water
 - Saltmarsh
 - Reedbeds
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
 - Mixed sediment shores
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Upper Hamble estuary and woods:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Estuarine and marginal habitats+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.
 - To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Estuarine and marginal habitats
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges:

- To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
 - Boulder and cobble shores+ dark-bellied brent goose and ringed plover.
 - To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:
 - Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
 - Boulder and cobble shores
- *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Vulnerabilities:

- Water level management
- Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)
- Changes in flow velocity
- Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)
- Extent of suitable foraging habitat
- Changes in creek system pattern

- Coastal defences / coastal squeeze
- Sea level rise
- Sedimentation regime
- Physical loss - removal
- Physical loss - smothering
- Physical damage - abrasion/erosion
- Physical damage - selective extraction
- Non-physical disturbance - noise
- Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance
- Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds
- Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds
- Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading
- Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading
- Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction
- Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species
- Predation - domestic animals
- Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)
- Obstruction to sight lines
- Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats
- Food availability

Opportunities:

- Sensitive management of port operations (including dredging), recreation (on/off shore) and coastal defence.
- Implementation of management scheme for Solent complex of European marine sites (SEMS).
- Implementation of coastal initiatives including Shoreline Management Plan, Estuarine Management Plans, etc.

(All information taken from PUSH HRA assessment website.)

Appendix B: Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar.

Qualifying Features:

Ramsar criterion 1:

Several outstanding wetland habitat types, including unusual double tidal flow, a major sheltered channel, saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.

Ramsar criterion 2:

Nationally rare species assemblage.

Ramsar criterion 5:

Winter assemblage of 51,343 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99 - 2002/03).

Ramsar criterion 6:

Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*: Europe/Northwest Africa, 397 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the (on passage) GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3).

All 24 sites in the UK that support more than 1% of the international population of Ringed Plover in either the passage or winter periods were selected after consideration.

The sites within the suite are distributed throughout the range of the non-breeding population in the UK, including Northern Ireland, the Outer Hebrides, and sites along the south, east and west coasts of England, and South Wales. All sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds. There is a long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites.

Ramsar criterion 6:

Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*: Iceland/W Europe, 1,240 individuals, representing an average of 3.5% of the over-wintering GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).

All 12 sites in the UK supporting more than 1% of the international population were selected after consideration. The sites include all the main non-breeding areas of Black-tailed Godwits in the UK, from the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary in eastern Scotland, to the main wintering areas on the west, east and south coasts of England, as well as in Northern Ireland. All sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds. There is a long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites.

Ramsar criterion 6:

Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 6,456 individuals, representing an average of 3% of the over-wintering GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).

All sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the international population of Dark-bellied Brent Geese were selected after consideration. The sites are distributed throughout

the full range of the population in England, from the Humber in the north-east, to the Exe Estuary in the south-west. Most of the sites are multispecies SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds, although Portsmouth

Harbour has been selected solely for Dark-bellied Brent Geese. There is a very long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites.

Ramsar criterion 6:

Eurasian teal *Anas crecca*: NW Europe, 5,514 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB over-wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03).

All eight sites in the UK that were known to support more than 1% of the international population of Teal were selected after consideration. The sites are distributed throughout the population's UK, from sites in Northern Ireland and Wales, to the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet in northern Scotland, to sites on the English south coast. All of the sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds. There is a long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites.

Conservation Objectives:

See SPA listing.

Vulnerabilities:

- Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)
- Coastal defences / coastal squeeze
- Sea level rise
- Sedimentation regime
- Physical loss - removal
- Physical loss - smothering
- Physical damage - abrasion/erosion
- Physical damage - selective extraction
- Non-physical disturbance - noise
- Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance
- Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds
- Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds
- Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading
- Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading
- Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction
- Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species
- Predation - domestic animals
- Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)
- Obstruction to sight lines

- Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats
- Food availability

Opportunities:

See SPA listing.

(All information taken from PUSH HRA assessment website.)

Appendix C

Management proposal	Is there a risk to the protected sites?	Justification/evidence	Mitigation
Zone 1:			
<p>Boat moorings:</p> <p>Council will object to any proposals to increase no. of moorings in OBCA.</p>	No	Increased levels of moorings are likely to add to environmental pressure on the protected sites – the Council's stance will seek to protect these sites	N/a
<p>Marine industry development:</p> <p>The LPA will encourage marine industry to fully consider impact of expansion on conservation area and river ecology – proposals must be fully justified and explained</p>	No	The full exploration of expansion proposals before submission of a planning application should result in the identification of any issues likely to have a significant impact on the protected sites, allowing mitigation measures to be assessed/proposals amended or proposals discarded/refused	N/a
<p>Lands End Road waterfront properties:</p> <p>LPA will seek high quality design. Subdivision of plots/properties will be discouraged</p>	No	High quality design requires full exploration of the context of a site, which includes nature conservation issues. Subdivision would likely increase environmental pressure on protected sites – the Council's stance will seek to protect these sites.	N/a
<p>Lands End Road southwest properties:</p> <p>LPA will discourage intensification of</p>	No	Intensification of development likely to increase environmental pressure on protected sites – the Council's	N/a

development		stance will seek to protect these sites.	
Small marine business units: LPA will seek to encourage replacement buildings which are appropriately designed	No	Appropriately designed buildings in this area will need to take account of the environmental considerations of the protected sites and address these fully	N/a
Improvements to the foreshore: LPA will seek to negotiate landscape improvements to foreshore	No	Although a limited area of land, there is the potential for landscape works to enhance the ecological of the site	N/a
Maintenance of Blundell Lane Creek/marshland: Council will encourage EA to investigate fly-tipping	No	Reduction in fly-tipping likely to improve ecology of the creek/marshland	N/a
Future development along Blundell Lane: LPA will not permit intensification/urbanisation of land use	No	Intensification of land use likely to increase environmental pressure on protected sites – the Council's stance will seek to protect these sites	N/a
Zone 2:			
Control marine development: Council will ensure future development of boatyard carefully controlled and designed to be visually unobtrusive. Expansion of mooring pontoons will not be supported	No	Uncontrolled expansion likely to increase environmental pressure on protected sites – control will allow opportunity for careful assessment of risks prior to making a planning decision	N/a
Management of salt marshes: Council will support nature conservation management	No	Nature conservation strategies are intended to enhance protected sites	N/a

strategies to protect saltmarshes			
Zone 3:			
The garden of 'The Cottage', Station Hill: LPA will discourage development on this land	No	Size and location of plot means unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Boundary structures: LPA will advise residents on choice of suitable materials and styles	No	Location and nature of development unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Bursledon Station: Council will encourage owners to carry out maintenance of bridge and surroundings	No	Nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Zone 4:			
Extensions to the modern development: LPA will encourage high quality additions. Development that significantly increases urbanisation or has adverse impact on setting of church will not be supported.	No	Location and nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Zone 5:			
Parkland maintenance: Council will encourage retention and maintenance of historic parkland	No	Retention of parkland will assist in maintaining the natural dispersal of surface water into the watercourse	N/a
Mausoleum and graveyard: Council will encourage repair and maintenance of	No	Location and nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a

mausoleum and graveyard			
Wall around Greyladyes: Council will encourage repair and maintenance of Greyladyes estate boundary wall	No	Location and nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Zone 6:			
Maintenance of open spaces: Council will work with Parish Council to ensure continued maintenance of open space	No	Nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Roadside clutter: Council will seek street audit for Long Lane	No	No physical impact	N/a
Railings	No	Location and nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Schools: Council will encourage addition of trees and planting to boundary with Long Lane. LPA will work with education authority to achieve high quality design for future proposals	No	Additional planting unlikely to impact protected sites. High quality design will need to take account of the environmental considerations of the protected sites and address these fully	N/a
Zone 7:			
Maintenance of view point: Council will take advantage of opportunities to open up visual corridor	No	Nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Space of buildings:	No	Location and nature of works unlikely to impact	N/a

Planning proposals that close gaps between properties/affect setting will not be supported by LPA		protected sites	
Retention of historic features: planning applications that result in harm to/loss of historic features will not be supported by LPA	No	Location and nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a
Zone 8:			
Extensions to buildings: LPA will not permit development that would create a dwelling disproportionately larger than existing	No	Limit to size of dwelling likely to result in less open space/garden being lost, reducing issue of surface water runoff	N/a
Maintenance of Mallards Moor: Council will encourage maintenance of ancient woodland	No	Nature of works unlikely to impact protected sites	N/a

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