

Isle of Wight Council

**Isle of Wight Island
Planning Strategy
Habitat Regulations
Assessment**

Final report

Prepared by LUC

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Isle of Wight Council

Isle of Wight Island Planning Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Background

1.1 The Isle of Wight is a unitary authority and the largest island in England, with the second highest population. It is located in the English Channel, two miles off the coast of Hampshire, and separated from the mainland by the Solent.

1.2 The Isle of Wight Council has commissioned LUC to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its emerging new Local Plan, called the Island Planning Strategy, as described in **Chapter 2**.

1.3 This iteration of the HRA assesses the impacts of the Regulation 19 Island Planning Strategy and should be read in conjunction with this document. This report was originally prepared in 2022 and has been updated to reflect changes to the Island Planning Strategy and following additional discussions with Natural England.

Previous HRA work

1.4 The Island Plan Core Strategy was adopted by the Isle of Wight Council on 21 March 2012. This plan was subject to an HRA, which concluded that potential impacts to European sites resulting from the plan would be avoided and/or adequately mitigated for. No adverse effect on the integrity of these European sites was therefore concluded.

1.5 A Regulation 18 Draft Island Planning Strategy was previously prepared, which considered a higher quantum of growth and was subject to HRA Screening Assessment in 2018. The HRA concluded that *"the draft Island Planning Strategy will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects where effects have been considered."* However, uncertainty remained in relation to air quality and as such required further assessment to determine the potential impacts of the plan in relation to this. This current HRA report builds on and updates the assessment carried out

in the previous HRA in 2018 Island Planning Strategy.

1.6 In addition, and as detailed following consultation with Natural England, uncertainty remained with regards to impacts to water quality to Solent European Sites. The Council has undertaken further work in relation to this issue since the previous HRA, including the development of an Isle of Wight Council Position Statement¹ and preparation of a nutrient budget² for relevant sites.

The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

1.7 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in 2007³; the currently applicable version is the Habitats Regulations 2017⁴, as amended. When preparing the Island Planning Strategy, the Isle of Wight Council is therefore required by law to carry out an HRA. The Council can commission consultants to undertake HRA work on its behalf and this (the work documented in this report) is then reported to and considered by the Isle of Wight Council as the 'competent authority'. The Council will consider this work and would usually⁵ only progress a plan if it considers that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity⁶ of any 'European site', as defined below. The requirement for authorities to comply with the Habitats Regulations when preparing a plan is also noted in the Government's online Planning Practice Guidance⁷ (PPG).

1.8 HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more sites afforded the highest level of protection in the UK:

SPAs and SACs. These were classified under European Union (EU) legislation but since 1 January 2021 are protected in the UK by the Habitats Regulations 2017² (as amended). Although the EU Directives from which the UK's Habitats Regulations originally derived are no longer binding, the Regulations still make reference to the lists of habitats and species that the sites were designated for, which are listed in annexes to the EU Directives:

- SACs are designated for particular habitat types (specified in Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive⁸) and species (Annex II). The listed habitat types and species (excluding birds) are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level. Before EU exit day, designation of SACs also had regard to the coherence of the 'Natura 2000' network of European sites. After EU exit day, regard is had to the importance of such sites for the coherence of the UK's 'national site network'.
- SPAs are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (Annex I of the EU Birds Directive⁹), and for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I.

1.9 The term 'European sites' was previously commonly used in HRA to refer to 'Natura 2000' sites¹⁰ and Ramsar sites (internationally designated under the Ramsar Convention). However, a Government Policy Paper¹¹ on changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017 post-Brexit states that:

- Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refers to the new 'national site network'.

¹ Isle of Wight Council: Position Statement – Nitrogen Neutral Housing Development

² Isle of Wight Council (2022), Island Planning Strategy Evidence Paper: Nutrient and Phosphorous Budget 2022-2037.

³ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (2007) SI No. 2007/1843. TSO (The Stationery Office), London.

⁴ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (2017) SI No. 2017/1012, as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/579), TSO (The Stationery Office), London.

⁵ The exception to this would be where 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' can be demonstrated; see paragraph **Error! Reference source not found.**

⁶ 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 designated. (Source: UK Government Planning Practice Guidance)

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>

⁸ Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive')

⁹ Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the 'Birds Directive')

¹⁰ The network of protected areas identified by the EU:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017>

- The national site network includes existing SACs and SPAs; and new SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations.
- Designated Wetlands of International Importance (known as Ramsar sites) do not form part of the national site network. Many Ramsar sites overlap with SACs and SPAs and may be designated for the same or different species and habitats.

1.10 Although Ramsar sites do not form part of the new national site network, a Government Guidance¹² states that:

“Any proposals affecting the following sites would also require an HRA because these are protected by government policy:

- proposed SACs
- potential SPAs
- Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed)
- areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a European site.”

1.11 Furthermore, the NPPF¹³ and practice guidance¹⁴ currently state that competent authorities responsible for carrying out HRA should treat Ramsar sites in the same way as SACs and SPAs. The legislative requirement for HRA does not apply to other nationally designated wildlife sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserves.

1.12 For simplicity, this report uses the term 'European site' to refer to all types of designated site for which Government guidance¹⁵ requires an HRA.

1.13 The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or whole development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the European site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I

habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated). Significantly, HRA is based on the precautionary principle. Where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse effect should be assumed.

Stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.14 The HRA of development plans is undertaken in stages (as described below) and should conclude whether or not a proposal would adversely affect the integrity of the European site in question.

1.15 LUC has been commissioned by Isle of Wight Council to carry out HRA work on the Council's behalf, and the outputs will be reported to and considered by Isle of Wight Council, as the competent authority, before adopting the Plan.

1.16 The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body in order to obtain the necessary information, agree the process, outcomes and mitigation proposals. The Environment Agency, while not a statutory consultee for the HRA, is also in a strong position to provide advice and information throughout the process as it is required to undertake HRA for its existing licences and future licensing of activities.

Requirements of the Habitats Regulations

1.17 In assessing the effects of a Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'Habitats Regulations'), there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority: a 'Significance Test', followed if necessary by an Appropriate Assessment which would inform the 'Integrity Test'. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 105(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or

¹² Defra and Natural England (2021) Guidance - Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>

¹³ NPPF para 18776, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

¹⁴ The HRA Handbook, Section A3. David Tyllesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/European>

¹⁵ Defra and Natural England (2021) Guidance - Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>

necessary to the management of the sites. If not, proceed to Step 2.

- Step 2: Under Reg. 105(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the ‘Significance Test’). If yes, proceed to Step 3.

1.18 [Steps 1 and 2 are undertaken as part of Stage 1: HRA Screening, shown in Table 1.1.]

- Step 3: Under Reg. 105(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the European site in view of its current conservation objectives (the ‘Integrity Test’). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 105(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 105(3) to take the opinion of the general public.

1.19 [This step is undertaken during Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment, shown in Table 1.1.]

- Step 4: In accordance with Reg. 105(4), but subject to Reg. 107, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan would not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

1.20 [This step follows Stage 2 where a finding of ‘no adverse effect’ is concluded. If it cannot be it proceeds to Step 5 as part of Stage 3 of the HRA process]

- Step 5: Under Reg. 107, if Step 4 is unable to rule out adverse effects on the integrity of a European site and no alternative solutions exist then the competent authority may nevertheless agree to the plan or project if it must be carried out for ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’ (IROPI).

1.21 [This step is undertaken during Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation shown in Table 1.1]

Typical stages

1.22 Table 1.1 summarises the stages involved in carrying out an HRA, based on various guidance documents^{16,17}. This HRA presents the methodology and findings of Stage 1: Screening and Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

Table 1.1: Stages in HRA

Stage	Task	Outcome
Stage 1: Screening (the ‘Significance Test’)	<p>Description of the development plan and confirmation that it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.</p> <p>Identification of potentially affected European sites and their conservation objectives¹⁸.</p> <p>Review of other plans and projects.</p> <p>Assessment of likely significant effects of the development plan alone or in combination with other plans and projects, prior to consideration of avoidance or reduction (‘mitigation’) measures¹⁹.</p>	<p>Where effects are unlikely, prepare a ‘finding of no significant effect report’.</p> <p>Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2.</p>

¹⁶ UK Government Planning Practice Guidance, available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>

¹⁷ The HRA Handbook. David Tyllesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/>

¹⁸ Conservation objectives are published by Natural England for SACs and SPAs:

¹⁹ In line with the CJEU judgment in Case C-323/17 People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta, mitigation must only be taken into consideration at this stage and not during Stage 1: HRA Screening.

Stage	Task	Outcome
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (the 'Integrity Test')	Information gathering (development plan and data on European sites ²⁰). Impact prediction. Evaluation of development plan impacts in view of conservation objectives of European sites. Where impacts are considered to directly or indirectly affect qualifying features of European sites, identify how these effects will be avoided or reduced ('mitigation').	Appropriate Assessment report describing the plan, European site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the European site, how these effects will firstly be avoided and secondly reduced, including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures. If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered, proceed to Stage 3.
Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation	Identify and demonstrate 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI). Demonstrate no alternatives exist. Identify potential compensatory measures.	This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous.

1.23 In assessing the effects of the Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations (as amended), there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority: a 'Significance Test', followed, if necessary, by an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the 'Integrity Test'. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 105(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not:
- Step 2: Under Reg. 105(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the 'Significance Test'). [These two steps are undertaken as part of Stage 1: Screening shown in **Table 1.1** above.] If so:

- Step 3: Under Reg. 105(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of its current conservation objectives (the 'Integrity Test'). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 105(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 105(3) to take the opinion of the general public. [This step is undertaken during Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment shown in **Table 1.1**.]
- Step 4: In accordance with Reg.105(4), but subject to Reg.107, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.

1.24 It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the avoidance of likely significant effects at

²⁰ In addition to SAC and SPA citations and conservation objectives, key information sources for understanding factors contributing to the integrity of the sites include (where available) conservation objectives supplementary advice and Site Improvement Plans prepared by Natural England: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5458594975711232>

Stage 1, and through Appropriate Assessment at Stage 2 by the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid or reduce effects. The need to consider alternatives could imply more onerous changes to a plan document. It is generally understood that so called 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with the Government.

1.25 The HRA should be undertaken by the 'competent authority', in this case the Isle of Wight Council, and LUC has been commissioned to do this on its behalf. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body in order to obtain the necessary information and agree the process, outcomes and any mitigation proposals.

Case law changes

1.26 This HRA has been prepared in accordance with relevant case law findings, including most notably the 'People over Wind' and 'Holohan' rulings from the Court of Justice for the European Union (CJEU).

1.27 The *People over Wind*, *Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (April 2018) judgment ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive should be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures should be assessed as part of an Appropriate Assessment and should not be taken into account at the screening stage. The precise wording of the ruling is as follows:

"Article 6(3)must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site."

1.28 In light of the above, the HRA screening stage does not rely upon avoidance or mitigation measures to draw conclusions as to whether the Local Plan could result in likely significant effects on European sites. Instead, any such measures

are considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage, as relevant.

1.29 The approach to this HRA is also consistent with the *Holohan v An Bord Pleanala* (November 2018) CJEU judgement which stated that:

Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora must be interpreted as meaning that an 'appropriate assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that, where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the 'appropriate assessment' must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

1.30 In undertaking this HRA, LUC considered the potential for effects on species and habitats, including those not listed as qualifying features, to result in secondary effects upon the qualifying features of European sites, including the potential for complex interactions and dependencies. In addition, the potential for offsite impacts, such as through impacts to functionally linked land, and/or

species and habitats located beyond the boundaries of European site that may be important in supporting the ecological processes of the qualifying features, has also been fully considered in this HRA.

1.31 Similarly, effects on both qualifying and supporting habitats and species on functionally linked land (FLL) or habitat have been considered in the HRA, in line with the High Court judgment in *RSPB and others v Secretary of State and London Ashford Airport Ltd* [2014 EWHC 1523 Admin] (paragraph 27), which stated that:

“There is no authority on the significance of the non-statutory status of the FLL. However, the fact that the FLL was not within a protected site does not mean that the effect which a deterioration in its quality or function could have on a protected site is to be ignored. The indirect effect was still protected. Although the question of its legal status was mooted, I am satisfied that while no particular legal status attaches to FLL, the fact that land is functionally linked to protected land means that the indirectly adverse effects on a protected site, produced by effects on FLL, are scrutinised in the same legal framework just as are the direct effects of acts carried out on the protected site itself. That is the only sensible and purposive approach where a species or effect is not confined by a line on a map or boundary fence. This is particularly important where the boundaries of designated sites are drawn tightly as may be the UK practice.”

1.32 In addition to this, the HRA takes into consideration the ‘Wealden’ judgement from the CJEU.

1.33 *Wealden District Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority* (2017) ruled that it was not appropriate to scope out the need for a detailed assessment for an individual plan or project based on the annual average daily traffic (AADT) figures detailed in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges or the critical loads used by Defra or Environmental Agency without considering the in-combination impacts with other plans and projects.

1.34 In light of this judgement, the HRA therefore considers traffic growth based on the effects of development from the Local Plan in combination with other drivers of growth such as development proposed in neighbouring districts and demographic change.

1.35 The HRA also takes into account the *Grace and Sweetman* (July 2018) judgement from the CJEU which stated that:

“there is a distinction to be drawn between protective measures forming part of a project and intended avoid or reduce any direct adverse effects that may be caused by the project in order to ensure that the project does not adversely affect the integrity of the area, which are covered by Article 6(3), and measures which, in accordance with Article 6(4), are aimed at compensating for the negative effects of the project on a protected area and cannot be taken into account in the assessment of the implications of the project”.

“As a general rule, any positive effects of the future creation of a new habitat, which is aimed at compensating for the loss of area and quality of that habitat type in a protected area, are highly difficult to forecast with any degree of certainty or will be visible only in the future”

“A mitigation strategy may only be taken into account at AA (a.6(3)) where the competent authority is “sufficiently certain that a measure will make an effective contribution to avoiding harm, guaranteeing beyond all reasonable doubt that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the area

- Otherwise it falls to be considered to be a compensatory measure to be considered under a.6(4) only where there are “imperative reasons of overriding public interest”

1.36 The Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan therefore only considers the existence of measures to avoid or reduce its direct adverse effects (mitigation) if the expected benefits of those measures are beyond reasonable doubt at the time of the assessment.

Structure of this report

1.37 This chapter (**Chapter 1**) described the background to the production of the Island

Planning Strategy and the requirement to undertake HRA. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2: Isle of Wight Island Planning Strategy** summarises the content of the Island Planning Strategy, which is the subject of this report
- **Chapter 3: Method** sets out the approach used and the specific tasks undertaken during the screening and Appropriate Assessment stages of the HRA.
- **Chapter 4: Screening Assessment** describes the findings of the screening stage of the HRA.
- **Chapter 5: Appropriate Assessment** describes the findings of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.
- **Chapter 6: Conclusions and Next Steps** summarises the HRA conclusions for the Island Planning Strategy and describes the next steps to be undertaken.

Chapter 2

Isle of Wight Island Planning Strategy

Characteristics of the Island Planning Strategy relevant to the HRA

2.1 The Isle of Wight Council is producing a new plan, the Island planning Strategy, which, once adopted, will replace the Island Plan Core Strategy (2012) and form part of the development plan for the Isle of Wight. The Island Planning Strategy will contain strategic policies, allocations, area-based policies and development management policies.

2.2 The Island Planning Strategy will be a key document in the delivery of the council's Regeneration Strategy and Housing Strategy. The new planning strategy will help to identify development needs, and any areas within the Island which need improvement or protection from future development. The Island Planning Strategy will be vital in influencing the determination of planning applications and guiding of investment across the Island and will replace the current Core Strategy.

2.3 The Isle of Wight Council published a Corporate Plan in late 2021 that sets out strategic priorities and direction for the Isle of Wight as a whole. These strategic priorities are set with the clear aim of working together openly with communities to support and sustain the island economy, environment and people.

2.4 The Corporate Plan outlines:

"We want the Isle of Wight to be a place where everyone:

- can develop their skills and fulfil their potential.
- is part of the community and enjoys good health.
- enjoys the benefits of a green and thriving economy.

- Understands the work of the council and the challenges it faces."

2.5 To ensure consistency throughout the council's key plans and strategies, this corporate vision will be used across all Council documents, including the Island Planning Strategy. The Corporate Plan also sets out three key areas of action, together with 51 specific aspirations spread across all eight portfolio areas. The three key areas of action are:

- "Provision of affordable housing for Island residents.
- Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere.
- Economic recovery."

2.6 Some of the relevant aspirations are reproduced below and in combination with the key areas of action these help to inform the strategic policy priorities for the Island Planning Strategy.

- Embed both the biosphere and the climate change strategy into policy, including the Island Plan.
- Support and enhance our biosphere and National Landscape areas. Support the active management and development of biosphere status and secure dark sky status.
- Commit to develop sustainable transport options with a focus on infrastructure to encourage active travel.
- Promote the building of affordable supported social retirement housing to ensure residents maintain their independence for as long as possible.
- Housing that is created must be housing fit for purpose. We will prioritise truly affordable housing for Island residents, meaning housing that is not just affordable to rent or buy but affordable to live in and maintain.
- Wherever possible bring appropriate empty and derelict buildings back into use for affordable housing.
- Use the recent brownfield site data to identify housing opportunities.

- Only develop greenfield sites when absolutely necessary (in respect of greenfield sites not already allocated in the IPS).
- Complete key regeneration projects to drive employment, skills and inward investment.
- Use available powers to deal with long term empty or derelict buildings that mar our seafront and town centre areas.
- Focus on regenerating our High Street and visitor economy to assist post COVID-19 recovery and growth.
- Promote people-oriented place planning for town centres.

2.7 As a result, three overarching strategic policies have been included in the Island Planning Strategy that reflect the corporate aspirations and also many of the comments received during the two public consultation exercises carried out on draft versions of the IPS in 2018 and 2021. These policies cover Climate Change (CC1), Affordable Housing (AFF1) and Infrastructure (INF1) and all development coming forward during the plan period will be expected to align with these overarching strategic policies.

2.8 The plan sets out a number of strategic and development management-style policies and a number of site allocations. These are presented in themed chapters:

- Section 4: Environment
- Section 5: Community
- Section 6: Growth
- Section 7: Housing
- Section 8: Economy
- Section 9: Transport
- Section 10: Delivery, Monitoring and Review

2.9 The distribution of site allocations across the plan area is shown in **Figure 1** in **Appendix A** to this HRA report.

Chapter 3

Method

3.1 The HRA of the Island Planning Strategy consists of two stages:

- Screening Assessment.
- Appropriate Assessment.

3.2 The methodology undertaken for the HRA is set out in more detail below.

Screening Assessment

3.3 HRA Screening of the plan was undertaken in line with current available guidance and the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. The tasks that were undertaken during the screening stage of the HRA and the conclusions reached are described in detail below. This section of the HRA report sets out policies and impact types for which likely significant effects are predicted or cannot be ruled out prior to mitigation and avoidance measures.

3.4 The purpose of the screening stage is to:

- Identify all aspects of the plan that would have no effect on a European site. These can be eliminated from further consideration in respect of this and other plans.
- Identify all aspects of the plan that would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site (i.e. would have some effect because of links/connectivity, but effects is not significant), either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects. These do not require 'Appropriate Assessment'.
- Identify those aspects of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This provides a clear scope for the parts of the plan that will require Appropriate Assessment.

Identifying European sites that may be affected and their conservation objectives

3.5 As a first step to identifying European sites that could potentially be affected by a development, it is established practice in HRA to consider sites within the local planning authority area covered by the plan, and other sites that may be affected beyond this area.

3.6 A distance of 15km from the boundary of the plan area is typically used in the first instance to identify European sites with the potential to be affected by the proposals within a development plan. Consideration is then given to whether any more distant European sites may be connected to the plan area via effects pathways, for example through hydrological links or recreational visits by residents. The 15km distance has been agreed with Natural England for HRAs elsewhere and is considered precautionary. All European sites within 15km were assessed in this HRA. There were no European sites identified within 15km that were scoped out of the assessment due to a lack of effects pathway. In addition, the River Itchen SAC, located over 15km from the plan area, was scoped into this HRA due to the Isle of Wight’s hydrological reliance on water sources that are abstracted from the River Itchen.

3.7 The assessment also takes into account areas that may be functionally linked to the European sites. The term ‘functional linkage’ is used to refer to the role or ‘function’ that land beyond the boundary of a European site might fulfil in terms of supporting the species populations for which the site was designated or classified. Such an area is therefore ‘linked’ to the site in question because it provides a (potentially important) role in

Table 3.1: European sites within 15km of the Isle of Wight

European Site	Closest Distance / Location from the Isle of Wight
SAC	
Briddlesford Copses	0km (within IoW)
Isle of Wight Downs	0km (within IoW)

maintaining or restoring a protected population at favourable conservation status.

3.8 While the boundary of a European site will usually be drawn to include key supporting habitat for a qualifying species, this cannot always be the case where the population for which a site is designated or classified is particularly mobile. Individuals of the population will not necessarily remain in the site all the time. Sometimes, the mobility of qualifying species is considerable and may extend so far from the key habitat that forms the SAC or SPA that it would be entirely impractical to attempt to designate or classify all of the land or sea that may conceivably be used by the species²¹. HRA therefore considers whether any European sites make use of functionally linked habitats and the impacts that could affect those habitats.

3.9 European sites identified for inclusion in the HRA are listed below in **Table 3.1** and **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**. Detailed information about each European site is provided in **Appendix B**, described with reference to Standard Data Forms for the SPAs and SACs, and Natural England’s Site Improvement Plans²². Natural England’s conservation objectives²³ for the SPAs and SACs have also been reviewed. These state that site integrity must be maintained or restored by maintaining or restoring the habitats of qualifying features, the supporting processes on which they rely, and populations of qualifying species.

²¹ CHAPMAN, C. & TYLDESLEY, D. 2016. Functional linkage: How areas that are functionally linked to European sites have been considered when they may be affected by plans and projects - a review of authoritative decisions. Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 207

²² Obtained from the Natural England website (www.naturalengland.org.uk)

²³ Obtained from Natural England website <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

European Site	Closest Distance / Location from the Isle of Wight
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	0km (within IoW)
Solent Maritime	0km (adjacent) / North
South Wight Maritime	0km (adjacent) / South
New Forest	6.6km / North
Dorset Heaths	13.3km / North-west
River Avon	14.7km / North-west
River Itchen	19.3km / North
SPA	
Solent and Dorset Coast	1.3km / North
Solent & Southampton Water	5.8km / North
Portsmouth Harbour	6.6km / North
New Forest	9.9km / North-west
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	13.3km / North-east
Dorset Heathlands	14.8km / North-west
Avon Valley	14.7km / North-west
Ramsar	
Solent & Southampton Water	1.3km
Portsmouth Harbour	5.8km / North
New Forest	6.6km / North
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	9.9km / North-east
Avon Valley	14.7km / North-west

Assessment of 'likely significant effects' of the Island Planning Strategy

3.10 As required under Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017²⁴ (as amended), an assessment has been undertaken of the 'likely significant effects' of the plan. The assessment has been prepared in order to identify which policies or site allocations would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites. The screening assessment has been conducted without taking mitigation into account, in accordance with the 'People over Wind' judgment.

3.11 Consideration was given to the potential for the development proposed to result in significant effects associated with:

- Physical loss or damage to habitat.
- Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution).
- Air pollution.
- Recreational pressure.
- Changes to hydrology, including water quantity and quality.

²⁴ SI No. 2017/2012

3.12 This thematic/ impact category approach also allowed for consideration to be given to the cumulative effects of the site allocations rather than focussing exclusively on individual developments provided for by the plan.

3.13 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle was adopted in the assessment, such that a conclusion of ‘no significant effect’ was only reached where it was considered unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a development plan policy or site allocation would have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site.

3.14 A screening matrix was prepared (**Appendix C**), to document consideration of the potential for likely significant effects resulting from each policy and site allocation in the plan.

3.15 For some types of impacts, the potential for likely significant effects was determined on a proximity basis. This approach and the assumptions applied are described in more detail in **Chapter 4**.

Interpretation of 'likely significant effects'

3.16 Relevant case law helps to interpret when effects should be considered as a likely significant effect, when carrying out HRA of a land use plan.

3.17 In the Waddenzee case²⁵, the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (translated into Reg. 102 in the Habitats Regulations), including that:

An effect should be considered ‘likely’, “if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site” (para 44). An effect should be considered ‘significant’, “if it undermines the conservation objectives” (para 48). Where a plan or project has an effect on a site “but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned” (para 47).

3.18 A relevant opinion delivered to the Court of Justice of the European Union commented that:

“The requirement that an effect in question be ‘significant’ exists in order to lay down a de minimis threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on the site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill.”

3.19 This opinion (the ‘Sweetman’ case) therefore allows for the authorisation of plans and projects whose possible effects, alone or in combination, can be considered ‘trivial’ or de minimis; referring to such cases as those “*that have no appreciable effect on the site*”. In practice such effects could be screened out as having no likely significant effect – they would be ‘insignificant’.

3.20 The HRA screening assessment therefore considers whether the Local Plan policies could have likely significant effects either alone or in combination.

Mitigation provided by the plan

3.21 Some of the potential effects of the plan could be mitigated through the implementation of other policies in the plan itself, such as the provision of green infrastructure within new developments (which could help mitigate increased pressure from recreation activities at European sites). Nevertheless, in accordance with the ‘People over Wind’ judgment, avoidance and mitigation measures cannot be relied upon at the Screening Stage, and therefore, where such measures exist, they were considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage for impacts and policies where likely significant effects, either alone or in combination, could not be ruled out.

Assessment of potential in-combination effects

3.22 Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 requires an Appropriate Assessment where “*a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination*

²⁵ ECJ Case C-127/02 “Waddenzee” Jan 2004.

with other plans or projects) and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site". Therefore, where likely insignificant effects are identified for the Local Plan alone, it is necessary to consider whether these may become significant effects in combination with other plans or projects.

3.23 Where the Local Plan is likely to have an effect on its own e.g. due to water pollution (due to impact pathways being present), but it is not likely to be significant, the in-combination assessment at Screening stage will need to determine whether there may also be the same types of effect from other plans or projects that could combine with the Local Plan to produce a significant effect. If so, this likely significant effect (e.g. water pollution) arising from the Local Plan in combination with other plans or projects, would then need to be considered through the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine if water pollution would have an adverse effect on integrity of the relevant European site. Where the Screening assessment has concluded that there is no impact pathway between development proposed in the Local Plan and the conditions necessary to maintain qualifying features of a European site, then there will be no in-combination effects to assess at the Screening or Appropriate Assessment stage. This approach accords with recent guidance on HRA²⁶.

3.24 If impact pathways are found to exist for a particular effect but it is not likely to be significant from the Local Plan alone, the in-combination assessment will identify which other plans and programmes could result in the same impact on the same European site. This will focus on planned growth (including housing, employment, transport, minerals and waste) around the affected site, or along the impact corridor, for example, if impacts could arise as a result of changes to a waterway, then planned growth in local authorities along that waterway will be considered.

3.25 The potential for in-combination impacts will therefore focus on plans prepared by local authorities that overlap with European sites that

are within the scope of this HRA. The findings of any associated HRA work for those plans will be reviewed where available. Where relevant, any strategic projects in the area that could have in-combination effects with the Local Plan will also be identified and reviewed.

3.26 The online HRA Handbook suggests the following plans and projects may be relevant to consider as part of the in-combination assessment:

- Applications lodged but not yet determined, including refusals subject to an outstanding appeal or legal challenge;
- Projects subject to periodic review e.g. annual licences, during the time that their renewal is under consideration;
- Projects authorised but not yet started;
- Projects started but not yet completed;
- Known projects that do not require external authorisation;
- Proposals in adopted plans; and
- Proposals in draft plans formally published or submitted for final consultation, examination or adoption.

3.27 The need for in-combination assessment also arises at the Appropriate Assessment stage, as discussed in the Appropriate Assessment Chapter below.

Appropriate Assessment

3.28 Following the Screening stage, if likely significant effects on European sites are unable to be ruled out, the plan-making authority is required under Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations to make an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the plan for European sites, in view of their conservation objectives. Appropriate Assessment should consider the impacts of the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of European sites with respect to their conservation objectives and to their structure and function²⁷. This includes

²⁶ The HRA Handbook. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document [online] Available at: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/European>

²⁷ Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European sites.

Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.

consideration of plans and projects with the potential for in-combination effects, where relevant.

Assessing the effects on site integrity

3.29 A site's integrity depends on it being able to sustain its 'qualifying features' (i.e. the habitats and species for which it has been designated) and to ensure their continued viability. The Holohan judgement also clarifies that effects on species and habitats not listed as qualifying features, but which could result in secondary effects upon the qualifying features of European sites also need to be considered. The Appropriate Assessment therefore built upon the information set out in **Appendix B** of this report to consider the characteristics of supporting habitats and species that could be affected by impacts identified at the Screening stage.

3.30 A high degree of integrity at a site is considered to exist where the potential to meet a site's conservation objectives is realised and where the site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management support.

3.31 A conclusion needs to be reached as to whether or not a plan would adversely affect the integrity of any European site. Assessing the effects on the site(s) integrity involves considering whether the predicted impacts of the plan policies and/or site allocations (either alone or in combination) have the potential to:

- Cause delays to the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Interrupt progress towards the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site.
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.
- Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem.
- Change the dynamics of relationships that define the structure or function of the site (e.g.

relationships between soil and water, or animals and plants).

- Interfere with anticipated natural changes to the site.
- Reduce the extent of key habitats or the population of key species.
- Reduce the diversity of the site.
- Result in disturbance that could affect the population, density or balance between key species.
- Result in fragmentation.
- Result in the loss of key features.²⁸

3.32 The conservation objectives for each SAC and SPA (as set out in **Appendix B**) are generally to maintain the qualifying features in favourable condition. Natural England does not define conservation objectives for Ramsar sites, but these can often be inferred from those for co-located SAC or SPA features. The Site Improvement Plans for each site provide a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the designated features on the site(s) and outline the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. An Appropriate Assessment draws on these to help to understand what is needed to maintain the integrity of the European sites.

3.33 For each European site where an uncertain or likely significant effect was identified in relation to the plan, the Appropriate Assessment sets out the potential impacts and makes a judgement (based on the information available) on whether the impact will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site. Consideration was given to the potential for mitigation measures to be implemented that could reduce the likelihood or severity of the potential impacts such that there would not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.

²⁸ Ibid.

Chapter 4

Screening assessment

4.1 As described in the Method chapter, a Screening assessment was carried out in order to identify the likely significant effects of the Island Planning Strategy on the scoped-in European sites. The full Screening matrix, which sets out the decision-making process used for this assessment can be found in **Appendix C** and the findings are summarised below.

HRA Screening of policies

No 'likely significant effect' predicted

4.2 The following policies are not expected to result in development and therefore will not result in significant effects on European sites:

- CC1: Climate Change
- AFF1 Isle of Wight Affordable Housing
- INF1 Infrastructure
- EV1: Conserving and Enhancing our Historic Environment
- EV7: Local Green Spaces
- EV8: Protecting High Grade Agricultural Land
- EV9: Protecting our Landscapes and Seascapes
- EV10: Preserving Settlement Identity
- EV11: Isle of Wight AONB
- EV12: Dark Skies
- EV15: Monkton Mead Catchment Area
- EV17: Facilitating Relocation from Coastal Change Management Areas
- EV18: Improving Resilience to Coastal Flooding and Coastal Risks
- EV19: Managing Ground Instability in New Development
- C1: High Quality Design for New Development
- C2: Improving our Public Realm

- C3: Improving Our Health and Wellbeing
- C5: Facilitating Independent Living
- C11: Net Zero Carbon and Lowering Energy Consumption in New Development
- C12: Utility Infrastructure Requirements for New Development
- C13: Maintaining Key Utility Infrastructure
- C14: Providing Social and Community Infrastructure
- C15: Community-led Planning
- G1: Our Approach Towards Sustainable Development and Growth
- G3: Developer Contributions
- G4: Managing Viability
- G5: Ensuring Planning Permissions are Delivered
- H3: Housing Development General Requirements
- H5: Delivering Affordable Housing
- H6: Housing in the countryside
- H7: Rural and First Homes Exception Sites
- H8: Ensuring the Right Mix of Housing
- H10: Self and Custom Build
- H11: Planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople provision
- E2: Sustainable Economic Development
- E3: Upskilling the Island
- E5: Maintaining Employment Sites with Water Access on the River Medina
- E6: Future Proofing Digital Infrastructure
- E8: Supporting High Quality Tourism
- E9: Short Term Let Holiday Accommodation
- E12 Solent Freeport
- T3: Cross-Solent Transport
- T4: Supporting Our Rail Network
- T6: Parking Provision in New Development

4.3 The following policies will not result in development and will contribute to ensuring the safeguarding of European sites:

- EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement
- EV3: Recreation Impact on the Solent Marine Sites
- EV3: Water Quality Impact on Solent Marine Sites
- EV5: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
- EV6: Protecting and Providing Green and Open Spaces
- EV13: Managing our Water Resources
- EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development
- EV16: Managing our Coast
- T1: Supporting Sustainable Transport
- T2: A Better Connected Island
- T5: Electric Vehicle Charging

Policies resulting in development or with potential pathways to European sites where the scale and location of the impact is negligible, or the effect is insignificant both alone and in combination.

4.4 The following policies could result in some development, but the development arising would be either located away from sensitive European sites within the urban area or would be so small in scale that they would neither be expected to contribute significantly to increased vehicle traffic, recreation pressure or changes to water quantity and quality individually or in combination with other elements of the Island Planning Strategy or other plans and projects:

- C6: Providing Annex Accommodation
- C7: Delivering Locality Hubs
- C8: Facilitating a Blue Light Hub
- C9: Education Provision
- H4: Infill Opportunities outside Settlement Boundaries

- H9: New Housing on Previously Developed Land

Likely significant effects predicted

4.5 The following policies are highlighted as having potential impact pathways to European sites and likely significant effects cannot be ruled out:

- C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map)
- C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies
- G2: Priority Locations for Development and Growth
- H1: Planning for Housing Delivery
- H2: Sites Allocated for Housing
- KPS1: Key Priority Site 1: HA39 Camp Hill
- KPS2: Key Priority Site 2: HA44 Newport Harbour
- E1: Supporting and Growing our Economy
- EA1: Employment Allocation Land to the east of Pan Lane
- EA2: Employment allocation at Nicholson Road, Ryde
- EA3: Employment allocation at Somerton Farm, Cowes
- EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes
- EA5: Employment allocation at Lowtherville, Ventnor
- EA6: Employment allocation at Sandown Airport, Sandown
- E4: Supporting the Rural Economy
- E7: Supporting and Improving our Town Centres
- E10: The Bay Tourism Opportunity Area
- E11: Ryde Tourism Opportunity Zones

HRA Screening of Impacts

4.6 For some types of impacts, Screening for likely significant effects was determined on a proximity basis, using GIS data to determine the distance of

potential development locations to the European sites that were the subject of the assessment. However, there are many uncertainties associated with using set distances as there are very few standards available as a guide to how far impacts will travel. Therefore, during the Screening stage a number of assumptions were applied in relation to assessing the likely significant effects on European sites that may result from the plan, as described below.

Physical Damage and Loss (onsite)

4.7 Any development resulting from the plan would take place within the boundary of Isle of Wight; therefore, only European sites within the boundary could be affected by physical damage or loss of habitat within the site boundaries. The HRA identified the following European sites within the boundary of the Isle of Wight:

- Bridesford Copses SAC.
- Isle of Wight Downs SAC.
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoon SAC.
- Solent Maritime SAC.
- South Wight Maritime SAC.
- Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar.
- Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

4.8 A total of three large sites with planning permission were identified to partially lie within the boundaries of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA. These were:

- P/00496/16: Medina Yard,
- P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way,
- P/00102/14: Folly Works.

4.9 In addition, one housing allocation, HA120: Land at Red Funnel, was identified to partially lie within the boundaries of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA. Further assessment was required at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine the potential impacts of these sites in

relation to physical damage and loss and whether mitigation measures were required.

4.10 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur at Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA in relation to physical damage and loss and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Physical Damage and Loss – Functionally Linked Land (Offsite)

4.11 Habitat loss from development in areas outside of the European site boundaries may result in likely significant effects where that habitat contributes towards maintaining the interest feature for which the European site is designated. This includes land which may provide offsite movement corridors or feeding and sheltering habitat for mobile species such as bats, birds and fish. European sites susceptible to the indirect effects of habitat loss are restricted to those sites with qualifying species that rely on offsite habitat. These were identified as:

- Briddlesford Copses SAC.
- Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.
- Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

4.12 Natural England has advised that their recognised distance for the consideration of offsite functionally linked land in relation to birds is generally 2km, but for certain species, including most notably, golden plover and lapwing, a greater distance of 15km may be appropriate. These buffers have been considered in relation to Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, which are designated for supporting qualifying bird species. These buffers were not applied to the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, given the nature of the qualifying birds species, which are solely reliant on habitat along the coastline for breeding and sea habitat for foraging and as such a 2km was not considered appropriate for this European site.

4.13 All other European sites were screened out of the assessment as they do not support qualifying features that are reliant on offsite functionally linked habitat on the Island and/or were not functionally connected to the Isle of Wight due to the separation and distance of designated sites on the mainland by the Solent.

Briddlesford Copses SAC

4.14 Briddlesford Copses SAC is designated for supporting an important breeding population of Bechstein's bats. This is a mobile species, which relies on woodland habitat within the SAC and functionally linked woodland habitat in the wider area, which provides important foraging habitat for this species. This species is primarily associated with woodland, particularly ancient woodland habitat.

4.15 Following a review of data sources, it was identified that this species travels within a Core Sustenance Zone (CSZ) of 3km²⁹. This CSZ was determined by an extensive literature review and refers to the area surrounding a bat roost for Bechstein's bats within which habitat availability and quality will have a significant influence on the resilience and conservation of the bat colony using the roost. Since the completion of this assessment in 2022, data sources have been updated³⁰, which revised the CSZ for Bechstein's bats to 1km. In line with a precautionary approach this HRA has continued to apply a CSZ of 3km for this species.

4.16 One housing allocation and three large sites with planning permission were also located within 3km of the SAC. These were HA055: Old Hosiden Besson site, Binstead Road, P/00741/18, 23/00765/RES: Palmers Farm, Brocks Copse Road, P/00164/17, 21/00964/FUL: Land at Ryde House, Binstead Road and 21/01796/OUT: Land at and Rear of 69 And Part OS 8361 Station Road. Further assessment was required at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine the potential impacts of these sites in relation to offsite functional habitat damage and loss and whether mitigation measures were required.

²⁹ Collins, J. (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

³⁰ Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

4.17 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur at Briddlesford Copses in relation to off-site functional habitat loss and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar site

4.18 Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar site is located along the coastline adjacent to the Isle of Wight in the north and is designated for a range of qualifying bird species (excluding golden plover and lapwing), which rely on offsite functional habitat. Based on Natural England's recognised distances, a 2km buffer was applied to identify site allocations with potential to affect the SPA and Ramsar.

4.19 A review of proposed development within the plan identified 24 housing allocations, 30 large sites with planning permission and four employment allocations with 2km of the SPA and Ramsar. Details of the site allocations identified are provided in **Appendix D**

4.20 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to off-site functional habitat loss and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

4.21 Solent and Dorset Coast SPA is located along the coastline bordering the Isle of Wight in the north, east and west. This SPA is designated for three qualifying bird species: little, sandwich and common tern. These species typically rely on suitable beach habitat along coastline for breeding and depend on sea habitat for foraging. They are rarely recorded inland. Therefore, only proposed development sites adjacent to the SPA were considered in this assessment.

4.22 A review of proposed development within the plan identified three housing allocations, four large sites with planning permission and one employment allocation adjacent to the SPA. Detail of the site allocations identified are provided in **Appendix D**.

4.23 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to off-site functional habitat loss and therefore this effect is

considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Non-physical disturbance

4.24 Noise and vibration effects, e.g. during the construction of new housing or employment development, are most likely to disturb bird species and are thus a key consideration with respect to European sites where these species are the qualifying features. Artificial lighting at night (e.g. from streetlamps, flood lighting and security lights) has the potential to affect species where it occurs in close proximity to key habitat areas, such as movement or foraging of SAC bats and key roosting sites for SPA birds.

4.25 It has been assumed that the effects of noise, vibration and light are most likely to be significant within a distance of 500 metres. There is also evidence of 300 metres being used as a distance up to which certain bird species can be disturbed by the effects of noise; however, it has been assumed (on a precautionary basis) that the effects of noise, vibration and light pollution are capable of causing an adverse effect if development takes place within 500 metres of a European site with qualifying features sensitive to these disturbances. European sites susceptible to non-physical disturbance from proposed development were identified as:

- Briddlesford Copses SAC.
- Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.
- Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

4.26 All other European sites are located over 500m from the Isle of Wight boundary at the closest point and/or do not support mobile species likely to be significantly affected as a result of non-physical disturbance.

Briddlesford Copses SAC

4.27 Briddlesford Copses SAC lies within the Isle of Wight and supports Bechstein's bats, which are susceptible to impacts from non-physical disturbance, particularly in relation to lighting which can cause a barrier to the dispersal of this species from their roosts to important foraging habitats.

4.28 A review of site allocations identified no proposed allocations within 500m of the SAC and therefore no likely significant effects were predicted within the SAC itself as a result of non-physical disturbance.

4.29 However, there is potential for non-physical disturbance to occur in relation to offsite functional habitat that the qualifying Bechstein's bat species relies on to disperse and forage. As detailed in the section above on physical damage and loss, a buffer of 3km was applied in this assessment.

4.30 A review of site allocations identified three large sites with planning permission within 3km of the SAC:

- P/00741/18, 23/00765/RES: Palmers Farm, Brocks Copse Road
- P/00164/17, 21/00964/FUL: Land at Ryde House, Binstead Road
- 21/01796/OUT: Land at and Rear of 69 And Part OS 8361 Station Road.

4.31 Further assessment was required at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine the potential impacts of these site allocations in relation to non-physical damage and loss to offsite functional habitat and whether mitigation measures are required.

4.32 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to non-physical disturbance for offsite functional habitat and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site

4.33 The SPA and Ramsar site designations support a range of qualifying bird species that are susceptible to impacts from non-physical disturbance, such as disturbance from noise, vibration and increased lighting.

4.34 A review of site allocations identified the following housing and employment allocations within 500m of the SPA and Ramsar site:

- HA032: Land at Horsebridge Hill & Acorn Farm (Ramsar only)
- HA037: Former Library HQ, land adjacent St Marys Hospital

- HA044: Newport Harbour
- HA064: Land north of Mill Road and east of High Street
- HA065: Land east of Hillway Road and south of Steyne Road
- P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way
- P/00102/14: Folly Works
- 20/00124/FUL: Westridge Cross Dairy and land to the north of Bullen Road, Ryde
- P/00402/18: West Bay Club, Halletts Shute
- P/00941/16: Maresfield Road, Land west of Castle Street
- P/00637/14: Sites at The Duver Marina and Bembridge Marina
- P00496/18: Medina Yard
- EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes.

4.35 In addition, there is potential for impacts to occur in relation to offsite functionally linked land, which is regularly used by qualifying bird species for foraging and roosting. As detailed above under 'Physical Damage and Loss', in accordance with advice provided by Natural England a 2km buffer has been applied in this assessment. This identified 24 housing allocations, 30 large sites with planning permission and four employment allocations within this buffer that have potential to result in impacts from non-physical disturbance to habitats supporting overwintering bird species within or adjacent to these site allocations.

4.36 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to non-physical disturbance and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

4.37 The SPA supports qualifying bird species that are susceptible to impacts from non-physical disturbance, such as disturbance from noise, vibration and increased lighting.

4.38 A review of site allocations identified the following housing and employment allocations within 500m of the SPA and Ramsar site:

- HA002: Land and School buildings at Weston Primary School, Weston Road
- HA006: Heathfield Campsite, Heathfield Road
- HA120: Land at Red Funnel
- P/01052/18, 22/01254/RVC: 23 Stonehaven residential care home, Carter Street
- 20/00455/FUL: Old Town Hall, Grafton Street
- P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way
- P/00941/16: Maresfield Road, Land west of Castle Street
- P/00496/16: Land between Nettlestone Hill and Seaview
- P/00102/14: Folly Works
- P/00637/14: Sites at The Duver Marina and Bembridge Marina
- P00496/18: Medina Yard

4.39 The qualifying bird species of the SPA are reliant on habitat along the coastline, such as shingle beaches, for breeding and depend on the sea habitat for foraging. These species are rarely recorded inland and if they are, they will be located in areas with gravelly shores along lakes and rivers. In line with a precautionary approach, more detailed assessment will be undertaken at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine potential impacts and requirements for avoidance and mitigation measures.

4.40 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to non-physical disturbance and therefore this effect is considered further at Appropriate Assessment stage.

Air Pollution

4.41 Air pollution is most likely to affect European sites where plant, soil and water habitats are the qualifying features but some qualifying animal

species may also be affected, either directly or indirectly, by deterioration in habitat as a result of air pollution. Deposition of pollutants to the ground and vegetation can alter the characteristics of the soil, affecting the pH and nitrogen levels, which can then affect plant health, productivity and species composition.

4.42 In terms of vehicle traffic, nitrogen oxides (NO_x, i.e. NO and NO₂) are considered to be the key pollutants. Deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and NO_x can cause eutrophication of soils and water.

4.43 Based on the Highways England Design Manual for Road and Bridges (DMRB) LA 105 Air quality (which sets out the requirements for assessing and reporting the effects of highway projects on air quality), it is assumed that air pollution from roads is unlikely to be significant beyond 200m from the road itself. Where increases in traffic volumes are forecast, this 200m buffer needs to be applied to the relevant roads in order to make a judgement about the likely geographical extent of air pollution impacts.

4.44 For highways developments within 200m of sensitive receptors, the DMRB provides the following Screening criteria to ascertain whether there are likely to be significant impacts:

- Daily traffic flows will change by 1,000 AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) or more; or
- Heavy duty vehicle (HDV) flows will change by 200 AADT or more; or
- There will be a change in speed band³¹; or
- Road carriageway alignment will change by 5m or more.

4.45 This, where significant increases in traffic are possible on roads within 200m of European sites, traffic forecast data may be needed to determine if increases in vehicle traffic are likely to be significant. In line with the Wealden judgment³², the traffic growth considered by the HRA should be based on the effects of development provided for by the plan in combination with other drivers of

³¹ A range of categories for which outputs from the traffic model are grouped into to describe their emissions.

³² Wealden v SSCLG [2017] EWHC 351 (Admin)

growth such as development proposed in neighbouring districts and demographic change.

4.46 The key commuting corridors for new housing and employment development will likely include A3020, A3021, A3054, A3055 and A3056, which are shown in **Figure 2** in **Appendix A**. The following European sites within or adjacent to the Isle of Wight were identified within 200m of one of these strategic roads:

- Isle of Wight Downs SAC (A3055).
- Solent Maritime SAC (A3054)
- South Wight Maritime SAC (A3020, A3021, A3055).
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar (A3054, A3055).
- Solent and Dorset Coast SPA (A3020, A3021, A3054, A3055)

4.47 An Air Quality Assessment (AQA)³³ was undertaken by Ricardo Energy and Environment in 2019 to consider the impacts of increased vehicle emissions as a result of proposed development in the previous iteration of the draft Island Planning Strategy. That version of the plan considered a higher level of growth than the one that is currently proposed. Specifically, the AQA considered the impacts of increased air pollutants in relation to European sites within or near to the Isle of Wight. The findings of the assessment identified that likely significant effects from air quality can be ruled out in relation to Isle of Wight Downs SAC, Solent Maritime SAC, Solent Wight Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA, and Solent & Dorset Coast SPA.

4.48 However, likely significant effects could not be ruled out in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC, which is intersected by the Combley Road. The AQA identified areas that were '*predicted to exceed the screening thresholds*' that corresponded '*to thin bands of deciduous woodland on either side of Combley Road and extend up to 6m into the designated site*'. Due to the small extent of the area that exceeds the threshold, it is considered unlikely for impacts from

air pollution to occur. However, in line with a precautionary approach this will be considered in more detail at the Appropriate Assessment.

4.49 All other European sites were located further than 200m from the strategic road network for the Isle of Wight and therefore were screened out of the assessment.

4.50 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to air pollution and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Recreation

4.51 Recreational activities and human presence can result in significant effects on European sites. European sites with qualifying bird species are likely to be particularly susceptible to recreational disturbances from walking, dog walking, angling, wildfowling, and water sports. An increase in recreational pressure from development therefore has the potential to disturb bird populations of SPA and Ramsar sites as a result of both terrestrial and water-based recreation. In addition, recreation can physically damage habitat as a result of trampling, fire or vandalism and also through erosion associated with boat wash and terrestrial activities such as use of vehicles.

4.52 The plan will result in housing growth, and associated population increase on the Island. Where increases in population are likely to result in significant increases in recreation at a European site, either alone or in-combination, the potential for likely significant effects will require assessment.

4.53 Each European site will typically have a 'Zone of Influence' (ZOI) within which increases in population would be expected to result in likely significant effects. ZOIs are usually established following targeted visitor surveys and the findings are therefore typically specific to each European site (and often to specific areas within a European site). The findings are likely to be influenced by a number of complex and interacting factors and therefore it is not always appropriate to apply a generic or non-specific ZOI to a European Site.

³³ Ricardo Energy and Environment, (2019), Isle of Wight Local Plan: Air Quality Impact Assessment.

4.54 A specific ZOI of 5.6km has been defined as part of targeted visitor surveys, which identified 75% of visitors to travel within this distance to the Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar and Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar. This ZOI is in place to inform requirements for mitigation measures as part of the Bird Aware Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy³⁴ and has been applied in this assessment. Given the distance of Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar and Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar from the Island and the barrier to movement created by the Solent, no likely significant effects is predicted in relation to these European sites.

4.55 No ZOI have previously been defined in relation to Solent and Dorset Coast SPA. However, given the coastal, estuarine and marine nature of the designated site and the habits of the qualifying species, which primarily use this coastal area for foraging only, a ZOI has not been defined for this European site.

4.56 Due to the coastal, estuarine and marine nature of the qualifying habitats of the Solent Maritime SAC and South Wight Maritime SAC and the types of activities likely to be undertaken, a ZOI has not been defined for these European site.

4.57 No ZOI has previously been defined in relation to the Isle of Wight Downs SAC. Therefore, in line with a precautionary approach a non-specific ZOI of 7km has been applied in this assessment. This is broadly in line with similar visitor study based ZOIs in the south of the UK, including for Thames Basin Heaths and Epping Forest.

4.58 Whilst Briddlesford Copses SAC supports qualifying Bechstein's bats, which were not considered susceptible to impacts from recreation and as such no likely significant effects is predicted in relation to this European site.

4.59 In addition, given the nature of the Solent Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC designated for its lagoon habitat near Bembridge, which is inaccessible to the public, no likely significant effects is predicted in relation to this European site. Access is restricted to a single permissive footpath in the

north and designated trails that are located away from the lagoon in the wider area.

4.60 All remaining European sites are located on the mainland and as such are separated from the Island by the Solent. Given the distance and lack of easy access to these designated sites, no likely significant effects are predicted in relation to these European sites.

Isle of Wight Downs SAC

4.61 Isle of Wight Downs SAC is designated for supporting calcareous grassland, heathland and vegetated sea cliffs to the south and west of the Island. The calcareous grassland and heathland habitat are likely to be particularly susceptible to impacts from recreational activities, such as walking and dog walking, which can result in physical disturbance through trampling, erosion and nutrient enrichment, which can alter the soil chemistry and alter the prevalence of competitive species. In comparison, impacts to the vegetated cliffs from recreational activities are likely to be limited as the steep cliff habitat cannot be accessed and disturbed from recreational activities.

4.62 There is no specific survey data available that can be drawn on to inform a ZOI for this SAC. Therefore, in line with a precautionary approach, a ZOI of 7km has been applied as detailed above.

4.63 A review of site allocations identified three housing allocations and four large sites with planning permission in the West Wight Regeneration Area, six housing allocations and seven large sites with planning permission in the Bay Regeneration Area and one large site with planning permission in East Medina Regeneration Area, which comprised a total of 757 new dwellings within 7km of the SAC. Given the increase in recreational pressure within the ZOI of the SAC, this has potential to result in likely significant effects on the SAC as a result of proposed development within the plan.

4.64 In addition to this and following discussions between the Council and Natural England, it is understood that there is evidence, which indicates that this European site is being impacted by

³⁴ Bird Aware Solent, (2017), Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy

recreational activities. Given the nature of the site as a well-known destination and attraction on the island, it is expected that this is resulting from a combination of housing development and tourism. Therefore, any additional impacts will have potential to result in likely significant effect. This will require appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC.

4.65 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to impacts from recreation and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Solent Maritime SAC

4.66 The SAC is designated for supporting a range of coastal and estuarine habitats, including estuary, *Spartina* swards and Atlantic salt meadows. There is potential for impacts from recreation to arise in relation to these habitats, but this is considered to be limited, given the inaccessible nature of these coastal and estuarine habitats preventing access from the public visiting this European site. In addition to this, the presence of permissive footpaths and well-structured public access is considered likely to direct people away from sensitive habitats for which the European site is designated. Due to a lack of accessibility, impacts from proposed development in the plan are considered to be negligible and therefore has been screened out of the assessment. This is supported by Natural England who have advised that this SAC is not currently subject to significant negative impacts from recreational pressure and have advised that likely significant effects are considered unlikely to arise from increased recreational pressure in the plan³⁵.

4.67 No likely significant effect is predicted as a result of increased recreational pressure, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

South Wight Maritime SAC

4.68 The SAC supports designated habitats, including vegetated cliffs, submerged or partially submerged sea caves and reefs. Impacts from

recreation are limited due to restricted access to these habitats, which are either located on the steep sides of cliffs or in the water. Impacts are therefore considered to be limited to water-based recreational activities that could result in physical damage and disturbance.

4.69 Given the specialist nature of these activities, which is likely to attract visitors from greater distances, it is expected that recreation pressure from increased development on the Island is likely to be negligible and therefore has been screened out of the assessment. This is supported by Natural England, which has advised that this SAC is not currently subject to significant negative impacts from recreational pressure and that likely significant effects are considered unlikely to arise from increased recreational pressure arising from the plan³⁵.

4.70 No likely significant effect is predicted as a result of increased recreational pressure, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar

4.71 The SPA and Ramsar are designated for supporting qualifying overwintering wetland bird species. These species are particularly susceptible to terrestrial and water-based activities, which can result in physical damage and loss of habitat through trampling and erosion, increased nutrient enrichment from dogs can alter the soil chemistry and alter the prevalence of competitive plant species and disturbance of bird species affecting the foraging and roosting patterns of these species.

4.72 As detailed above, specific visitor surveys have been completed for this European site to inform the Bird Aware Solent Mitigation Strategy. These surveys identified a ZOI of 5.6km, which has been applied in this assessment. A review of site allocations identified that all proposed housing allocations (with the exception of two housing allocations and four large sites with planning permission in the Bay Regeneration Area, West Wight Regeneration Area and East Medina

³⁵ Email issued 22/03/2022 by Jonathan Shaveler at Natural England.

Regeneration Area) lie within 5.6km of the European site. This comprises of 4,995 new dwellings within 5.6km of the SPA and Ramsar. This is a significant number of housing units and as such has the potential to result in increased recreational pressure on the European sites as a result of proposed development within the plan and will require appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites.

4.73 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to impacts from recreation and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

4.74 This SPA is designated for supporting qualifying breeding wetland bird species, which use the SPA for foraging and nearby offsite functionally linked land for breeding. These species are particularly susceptible to terrestrial and water-based activities, which can result in physical damage and loss of offsite habitat used for breeding through trampling and erosion and disturbance of bird species affecting the foraging and roosting patterns of these species.

4.75 Following discussions between the Isle of Wight Council and Natural England as part of consultation on the potential SPA³⁶, it was confirmed that recreational impacts would be limited and in relation to recreational activities affecting foraging terns. As such, these bird species are considered to be largely susceptible to water-based activities only resulting in disturbance to birds foraging in the Medina and around the coast of the Isle of Wight.

4.76 Given the specialist nature of these activities, which is likely to attract visitors from greater distances, it is expected that recreational pressure from increased development on the Island is likely to be minor. However, given the time that has elapsed since previous discussions with Natural England and the mobile nature of this species, a precautionary approach has been applied and

impacts from recreation are considered further at the Appropriate Assessment.

4.77 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to impacts from recreation and this effect therefore requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Water quantity

4.78 An increase in demand for water abstraction resulting from the growth proposed in the plan could result in changes in hydrology at European sites. Depending on the qualifying features and particular vulnerabilities of the European sites, this could result in likely significant effects, for example, due to changes in environmental or biotic conditions, water chemistry and the extent and distribution of preferred habitat conditions.

4.79 The Isle of Wight supports a small Water Resource Zone (WRZ) and is reliant on water being supplied from a range of water sources, including from the River Yar and River Medina (23%), from groundwater sources from the chalk aquifer on the Island (47%) and from water supplied from the mainland from the Hampshire South WRZ, which is directed via a sub-Solent water main (30%).

4.80 Water abstracted from the River Medina and River Yar have potential to impact qualifying features of the marine European sites, which are affected by changes in flow rates and water levels. This comprises Solent Maritime SAC, South Wight Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons, Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

4.81 A third of the water supply for the Island is supplied from the mainland. This is partially comprised of water from the South East River Basin, which includes the River Itchen SAC. As such an increased in demand for water as a result of proposed growth has the potential to result in a likely significant effect in relation to water quantity to the River Itchen SAC.

4.82 All remaining European sites were either not considered to be hydrologically connected to the

³⁶ Natural England (2016), IOWC response to the consultation on the Solent and Dorset Coast potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)

Island and/or did not support qualifying features that were susceptible to impacts from water quantity.

4.83 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to impacts from water quantity and this effect therefore requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Water quality

4.84 The Solent region is an internationally important site and there is evidence to show that the European sites in this region are currently subject to high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous input to its water environment, which are causing eutrophication of the designated sites in this area. A contributor to these high levels of nutrients is wastewater from existing housing and other development, as well as agricultural sources. Therefore, any increase in demand for wastewater treatment from proposed growth in the plan is likely to result in a significant effect on the European sites.

4.85 Following discussions with Natural England and as detailed in the Isle of Wight Position Statement³⁷, they have advised that the:

"nutrient neutrality approach only applies to developments where treated effluent discharges into any Solent International Sites (Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar), or any water body (surface or groundwater) that subsequently discharges into such a site.

Sandown Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW) outfalls into the English Channel and is therefore excluded on that basis and developments that will connect to Sandown WwTW do not have to demonstrate nutrient neutrality."

4.86 In addition, it was identified that Brighstone, Shorwell or St Lawrence WwTW outfall into the English Channel and therefore do not have to demonstrate nutrient neutrality.

4.87 Therefore, any development proposed that will discharge into wastewater treatment works (WwTW) outside of the Sandown, Brightstone, Shorwell or St Lawrence WwTW will need to demonstrate no additional adverse effects to these European sites by achieving nutrient neutrality. This should be calculated using the Natural England methodology³⁸ and will require appropriate mitigation measures to achieve this.

4.88 In addition to this, Natural England has advised that there is potential for impacts to arise from increased housing, including overnight tourist accommodation, as a result of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) events from excess surface water in response to periods of high rainfall into watercourses. Therefore, further consideration is required at the Appropriate Assessment stage. This includes Sandown, Brightstone, Shorwell and St Lawrence WwTW, which support CSOs which discharge into Solent European sites.

4.89 Based on the information provided above, the following European sites have potential to be affected by impacts from water quality and will therefore need to be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment:

- Solent Maritime SAC.
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.
- Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.
- Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar site.
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site.

4.90 Given the location of South Wight Maritime SAC, which lies to the south of the Island in the English Channel, no likely significant effects were predicted in relation to water quality.

4.91 All remaining European sites were either not considered to be hydrologically connected to the Island and/or did not support qualifying features, which were susceptible to impacts from water quantity and quality.

³⁷ Isle of Wight Council (2022), Isle of Wight Position Statement: Nitrogen Neutral Housing Development

³⁸ Natural England, (2020), Advice on Achieving Nutrient Neutrality for New Development in the Solent Region.

4.92 There is potential for likely significant effects to occur in relation to impacts from water quality and this effect therefore requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

which a conclusion of No likely significant effect was reached are shown with no colour. Those potential impacts where likely significant effects could not be ruled out are shown in orange and these are considered in more detail at the Appropriate Assessment stage in **Chapter 5**.

Summary of Screening Assessment

4.93 Table 4.1 below summarises the Screening conclusions reached in this HRA. Impact types for *Table 4.1: Summary of Screening Assessment*

European Site	Physical damage and/loss	Non-physical disturbance	Air Pollution	Recreation	Water Quantity	Water Quality
Briddlesford Copses SAC	Potential likely significant effects (offsite)	Potential likely significant effects (offsite only)	Potential likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Solent Maritime SAC	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No Likely significant effect	Potential likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects
South Wight Maritime SAC	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effect	Potential likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects
Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site	Potential likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	Potential likely	Potential likely	No likely significant effects	Potential likely	Potential likely	Potential likely

European Site	Physical damage and/loss	Non-physical disturbance	Air Pollution	Recreation	Water Quantity	Water Quality
	significant effects	significant effects		significant effects	significant effects	significant effects
New Forest SAC	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
New Forest SPA and Ramsar	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar site	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects
Dorset Heaths SAC	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Dorset Heathlands SPA	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
River Avon SAC	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects
Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects
River Itchen SAC	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	No likely significant effects	Potential likely significant effects	No likely significant effects

Chapter 5

Appropriate Assessment

5.1 Following the Screening stage, the plan-making authority is required under Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) to make an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the plan for European sites, in view of their conservation objectives.

5.2 European Commission Guidance³⁹ states that the Appropriate Assessment should consider the impacts of the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of European sites with respect to their conservation objectives and to their structure and function.

5.3 This stage seeks to determine whether implementation of the Local Plan will result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the whole European site in question (many European sites are made up of a number of fragments of habitat). It also considers the potential for in-combination effects from development proposed in neighbouring authorities' Local Plans or from major infrastructure projects. Consideration was given to mitigation measures that may be included in the Local Plan to reduce the likelihood and significance of effects on European sites.

5.4 A European site's integrity depends on it being able to sustain its 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex 1 habitats, Annex II species, and Annex 1 bird populations for which it has been designated) and to ensure their continued viability. A high degree of integrity is considered to exist where the potential to meet a European site's conservation objectives is realised and where the European site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management support.

5.5 Likely significant effects arising from the plan, either alone or in-combination, were identified for the following sites and impact types:

³⁹ Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and

(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.

- **Physical damage and loss** – in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC (offsite only), Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.
- **Non-physical disturbance** – in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.
- **Air pollution** – in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC.
- **Recreation** – in relation to Isle of Wight Downs SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.
- **Water Quantity** – in relation to Solent Maritime SAC, South Wight Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, and River Itchen SAC.
- **Water Quality** – in relation to Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar site, and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site.

5.6 Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken for these European sites to determine whether the plan will result in Adverse Effects on Integrity.

5.7 The Appropriate Assessment focuses on those impacts that are judged likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying features of a European site, or where insufficient certainty regarding this remained at the Screening stage. As described in **Chapter 1**, a conclusion needs to be reached as to whether or not a policy or site allocation in the plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. To reach a conclusion, consideration was given to whether the predicted impacts of the proposals (either alone or in combination) have the potential to:

- Delay the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Interrupt progress towards the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.

- Disrupt factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site.
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.

5.8 The conservation objectives for the above European sites are to ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and to ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats.
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats.
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species.
- The populations of qualifying species.
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Physical damage and loss – onsite

Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar Site

5.9 The plan proposes development within the site boundary of the SPA and Ramsar site. Proposed allocations with potential to result in a likely significant effect as a result of physical damage and loss identified in the Screening assessment were P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way and HA120: Folly Works.

5.10 A review of these proposed site allocations found the following habitats to be present within the site boundaries:

- P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way – the area within the SPA and Ramsar site supported estuarine habitat, including water from the River Medina and marshy grassland. This comprised of 0.01% of the SPA and Ramsar site.
- HA120: Folly Works – the area within the SPA and Ramsar site primarily comprised of water

from the River Medina with an existing pier used by boats for docking. The presence of the pier is considered likely to reduce the suitability of this area of the SPA and Ramsar site as a result of existing levels of disturbance. This comprised of 0.01% of the total area of the SPA and Ramsar site.

5.11 The proposed sites support small areas of habitat suitable for qualifying bird species. However, given the extent of the habitat present and likely disturbance from human activities, impacts habitats, which the qualifying bird species rely on is considered unlikely.

Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

5.12 The plan proposes development within the site boundary of the SPA and Ramsar site. Large sites with planning permission with potential to result in a likely significant effect as a result of physical damage and loss were identified in the Screening assessment as being P/00496/16, P/01065/15 and P/00102/14.

5.13 A review of these large sites with planning permission identified the following habitats to be present within the SPA:

- P/00496/16: Medina Yard (2.3ha or 22,998 m²) – the area within the SPA comprised entirely of water habitat associated with River Medina and was primarily used by boats to dock and as such is likely to be subject to relatively high levels of disturbance. This area of the SPA is considered unlikely to be relied on SPA bird species. This comprised of 0.003% of the SPA.
- P/00102/14: Folly Works (0.09ha or 917m²) – the area within the SPA primarily supported water from the River Medina with an existing pier used by boats for docking. Due to its current use, which is likely to create relatively high levels of disturbance, it is considered unlikely for SPA bird species to rely on this habitat within the SPA. This comprised of 0.0004% of the SPA.
- HA120: Land at Red Funnel (0.15ha or 1,510 m²) – the area within the SPA comprised entirely of hardstanding, which was not considered to contribute to habitat relied on by

SPA bird species. This comprised of 0.002% of the SPA.

5.14 Due to the extent of the SPA that lies within the proposed site allocations and the limited presence of suitable habitat, adverse effects to the integrity of the SPA as a result of proposed development is considered highly unlikely.

Mitigation

5.15 The impacts from proposed development on habitat in the SPAs and Ramsar site is considered to be small-scale and unlikely to result in a significant adverse effect on the integrity. However, to provide certainty that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, it is recommended that the following safeguard measures are implemented:

- There should be a commitment in the Local Plan to ensure that development is avoided within the European sites.
- Where development is proposed within the European sites, then a project-level HRA will be required to demonstrate no adverse effect on the integrity of these European sites.

5.16 Policies within the plan will provide safeguards and mitigation measures from physical damage and loss of habitats. Policies includes: EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which outlines protection measures for European sites and provides specific detail on the protection of irreplaceable habitat.

5.17 This includes the following wording:

Development should be located away from the most sensitive locations in accordance with the following hierarchy of nature conservation designations (as shown on the Policies Map):

- *International*
- *National*
- *Local*

Development proposals will only be permitted in the most sensitive locations in accordance with the hierarchy if it can be clearly demonstrated that the integrity of the national site network will not be

adversely affected, other than in exceptional circumstances relating to overriding public interest.

The loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats will not be permitted except in wholly exceptional cases and then only when a suitable compensation strategy is provided.

Conclusion

5.18 Provided that the above policy mitigation is incorporated into the plan and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, as a result of impacts from physical habitat damage and loss will be avoided.

Physical damage and loss - functionally linked land (offsite)

Briddlesford Copses SAC

5.19 The plan proposes development in areas where qualifying SAC bat species may make use of offsite habitat for foraging, commuting and roosting. Proposed allocations with potential to result in a likely significant effect as a result of physical damage and loss were identified in the Screening assessment and comprised HA055, P/00741/18, P/00164/17 and 21/01796/OUT.

5.20 A desk-based review was undertaken to identify the potential impacts from these proposed allocations on offsite habitat used by Bechstein's bats. This included the following components to inform the assessment:

- A review of aerial imagery and Magic Map Application to identify the main habitat types and land use within each site allocation and establish their potential value for this qualifying bat species.
- Recognition of factors likely to affect suitability of allocations for this species, including presence of suitable woodland habitat, particularly ancient woodland, which this species relies on.

- Consideration of the site's location within the landscape. For example, whether there is direct functional connectivity between the site allocation and the European site.

Bat habitat preferences

5.21 Bechstein's bats are found almost exclusively in woodland habitat. This species is particularly reliant on ancient woodland habitat for roosting and foraging and as such is particularly vulnerable to impacts from habitat loss and fragmentation.

5.22 As detailed in the Screening Assessment, this species was identified to travel within a Core Sustainance Zone (CSZ) of 3km⁴⁰. This CSZ was determined by an extensive literature review and refers to the area surrounding a bat roost for Bechstein's bats within which habitat availability and quality will have a significant influence on the resilience and conservation of the bat colony using the roost.

5.23 A total of three site allocations were identified within 3km of the SAC and as such have been subject to further, more detailed assessment to determine the suitability of these sites for this qualifying species. The findings of this assessment are presented below.

- **HA055: Old Hosiden Besson site, Binstead Road:**
 - This site allocation is located within an urbanised area of Ryde supporting bare ground habitat. This habitat is of negligible value for this species and therefore no adverse effect on integrity can be concluded in relation to this site.
- **P/00741/18, 23/00765/RES: Palmers Farm, Brocks Copse Road:**
 - This site allocation is located to the west of Wootton, at the edge of the existing urban development. The site is comprised of habitats, including arable, grassland, bare ground and buildings, which were considered to have negligible value for this species.

⁴⁰ Collins, J. (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

- However, the site is located immediately adjacent to a pocket of ancient woodland known as Lushington Copse, which is considered likely to contribute to the network of offsite functional habitat for this qualifying species. Given the proximity of the proposed site allocation in relation to this woodland habitat, there is potential for impacts from tree loss within the woodland to occur from root damage as part of any proposed development within 15m of the ancient woodland habitat.

■ **P/00164/17, 21/00964/FUL: Land at Ryde House, Binstead Road:**

- This site forms part of Ryde Golf Course located to the north of Ryde at the edge of the existing urban development. The site is comprised of a mosaic of grassland, including amenity, scrub and woodland habitat. This habitat provides suitable habitat for this species and is connected to ancient woodland to the north. However due to its location, which is bound by urban development and the coast and given that it is located approximately 2.7km from Briddlesford Copses SAC at the closest point, this site is considered to have low value for this species.

■ **21/01796/OUT: Land at and Rear of 69 And Part OS 8361 Station Road:**

- This site is located to the south of Wootton, at the edge of the existing urban development. The site is comprised of habitats, including grassland bordered by urban development in the west and north and hedgerow with trees to the south and scrub to the east. The habitats in the site are of low value for this species. However, given its connectivity to suitable ancient woodland habitat in the wider area, there is potential for this habitat to be used by this species for foraging purposes.

Mitigation

5.24 The impact from proposed development on offsite functional habitat is considered to be small-scale and unlikely to result in a significant adverse effect on the integrity to the SAC. However, to

provide certainty that the loss of offsite functional habitat will not adversely affect the integrity of the Briddlesford Copses SAC, it is recommended that the following safeguard measures are implemented at the project level:

- Bat surveys will be required for any development coming forward within 3km of the SAC to determine the individual and cumulative importance of woodland habitat for this species and inform mitigation proposals.
- A commitment to mitigation is required within the plan dependent on the findings of bat surveys. If required, mitigation will need to ensure the avoidance of ancient woodland habitat loss, which is irreplaceable habitat, and the creation and enhancement of woodland habitat for this species.

5.25 At this stage, all sites identified have received planning permission, with P/00164/17: Land at Ryde House under construction. However, should these planning permissions lapse then the mitigation detailed in this HRA will be required. This should be detailed in Appendix 3 of the plan in relation to site specific requirements.

5.26 In addition to this, policies within the plan will provide safeguards and mitigation measures from physical damage and loss of habitats. Policies include: EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which outlines protection measures for European sites and provides specific detail on the protection of irreplaceable habitat, such as ancient woodland and EV5: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows, which states:

"The council recognises the wider benefits of trees, woodlands and hedgerows and therefore development proposals will be supported where they:

i. propose on or off-site tree planting, using the Council Tree Planting and Management Strategy as a guide to planting the right type of tree in the right place.

ii. Retain trees, woodlands and hedges on site wherever possible, especially where they are of high amenity.

iii. Avoid direct and indirect harmful impacts on trees, woodlands and hedges, and where this is not possible mitigation should be provided.

iv. Provide a minimum 15 metre buffer between new development and ancient woodland (where relevant). Where assessment shows impacts will extend beyond 15 metres, larger buffers will be required, and any buffer should contribute to wider ecological networks and become part of the green infrastructure for the area;"

Conclusion

5.27 Provided that the above policy mitigation is incorporated into the plan and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Briddlesford Copses SAC, as a result of impacts from physical habitat damage and loss will be avoided.

Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar / Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

5.28 The plan proposes development in areas where qualifying SPA and Ramsar bird species may make use of offsite habitat for foraging, roosting and loafing. Proposed allocations with potential to result in a likely significant effect as a result of physical damage and loss were identified in the Screening assessment and are presented in **Appendix D**.

5.29 A desk-based study was undertaken to identify potential impacts from proposed allocations on offsite habitat used by the qualifying bird species. The desk-based study relied on a sequential approach, whereby if a site's suitability for qualifying bird species was considered negligible or low for a specific reason (e.g. distance or habitat type) no further investigations for that allocation were carried out. If, following the initial review of distance and habitat, a site's potential suitability for qualifying bird species could not be ruled out, a more detailed assessment including mapping of existing relevant bird records may be required. The initial desk study included the following components to inform the assessment:

- Identification of the bird species which are susceptible to the loss of the habitat types

affected and ruling out those species unlikely to utilise the habitat types located within the site allocations (e.g. species restricted to marine habitats).

- A review of aerial imagery and Magic Map Application to identify main habitat types and land use within each site allocation and establish their potential value for qualifying birds.
- Recognition of factors likely to affect suitability of allocations for bird species, including openness, size, shape, proximity of negative factors such as tall boundary features and urban environs, and potential existing sources of disturbance.
- Consideration of the site's location within the landscape. For example, is there direct functional connectivity along flight lines between the allocation and the European sites? Are there landscape scale features which would reduce the suitability of the allocation, e.g. urban areas located along flight lines?
- A review of the site's location within flood risk zones, because many of the SPA bird species favour sites which do or do not flood.
- A review of Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy⁴¹ mapping of locations of extant site for the feeding sites for brent geese and high-water roost sites for wading birds

Bird Habitat Preferences

5.30 Bird habitat preferences were cross referenced against the habitat types present within each allocation to determine the suitability of site allocations for qualifying species. Known habitat preferences are summarised in **Table 5.1** and **Table 5.2** below, which were taken from Birds of the Western Palearctic, British Trust for Ornithology. **Table 5.1** and **Table 5.2** also assess whether each bird species is susceptible to the loss of habitats located within the site allocations.

⁴¹Whitfield, D (2020) Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Curdridge.

Table 5.1: Typical Habitat Preferences of Qualifying Bird Species of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site

Bird Species	Season	Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation)	Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the plan
Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	Wintering	On passage or in winter will frequent open habitats such as shallow tidal coasts, large estuaries, saltmarshes, and lagoons, brackish or saline, flooded fields, and artificial waters such as reservoirs devoid of vegetation.	Yes – may use flooded fields
Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla</i>	Wintering	On leaving breeding quarters, resorts to shallow sea coasts and estuaries, especially with extensive mudflats rich in sea grass. Strongly attached to intertidal feeding zones, but in Britain since 1970's increasing numbers have moved inland to feed on grass and cultivated crops. Prefer large open sites with clear sight lines and short, lush grass and they are easily disturbed. When not feeding, prefers to rest or sleep on sea surface.	Yes - this species may use pasture and arable fields.
Common ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Wintering	A bird of sea coasts. Secondarily occupies adjoining hinterlands up to substantial distance inland, where estuaries, rivers, lakes, tundra, gravel beds, sand bars, grasslands of sparse and low growth, or other suitable well-drained terrain exists. Whether breeding, migrating or wintering, tends to be most numerous and concentrated on wide sandy or shingle tidal beaches, with access to suitable resting or nesting places above high-water mark.	No - habitats affected are of low importance to this species
Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Breeding	They favour sparse vegetation, generally avoiding barren sand, and nest near water on flood-lands, fields and grasslands and on wet or dry areas of islands. The majority of the breeding population nests at coastal wetlands and large reed beds but they can also be found inland, roosting on reservoirs, large steppe lakes and marshes in open lowland areas. They can be seen feeding on farmed fields. It is rarely seen at sea far from coasts. Small populations can	Yes – they can use arable fields

Bird Species	Season	Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation)	Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the plan
		be found within black-headed gull colonies.	
Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	Wintering	During breeding, typically favours marshy hummocky moorland but changes in land management have created new habitat and poorly drained pastures, damp heaths free of scrub, or border of reedy wetland are of primary importance. But other grasslands managed as meadows, especially when grazed and hay-cut and flooded in winter are also used. Outside the breeding season, favoured habitats include sewage farms, lake margins, tidal marshes, mudflats and sheltered coastal inlets.	Yes – despite a preference for coastal habitat outside the breeding period this species may use flooded pasture and other grasslands for feeding.
Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Breeding	Frequently coast dwelling, more along mainland than on islands, but spreads freely up suitable reaches of major rivers and to some lakes where suitable conditions occur. Strongly prefers linear strips of bare shingle, shell beach, or sand, only just above normal tide or flood limits, and often only a few metres from shallow clear water, saline or fresh, where fish of suitable size can be caught by plunging, without necessity for extended foraging flights.	No – habitats affected are of low importance to this species
Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Breeding	A coastal species. Breeds on sandy seacoasts and islands, laying eggs under dense vegetation or in a hollow. In winter, it is a pelagic species. Feeds almost invariably from the sea and only visits freshwater lagoons on the coast to bathe.	No – habitats affected are of low importance to this species
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Breeding	The common tern breeds along coasts with shingle beaches and rocky islands, on rivers with shingle bars, and at inland gravel pits and reservoirs, feeding along rivers and over freshwater.	Yes – may use flat roof buildings to nest.

Bird Species	Season	Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation)	Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the plan
		Strongly prefers to nest site on bare ground or surrounded by low vegetation, sometimes on floating mat of dead vegetation or floating rafts. Although, this species may use flat roofs to nest near to the coast.	
Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Breeding	Favours warm waters near coastlines, on jetties and on beaches. Often shallow areas, such as bays and estuaries, near extensive beaches and mudflats. Nests on sandy islands, sand and shingle beaches, sandbars, in coastal lagoons or offshore.	No, habitats affected are of low importance to this species

Table 5.2: Typical Habitat Preferences of Qualifying Bird Species of Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

Bird Species	Season	Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation)	Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the plan
Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Breeding	Frequently coast dwelling, more along mainland than on islands, but spreads freely up suitable reaches of major rivers and to some lakes where suitable conditions occur. Strongly prefers linear strips of bare shingle, shell beach, or sand, only just above normal tide or flood limits, and often only a few metres from shallow clear water, saline or fresh, where fish of suitable size can be caught by plunging, without necessity for extended foraging flights.	No – habitats affected are of low importance to this species
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Breeding	The common tern breeds along coasts with shingle beaches and rocky islands, on rivers with shingle bars, and at inland gravel pits and reservoirs, feeding along rivers and over freshwater. Strongly prefers to nest site on bare ground or surrounded by low vegetation, sometimes on floating mat of dead vegetation or floating rafts. Although, this species may use flat roofs to nest near to the coast.	Yes – may use flat roof buildings to nest.

Bird Species	Season	Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation)	Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the plan
Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Breeding	Favours warm waters near coastlines, on jetties and on beaches. Often shallow areas, such as bays and estuaries, near extensive beaches and mudflats. Nests on sandy islands, sand and shingle beaches, sandbars, in coastal lagoons or offshore.	No, habitats affected are of low importance to this species

5.31 The review of habitat types located within the site allocations, in light of individual bird species preferences, identified the following bird species as being potentially susceptible to the loss of offsite habitat associated with site allocations proposed within the Plan. This included:

- Eurasian Teal.
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose.
- Mediterranean gull.
- Black-tailed godwit
- Common tern.

Following a review of these species' habitat preferences and in line with previous discussions with Natural England with regards to recognised buffers zones within which these species are likely to rely on offsite habitats, a distance of 2km was applied.

Assessment of Site Allocations

Following the establishment of typical habitat preferences for each species, each site allocation proposed in the plan within 2km of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA was assessed for its suitability in supporting the qualifying bird species listed above, i.e. Eurasian teal, dark-bellied brent goose, Mediterranean gull, black-tailed godwit and common tern. The assessment was based on a number of parameters, as described in **Table 5.3** below. Typically, site allocations displayed varying combinations of the parameters outlined below and findings on suitability for SPA/Ramsar qualifying birds were therefore subject to professional judgement. The findings of the assessment of site allocations are set out in **Table 5.4** in relation to bird species that are qualifying features of both Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and **Table 5.5** in relation to bird species that are qualifying features of Dorset Coast SPA only.

Table 5.3: Habitat suitability rating criteria

Suitability for SPA and Ramsar Birds	Typical Description
High	Large sites; area of suitable habitat (e.g. wet grasslands, permanent pastures, arable) capable of supporting significant numbers of SPA birds; absence of any notable negative factors such as PRow and edge features; land parcel functionally linked with wider habitat and directly linked to SPA/Ramsar via green corridor; site may be prone to flooding (although note absence of flooding favoured by lapwing and golden plover); typically close to SPA/Ramsar and coast.
Moderate	Sites support large areas of functionally linked suitable habitat capable of attracting numbers of SPA birds which by themselves are unlikely to be significant, but which

Suitability for SPA and Ramsar Birds	Typical Description
	may contribute to supporting significant numbers of birds in-combination with other sites. Likely to be further from SPA/Ramsar and coast, and with presence of some limiting factors.
Low	Smaller or fragmented sites; habitats present may be suitable for supporting low numbers of SPA birds on occasion but limited by negative factors such as size, distance from SPA/Ramsar; absence of sight lines and reductions in 'openness' as a result of edge features such as trees, scrub, and buildings; edge features likely to be close to centre of site; suitability may be compromised by existing recreational use; may be isolated within urban areas.
Negligible	Habitats present are entirely unsuitable for SPA birds, for example existing developed land or small urban infill sites.

Table 5.4: Suitability of allocations for qualifying bird species of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
Housing Allocations		
West Wight Regeneration Area		
HA005: Land to the east of Football Club, Camp Road	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 1km south west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 6.0 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: One arable field surrounded on the north, east and southern side by residential areas with scattered trees around these boundaries. Football club to the west with more abundant linear scrub and tree lines along the south west boundary.</p> <p>Use of Site: Arable land for growing crops</p>	Low
HA006: Heathfield Campsite, Heathfield Road	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 1.5km west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar site, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~4.9 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Amenity grasslands used for camping surrounded by prominent tree lines, hedgerows and scrub, reducing the openness of the site. The site is surrounded by residential areas with</p>	Low

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	<p>some arable fields and pasture separating it from the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreational – camping site</p>	
<p>21/00357/FUL Land off Birch Close</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 1.6km west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~1.7 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Greenfield site comprised of rough grassland with scattered trees, scrub and hedgerows. Bordering the Heathfield Campsite on the east and residential properties surrounding the remaining borders of the site.</p> <p>Use of Site: Possible disturbance from recreation (dog walking/use of site from residents living close-by)</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>21/00684/FUL: Land at Lee Farm, Main Road</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.9km Solent and Southampton water SPA at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~ 2.0ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: An intensively used agricultural area with scattered machinery, debris and amenity grassland. Lots of bare ground visible, buildings, scattered trees and hedgerows present. Surrounded by larger less disrupted arable farmland.</p> <p>Use of site: Farmland</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>P/00402/18: West Bay Club, Halletts Shute</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: Solent and Southampton Water SPA at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~ 6.1ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Extensively used residential area with amenity grassland and scattered trees throughout Hardstanding areas and buildings are abundant. The surrounding area is composed of hedgerows and arable fields hard standing, amenity grassland, scattered trees, shrub, woodland.</p> <p>Use of Site: Residential area</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>West Medina Regeneration Area</p>		

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
HA018: Green Gate Industrial Estate, Thetis Road	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.4km north of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~0.1 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Hard standing ground, buildings and few trees in the centre of the site</p> <p>Use of Site: Industrial estate</p>	Negligible
P/00496: Medina Yard	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 1.3km north of the Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~5.9 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed land adjacent to River Medina comprised of Marina buildings, docks, car parks and hard standing</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreation – Marina, highly disturbed</p>	Negligible.
HA020: Former Somerton Reservoir, Newport Road	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 1km north west of the Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~1.9 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: This site is located adjacent to an A-road in the centre of an urbanised area of Cowes. Habitats include: Artificial ponds; hedgerows; treelines; and tall ruderal vegetation</p> <p>Use of Site: Disused reservoir</p>	Low
HA022: Somerton Farm, Newport Road	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 600m north west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 15.2 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Site comprises of 6 farmland fields, separated with hedges and scattered trees. Farm buildings present. Adjacent land use includes industrial, residential, open fields and woodland. It is situated within the urbanised area of Cowes.</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	Moderate
HA025: Land rear of 84 Wyatts Lane	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.6km west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p>	Low

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	<p>Size: ~1.8 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: 2 pasture fields separated by a track and scrub. The southern field is long and thin. One property also present as part of the site. Scattered trees around the edges of site boundary and woodland bordering on the west. Large residential area bordering the north and east of the site, separating the site from the Ramsar and SPA's closest points.</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	
HA121: Harry Cheek Gardens / Wyatts Lane	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.7km west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size:~2.9 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Pasture field with trees and sporadic hedgerows at the site's edges. Woodland to the south of the site and large residential area to the east, separating the site from the SPAs and Ramsar. Several arable fields to the west of the site separated by hedgerows</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	Moderate
HA118: Bucklers View, Worsley Road	<p>Distance from European Site: southeast of Solent and Southampton SPA, at the closest point.</p> <p>Habitats present: Large residential property adjacent to two roads with hard standing habitats, scattered trees, amenity grassland and buildings. Situated on the western edge of an urban area with good pasture land and areas of semi-improved grassland directly to the south.</p> <p>Size: ~ 0.25 ha</p> <p>Use of Site: Residential</p>	Negligible
P/00823/18: Land to the rear of 391 Newport Road	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.2km west of Solent and Southampton water SPA, at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~ 3.0ha</p> <p>Habitats present: Large area of pasture and hedgerow and scattered trees surrounding it. On the southern edge of a small urban area with areas of arable fields and woodland areas in close proximity.</p>	Moderate

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	Use of Site: Agricultural	
22/00807/FUL: Land rear of 44 Worsley Road	<p>Distance from European Site: 0.33km south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and 1.67km east of Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 1.23ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Predominantly comprised of building and hardstanding with smaller areas of grassland, scrub and woodland.</p> <p>Use of Site: Residential</p>	Negligible
20/02229/OUT: Land adjacent 77 Place Road	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.4km south of Solent and Southampton water SPA, and 1.63km west of Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 0.56ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Woodland scrub with outbuildings and bare ground used as access track to the west.</p> <p>Use of Site: Private land – informal outbuildings</p>	Negligible
P/00358/15, 21/00458/RVC: Land fronting Place Road (Phase 4)	<p>Distance from European Site: 0.95 south of Solent and Southampton water SPA, and 1.89km east of Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 6.96ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Residential development with areas of bare ground and grassland.</p> <p>Use of Site: Residential</p>	Negligible
Newport Regeneration Area		
HA031: Various land adjacent to and east of Carisbrooke College	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.9km south west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~11.9 ha, split into 2 sites - 10.8 ha and ~1.1 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: This allocation is mostly out of the buffer. The area within is split into 2 sites and habitats include buildings with some bare ground, arable fields separated with hedgerows and sporadic trees. Within the urbanised area of Newport, large</p>	Low

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	<p>residential areas surrounding site with arable fields to the north.</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	
<p>HA032: Land at Horsebridge Hill & Acorn Farm</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 430m west of Solent and Southampton SPA and 210m west of Solent and Southampton Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~8.26 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: 3 arable fields and 3 pasture fields, separated by hedgerows and treelines, with a farm building. The site is just north of the urbanised area of Newport. Bordered on the north and east by arable fields and woodland. Relatively clear flight lines between Ramsar/SPAs and site</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>HA033: Land west of Sylvan Drive</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 1km south west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~10.3 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: 2 arable fields, separated by tree lines. Hedgerows and tree lines surrounding the site. Bordering the urbanised area of Newport with large residential area to the south and arable fields to the north. Flight path to European sites (within 2km) is over dual carriageway and urbanised area</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural and possible recreational (walkers)</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>HA036: Land at Noke Common</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.3km west of Solent and Southampton SPA, 700m west of Solent and Southampton Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~8.6 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: 6 thin, long pasture fields, separated by hedgerows and frequent trees, reducing the openness of the site. Some houses/farm buildings, hard standing and car park in the northern part of the site. Residential area bordering the south and east of the site. Large woodland to the west and open arable fields to the north</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	<p>Low</p>

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
HA037: Former Library HQ, land adjacent St Marys Hospital	<p>Distance from European Site: 490m to west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~1.1 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Woodland area with footpaths, scrub and tall ruderal. Bordered by tall boundary features – trees and houses. Hospital to the south, residential area to the north. Just North of the urbanised area of Newport.</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreational</p>	Negligible
HA039: Former HMP site	<p>Distance from European Site: 800m west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~100.2 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Fragmented site consisting of hard standing, old prison buildings with a tennis court, residential area with scattered trees and 10 arable/pasture fields, separated with hedgerows, trees and fences. Urbanised area of Newport to the south east of the site. Large woodland to the west.</p> <p>Use of Site: Disturbance from recreation, agricultural land</p>	Low
HA044: Newport Harbour	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 60m south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~2.6 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed land with hard standing ground, buildings, car parks, roads and rare scattered trees. South of the site is the urbanised area of Newport</p> <p>Use of Site: Harbour, recreational</p>	Negligible
HA110: Land at Moreys Timber Yard, Trafalgar Road	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.2km south west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~1.7 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: All hard standing ground with buildings and a car park in the urbanised area of Newport.</p>	Negligible

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	Use of Site: Timber Yard	
HA115: Former Polars Residential Home	<p>Distance from European Site: 800m south east of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~ 1.6 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Hard standing ground, car park and buildings in the north east of the site. The rest of the site is grassland with scattered trees and paths. The site is in the urbanised area of Newport, surrounded by large residential areas</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreational</p>	Low
P/01008/18: 11-11D St James Street	<p>Distance from European Site: 775m from Solent and Southampton Water SPA, at closest point</p> <p>Size: ~ 0.05 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Industrial buildings within a highly used urban area with connecting roads and high volumes of traffic.</p> <p>Use of Site: Industrial</p>	Negligible
P/00771/18: Pan Meadows (Phase 3)	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.5km southwest of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Size: ~ 3.4ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Residential development with buildings and hard standing.</p> <p>Use of Site: Residential</p>	Negligible
19/00382/FUL: Pan Meadows	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.5km south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Size: ~ 2.7ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Residential development with buildings and hard standing.</p> <p>Use of Site: Residential</p>	Negligible
21/00470/FUL: Pan Meadows (Phase 2A)	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.35km south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Size: ~ 2.1ha</p>	Negligible

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	<p>Habitats Present: Grassland intersected by paths/roads with woodland scrub to the north and residential development.</p> <p>Use of Site: Residential</p>	
<p>21/01186/FUL: Land at the corner of St Georges Way and Burnt House Lane</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.65km south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Size: ~ 0.95ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: An area of grassland with a single outbuilding and bound by hedgerows/trees.</p> <p>Use of Site: Paddock</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>21/02479/FUL: Land at the rear of 155 & 155A Staplers Road</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.18km southeast of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Size: ~ 1.9ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Grassland bound by hedgerow. Residential buildings located in the east.</p> <p>Use of Site: Residential</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>East Medina Regeneration Area</p>		
<p>HA046: Land at Crossway</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 600m north east of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~4.8 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: One straight edged arable field with hedgerows and scattered trees bordering the site. South of the urbanised area of East Cowes with residential areas to the north and west and arable fields to the east.</p> <p>Use of Site: Farmland / agricultural</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>P/00102/14: Folly Works</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: adjacent/partly within Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.</p> <p>Size: ~ 13.5 ha</p>	<p>Negligible</p>

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	<p>Habitats Present: Area adjacent to the River Medina, which comprised of buildings, scrub and grassland. Lies adjacent to a candidate site.</p> <p>Use of Site: Buildings associated with farming</p>	
HA120: Land at Red Funnel	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.4km north of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Size: ~ 2.5 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed Land adjacent to the River Medina consisting of hard standing ground, parking, roads and buildings.</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreational – ferry terminal</p>	Negligible
P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way	<p>Distance from European site: Adjacent to the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Size: ~ 50 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: An area of urban development in the north-east, three arable fields, an area of disturbed ground, a small patch of woodland/scrub in the north and centre of the site. The southernmost arable field was identified as a core area and the field immediately to the north of this was identified as a candidate site in the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy.</p> <p>Use of site: Arable, Urban use</p>	High
P/00741/18, 23/00765/RES: Palmers Farm, Brocks Copse Road	<p>Distance from European Site: 0.5m east of Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 8.5 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Two pasture fields that are dissected by woodland. It is close to two intertidal zones and may be used for feeding during high tides or periods of high maritime disturbance.</p> <p>Current Use: Private grounds/agricultural</p>	Low
P/00941/16: Maresfield Road, Land west of Castle Street	<p>Distance from European Site: Directly adjacent to Solent and Southampton Water SPA</p> <p>Size: ~ 2.2 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: There is significant hardstanding with a small area of amenity grassland, scattered trees and buildings. The site is directly adjacent to</p>	Low

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	<p>the water which is being used by bird species for feeding.</p> <p>Use of Site: Shipping yard, warehouses and supporting infrastructure</p>	
<p>21/01796/OUT: Land at and Rear of 69 And Part OS 8361 Station Road</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.3km southeast of Ramsar site, at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~ 1.7 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: A single, small pasture field bound by urban development to the north and west, woodland to the east and hedgerow/treeline in the south.</p> <p>Current Use: Agriculture</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>P/01101/14: Frank James Hospital, Adelaide Grove</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.18km north of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~0.42</p> <p>Habitats Present: A single building surround by grassland in an area of urban development.</p> <p>Use: Residential</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>Ryde Regeneration Area</p>		
<p>HA055: Old Hosiden Besson site, Binstead Road</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 620m south of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 0.6 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Brownfield site of bare ground and grassland with trees surrounding southern edges. In the residential area of Binstead, surrounded entirely by housing and roads. Urbanised area of Ryde to the east.</p> <p>Use of Site: Redundant site / possible disturbance from recreational activity close-by</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>21/00124/FUL: Part OS parcels 1238,0135 and 0952 Land</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.3km south of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p>	<p>Negligible</p>

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
between Weeks Road and Asheys Road	<p>Size: ~ 4.5ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed land with an area of woodland scrub to the north. Bound by woodland habitat.</p> <p>Use: Residential</p>	
P/00867/17: Former Pondwell Holiday Camp, Pondwell Hill	<p>Distance from European Site: 0.12 west of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 1.9ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed land with bare ground and buildings.</p> <p>Use: Residential</p>	Negligible
20/01733/OUT: Land N of Woodland Copse & Adj Cedar Lodge Puckpool Hill	<p>Distance from European Site: 0.26km south of Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 3.2ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: A mosaic of grassland and scrub with a block of woodland to the south.</p> <p>Use: Unused land</p>	Negligible
19/00803/RVC: Westridge Farm, Land south of Hope Road (Phase 1)	<p>Distance from European Site: 400m south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Size: ~ 4.5ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed land comprised of bare ground.</p> <p>Use: Residential</p>	Negligible
20/01061/FUL: Westridge Cross Dairy and land north of Bullen Road	<p>Distance from European Site: 400m south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Size: ~ 38.5</p> <p>Habitats present: Pasture and arable fields separated by hedgerows and treelines, to the west of the urbanised area of Ryde. Close to European sites with relatively clear sight lines. Bordered on the east by further arable / pasture fields which are known to be used by low numbers of wading birds and brent geese.</p> <p>Use: Farmland / Agricultural</p>	Moderate

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
P/00573/15, P/01127/16: Land at Former Harcourt Sands Holiday Park	<p>Distance from European Site: Adjacent to Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and 550m, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~11.2 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Derelict buildings and hard standing ground with abundant trees and some grassland. Tall features (trees and buildings) reduce the openness of the site, limiting the suitability of the habitat, although the closes to European sites suggest it may be used.</p> <p>Use of Site: Abandoned holiday park, disused and derelict currently</p>	Low
HA119: Pennyfeathers	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.5km south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA, at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~50 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: A series of pasture/arable fields that is dissected by hedgerows and a section of woodland, which connects to a larger area of woodland in the south and north. Part of the site lies outside of the 2km buffer area.</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	Low
P/01218/16: Rosemary Vineyard, Smallbrook Lane	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.9km south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 15 ha</p> <p>Habitat Present: A series of arable fields dissected by hedgerows. A small number of buildings were also present. Bordered by a large block of woodland in the north and is situated at the urban edge.</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	Low
P/00164/17, 21/00964/FUL: Land at Ryde House, Binstead Road	<p>Distance from European Site: Solent and Southampton and Ramsar site, at the closest point</p> <p>Size: ~2.5 ha</p>	Negligible

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	<p>Habitats Present: A construction yard featuring lots of bare ground, hardstanding, building and woodland habitat.</p> <p>Use of Site: Construction yard</p>	
<p>HA116: Former St Marys Convent, High Street</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 650m south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~ 0.3 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed land in the urbanised area of Ryde, comprised of building and hard standing ground.</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreational</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
<p>HA064: Land north of Mill Road and east of High Street</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 340m east of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Size: ~6.1 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Two pasture fields separated by a hedgerow with scattered trees along northern boundary, limiting the openness of the habitat. West of the urbanised area of Bembridge, surrounded on the north and east by residential areas and roads bordering the south and west of the site. Sight lines limited by tall boundary features and woodland between site and Southampton SPA/Ramsar. Bembridge lies between the site and Dorset SPA.</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreational – dog walking</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>HA065: Land east of Hillway Road and south of Steyne Road</p>	<p>Distance from European Site: 400m north west of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Size: ~4.9 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Two pasture linear shaped fields separated by a hedgerow with scattered trees in the middle of the site. Edge features including hedgerows and tree lines present. Bordered by urbanised area of Bembridge on the North and East. Pasture fields and trees separate the site from SPAs and Ramsar.</p> <p>Use of Site: Farmland (used for grazing)</p>	<p>Low</p>

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
P/00637/14: Sites at The Duver Marina and Bembridge Marina	<p>Distance from European Site: Adjacent to Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Size: ~ 0.2 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: A small section of a larger area of bare ground and hardstanding adjacent to the River Yar.</p> <p>Use of Site: Carpark for dock</p>	Negligible
P/00496/18: Land between Nettlestone Hill and Seaview	<p>Distance from European Site: 713m southeast of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site</p> <p>Size: ~ 0.1 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: A small grassland field bound by urban development in the south, east and west and woodland in the north.</p> <p>Use of Site: Agricultural</p>	Low
Employment Allocations		
EA1: Employment Allocation Land to the east of Pan Lane	<p>Distance from European Site: 1.3km south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~3.1 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Hard standing ground with buildings, garages and cars. Two pasture fields split by Godric Road with scattered trees and hedges. In the urbanised area of Newport, surrounded by roads and residential/business areas.</p> <p>Use of Site: Garage and Electrician unit, recreational</p>	Low
EA2: Employment allocation at Nicholson Road, Ryde	<p>Distance from European Site: Approximately 1.4km south of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point.</p> <p>Size: ~14.6 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: This site is comprised of 6 pasture fields, separated by hedgerows and tree lines. It is adjacent to the railway line and bordered on the</p>	Moderate

Site allocation name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of Suitability for SPA/Ramsar Qualifying birds
	north by the urbanised area of Ryde, which separates the site from the SPAs/Ramsar. Use of Site: Farmland.	
EA3: Employment allocation at Somerton Farm, Cowes	Distance from European Site: Approximately 830m north west of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point. Size: ~2 ha Habitats Present: In the urbanised area of Cowes. Rough grassland surrounded by tree lines, scrub and hedgerows, limiting the openness of the habitat. Use of Site: Farmland	Low
EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes	Distance from European Site: Adjacent to Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, at the closest point. Size: ~6.3 ha Habitats Present: Area of grassland and sand with very few scattered trees to the east of the River Medina. Pavement running along eastern boundary and hedgerow along the southern boundary, separating the site from arable fields. North of the site is the urbanised area of East Cowes. Records of low numbers of bird's present. Use of Site: Recreational	Low

Table 5.5: Suitability of Allocations for Qualifying Bird Species of Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

Site Allocation Name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of suitability for SPA qualifying birds
Housing Allocations		
West Wight Regeneration Area		
HA018: Green Gate Industrial Estate, Thetis Road	Distance from European Site: 95 meters west of Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, at the closest point. Size: ~0.1 ha Habitats Present: Hard standing ground, buildings and few trees in the centre of the site. Use of Site: Industrial estate	Negligible

Site Allocation Name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of suitability for SPA qualifying birds
P/00496: Medina Yard	<p>Distance from European Site: Majority of the site is adjacent to Solent and Dorset Coast SPA with the eastern section of the site within this SPA.</p> <p>Size: ~5.9 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed land adjacent to River Medina comprised of Marina buildings, docks, car parks and hard standing</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreation – Marina, highly disturbed</p>	Negligible.
Newport Regeneration Area		
HA044: Newport Harbour	<p>Distance from European Site: Part of the site is adjacent to the east of Solent and Dorset Coast SPA</p> <p>Size: ~2.6 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed land with hard standing ground, buildings, car parks, roads and rare scattered trees. South of the site is the urbanised area of Newport</p> <p>Use of Site: Harbour, recreational</p>	Negligible
East Medina Regeneration Area		
P/00102/14: Folly Works	<p>Distance from European Site: adjacent/partly within Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.</p> <p>Size: ~ 13.5 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Area adjacent to the River Medina, which comprised of buildings, scrub and grassland. Lies adjacent to a candidate site.</p> <p>Use of Site: Buildings associated with farming</p>	Negligible
HA120: Land at Red Funnel	<p>Distance from European Site: adjacent/partly within Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.</p> <p>Size: ~ 2.5 ha</p> <p>Habitats Present: Developed Land adjacent to the River Medina consisting of hard standing ground, parking, roads and buildings.</p> <p>Use of Site: Recreational – ferry terminal</p>	Negligible
P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn	<p>Distance from European site: 58m to the east of the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.</p> <p>Size: ~ 50 ha</p>	Negligible

Site Allocation Name	Review of Site Parameters	Assessment of suitability for SPA qualifying birds
Meadow, Saunders Way	Habitats Present: An area of urban development in the north-east, three arable fields, an area of disturbed ground, a small patch of woodland/scrub in the north and centre of the site. Use of site: Arable, Urban use	
P/00941/16: Maresfield Road, Land west of Castle Street	Distance from European site: adjacent/partly within Solent and Dorset Coast SPA. Size: ~ 2.3ha Habitats Present: Developed Land adjacent to the River Medina consisting of hard standing ground, parking, roads and buildings. Use: Urban development	Negligible
Employment Allocations		
EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes	Distance from European Site: 90m east of Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, at the closest point. Size: ~6.3 ha Habitats Present: Area of grassland and sand with very few scattered trees to the east of the River Medina. Pavement running along eastern boundary and hedgerow along the southern boundary, separating the site from arable fields. North of the site is the urbanised area of East Cowes. Records of low numbers of bird's present. Use of Site: Recreational	Low

5.32 The desk-based review of site allocations identified that the majority of site allocations have low or negligible potential to support significant numbers of SPA/Ramsar qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other allocations, and were therefore discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functional land.

5.33 One site allocation (P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way) was identified with high potential and a total of seven site allocations (HA022: Somerton Farm, Newport Road, HA121: Harry Cheek Gardens / Wyatts Lane, P/00823/18: Land to the rear of 391

Newport Road, HA032: Land at Horsebridge Hill & Acorn Farm, HA033: Land west of Sylvan Drive, 20/01061/FUL: Westridge Cross Dairy and land to the north of Bullen Road, Ryde, EA2: Employment allocation at Nicholson Road, Ryde) were identified with moderate potential to support these qualifying bird species. The sites identified above provide suitable offsite foraging habitat for qualifying bird species in the form of arable and pasture fields. In addition, as part of this assessment a review was undertaken using mapping produced as part of Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020⁴². This mapping has identified a network of core

⁴² Whitfield, D (2020) Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Curdridge.

areas that are regularly used and are of fundamental importance to over-wintering waterfowl across the Solent.

5.34 This assessment identified:

- P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way (high potential) to lie within a core area and candidate site.
- 20/01061/FUL: Westridge Cross Dairy and land to the north of Bullen Road, Ryde (moderate potential) to partially lie within a site considered of low use by qualifying bird species.
- HA064: Land north of Mill Road and east of High Street and HA065: Land east of Hillway Road and south of Steyne Road (low potential) to lie adjacent to a candidate site.

5.35 Core areas are those which "are considered essential to the continued function of the Solent waders and brent goose ecological network and have the strongest functional-linkage to the designated Solent SPAs in terms of their frequency and continuity of use by SPA features" and therefore without appropriate avoidance and mitigation, development has the potential to result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site.

5.36 Low use sites are those which "have records of birds but in low numbers". In isolation, the importance of these sites for the qualifying species is likely to be low when compared with the extensive network of habitat of greater suitability surrounding these European sites. As a result, the potential for the loss of offsite habitat to adversely affect these species relates primarily to the cumulative effect of reducing the extent of feeding areas.

5.37 Uncertainty remains under the precautionary principle as to whether the loss of habitats within these site allocations will, cumulatively with each other and in-combination with the loss of habitat with other plans and projects, adversely affect the integrity of the SPAs and Ramsar sites in relation to the qualifying species. Given the dependency of these species on offsite arable fields and grasslands, inclusion and implementation of appropriate safeguards and mitigation will be

required in Local Plan to provide certainty that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SPAs and Ramsar site.

Mitigation

5.38 To provide certainty that the loss of offsite functional habitat will not adversely affect the integrity of Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site or Solent and Dorset Coast SPA it is recommended that the following safeguard measures are implemented at the project level:

- Wintering or and breeding bird surveys are required for sites with high or moderate suitability to support these qualifying bird species to determine their individual and cumulative importance for these species and inform mitigation proposals.
- A commitment to mitigation is required within the plan, dependent on the findings of bird surveys. In the unlikely but possible event that cumulative numbers of SPA and Ramsar birds affected are likely to exceed thresholds of significance (i.e. >1% of the population of associated European Site), appropriate mitigation in the form of habitat creation and management in perpetuity, either on-site or through provision of strategic sites for these species elsewhere on the Island, will be required. If required, mitigation will need to create and manage suitably located habitat which maximises feeding productivity for these SPA and Ramsar species, and such mitigatory habitat would need to be provided and be fully functional prior to development which would affect significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar birds.

5.39 Any sites that have been identified to contribute to and are classified as part of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy⁴⁴ network (primarily Site allocation P/00328/18: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way, which lies in a core area and candidate site, HA060: Westridge Cross Dairy and land to the north of Bullen Road, Ryde, which partially falls with a site of low use and HA064: Land north of Mill Road and east of High Street and HA065: Land east of Hillway Road and south of Steyne Road, which lie adjacent to a candidate site) that have potential to be affected by

proposed development will be required to provide mitigation that is in line with the requirements of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy mitigation guidance⁴⁵.

5.40 At this stage, the following sites have received planning permission, including P/00328/18: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way and 20/01061/FUL: Westridge Cross Dairy and land to the north of Bullen Road. However, should these planning permissions lapse then the mitigation detailed in this HRA will be required. This should be detailed in Appendix 3 of the plan in relation to site specific requirements.

5.41 Core areas, which are vital for the function of this ecological network and have been identified by the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy will be protected by the policy wording in EV2 Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement in the plan through the following wording:

5.42 *"Development should not have an impact on the most sensitive locations in accordance with the following hierarchy of nature conservation designations...Development proposals will only be permitted in the most sensitive locations in accordance with the hierarchy if it can be clearly demonstrated that the integrity of the national site network will not be adversely affected, other than in exceptional circumstances relating to overriding public interest."*

This is supported by the following supporting text:

"All designated sites form some of the Island's environmental assets and are shown individually on the Policies Map. These comprise of SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites.... and also include the core areas identified in the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020. Development will be steered away from these locations to ensure the most environmentally sensitive areas are protected.

Any plan or development which is considered to have a likely significant effect upon a European and/or Ramsar site will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations Assessment in order to ascertain whether an adverse effect on the site integrity can be excluded. Such development and may be required to demonstrate no adverse effect on

integrity through a project level Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) considering any avoidance, mitigation or compensatory measures."

5.43 Policy EV3: Recreation Impact on the Solent Marine Sites states:

"Any development resulting in the loss of areas identified in the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy will be required to deliver appropriate alternative areas with sufficient funding in place to secure and maintain these alternative areas in perpetuity."

5.44 In addition to this, policies within the plan will provide safeguards and mitigation measures from physical damage and loss of habitats. This includes: EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, EV13: Managing our Water Resources, EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development and EV16: Managing our Coast.

Conclusion

5.45 **Provided that the above mitigation measures are incorporated into the plan, and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, as a result of offsite damage and loss of habitat will be avoided.**

Non-physical disturbance

Briddlesford Copses SAC

5.46 No development is proposed within 500m of the SAC and therefore no direct impacts are considered likely in relation to non-physical disturbance. However, there is potential for impacts to occur in relation to non-physical disturbance from increased light spill on off-site functional habitat within of adjacent to proposed site allocations.

5.47 As detailed in the Screening Assessment, the Bechstein's bat qualifying species was identified to travel within a Core Sustainance Zone (CSZ) of

3km⁴³. A total of one site allocation and three large sites with planning permission were identified within 3km of the SAC and as such have been subject to further, more detailed assessment. Of the four sites, only three (P/00741/18, 23/00765/RES: Palmers Farm, Brocks Copse Road, P/00164/17: Land at Ryde House, Binstead Road and 21/01796/OUT: Land at and Rear of 69 And Part OS 8361 Station Road) supported woodland habitat within or adjacent to the site, which could be used by this qualifying species to forage and roost. The ancient woodland adjacent to P/00741/18, 23/00765/RES: Palmers Farm, Brocks Copse Road was considered to be of particular value for this species.

5.48 An increase in light spill on this woodland habitat has the potential to result in the loss of suitable roosting features for Bechstein's bat and to cause functional fragmentation of woodland habitat, which this species may rely on to disperse into the wider area. Given the specialist nature of this species, which is known to exclusively use woodland habitat to forage and roost, this species is particularly susceptible to impacts from habitat loss and fragmentation.

5.49 Therefore, to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC as a result of proposed development in the plan, appropriate mitigation measures will be required, as detailed below.

Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.50 Proposed allocations in the plan identified within 500m of the SPA and Ramsar have potential to result in a likely significant effect on qualifying bird species as a result of disturbance from noise and vibrations and from increased light spill. Site allocations identified in the Screening Assessment were:

- HA032: Land at Horsebridge Hill & Acorn Farm (Ramsar only)
- HA037: Former Library HQ, land adjacent St Marys Hospital
- HA044: Newport Harbour

- 20/01061/FUL, 19/00803/RVC: Westridge Cross Dairy and land to the north of Bullen Road, Ryde
- HA064: Land north of Mill Road and east of High Street
- HA065: Land east of Hillway Road and south of Steyne Road
- P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way
- P/00102/14: Folly Works
- P/00402/18: West Bay Club, Halletts Shute
- P/00941/16: Maresfield Road, Land west of Castle Street
- P/00637/14: Sites at The Duver Marina and Bembridge Marina
- P00496/18: Land between Nettlestone Hill and Seaview
- EA4: Kingston, East Cowes

5.51 Due to the proximity of these proposed site allocations to the SPA and Ramsar site, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity.

5.52 In addition to this, there is potential for impacts to occur in relation to offsite functional habitat that wading bird species of the SPA and Ramsar site rely on. A desk-based review was undertaken using mapping produced as part of Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020⁴⁴. This mapping has identified a network of core areas that are regularly used and are of fundamental importance to over-wintering waterfowl across the Solent.

5.53 This review identified a single site allocation, HA046, that lies beyond 500m of the SPA and Ramsar but is located within 500m of a candidate site. Candidate sites are defined by the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020 as those which *"have records of high numbers of birds (max count equal to or greater than 100) and/or a total score equal to or greater than 1 in the 3 metrics: GB Importance, SPA Importance and SPA Assemblage but have less than 3 records in total."*

⁴³ Collins, J. (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

⁴⁴ Whitfield, D (2020) Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Curdridge.

5.54 In addition, the review identified P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way to lie within a core area and candidate site, P/00760/16, 19/00803/RVC: Westridge Cross Dairy and land to the north of Bullen Road, Ryde to partially lie within a site considered of low use by qualifying bird species, and HA064: Land north of Mill Road and east of High Street and HA065: Land east of Hillway Road and south of Steyne Road to lie adjacent to a candidate site. Core areas are those which "are considered essential to the continued function of the Solent waders and brent goose ecological network and have the strongest functional-linkage to the designated Solent SPAs in terms of their frequency and continuity of use by SPA features" and low use sites are those which "have records of birds but in low numbers".

5.55 These additional sites will therefore require appropriate mitigation measures as detailed below to ensure no adverse effects on integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site.

Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

5.56 Proposed allocations in the plan identified within 500m of the SPA have potential to result in a likely significant effect on qualifying bird species as a result of disturbance from noise and vibrations and from increased light spill. Site allocations identified in the Screening Assessment were:

- HA002: Land and School buildings at Weston Primary School, Weston Road
- HA006: Heathfield Campsite, Heathfield Road
- HA018: Green Gate Industrial Estate, Thetis Road
- HA044: Newport Harbour
- P/01052/18: 23 Stonehaven residential care home, Carter Street
- 20/00455/FUL: Old Town Hall, Grafton Street
- P/00328/18, 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way
- P/00941/16: Maresfield Road, Land west of Castle Street
- P/00496/16: Medina Yard
- P/00102/14: Folly Works

- HA120: Land at Red Funnel
- P/00637/14: Sites at The Duver Marina and Bembridge Marina
- P00496/18: Land between Nettleston Hill and Seaview

5.57 Due to the proximity of these proposed site allocations to the SPA, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity.

Mitigation

5.58 The plan includes wording in EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which specifies that:

"Development proposals will only be permitted in the most sensitive locations in accordance with the hierarchy if it can be clearly demonstrated that the integrity of the national site network will not be adversely affected, other than in exceptional circumstances relating to overriding public interest.

The loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats will not be permitted except in wholly exceptional cases and then only when a suitable compensation strategy is provided.

There are a number of habitats and features outside of designated sites that make a significant contribution to local biodiversity. Development proposals are expected to promote the maintenance and enhancement of the links between designated sites and to positively contribute to the aims and objectives of the Biodiversity Action Plans.

Development proposals should demonstrate how they have considered the ecological network on the Island (as shown on the Policies Map) and are required to align with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)"

5.59 In addition to this, any sites that have been identified to contribute to and are classified as part of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy⁴⁴ network will be required to provide mitigation that is in line with the requirements of the Solent

Waders and Brent Goose Strategy mitigation guidance⁴⁵.

5.60 This wording is considered to provide sufficient mitigation to ensure that no adverse effects on integrity will occur in relation to non-physical disturbance on these European sites.

Conclusion

5.61 Provided that the above policy wording is incorporated into the plan, and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Bridesford Copses SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, as a result of non-physical disturbance of habitat will be avoided.

Air pollution

Bridesford Copses SAC

5.62 The SAC is situated in the north-east of the Island and is comprised of a complex of structurally diverse, ancient semi-natural woodlands, which are known to support resident breeding Bechstein's bats.

5.63 Bechstein's bats are found exclusively in woodland habitat, which is known to be sensitive to impacts from air pollution. Therefore, changes in the structure and composition of this habitat as a result of increases in air pollution has the potential to result in an adverse effect on the qualifying bat species of the SAC through habitat loss and changes in food sources.

5.64 As detailed in the Screening Assessment, significant increases in traffic-related air pollution are possible within 200m of a European Site. This is supported by data provided within the DMRB, which shows that the effects of nitrogen deposition from traffic is reduced dramatically with distance from the road as illustrated by **Figure 5.1**.

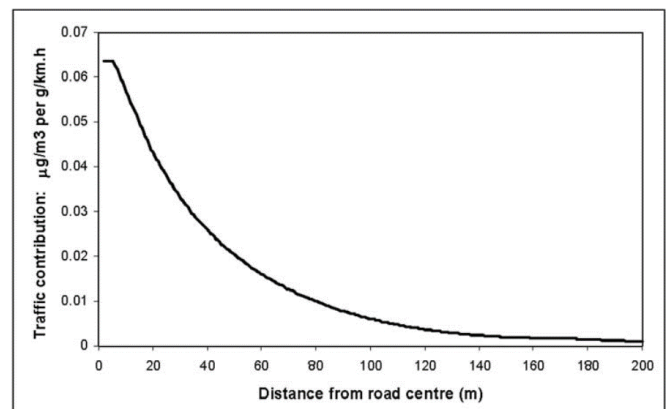


Figure 5.1: Traffic Contribution to Pollutant Concentration at Different Distances from the Road Centre⁴⁶

5.65 An Air Quality Assessment⁴⁷ was undertaken by Ricardo Energy and Environment, which identified the potential for likely significant effects in relation to Bridesford Copses SAC along Combley Road located off the of the primary road network. The AQA identified areas that were '*predicted to exceed the screening thresholds*' that corresponded '*to thin bands of deciduous woodland on either side of Combley Road and extend up to 6m into the designated site*'.

5.66 A desk-based review of aerial imagery, Magic Maps and street maps identified that this habitat within 6m of the roadside support sections with road verges comprising of bracken and grassland habitat and sections of relatively young tree regrowth and scrub to the south of Combley Road, which are considered of relatively low value for Bechstein's bat to forage and roost.

5.67 Given the small extent of suitable woodland habitat that will be affected by increased vehicle emissions from proposed growth in the plan, no adverse effects on integrity is considered likely in relation to habitats within the SAC provided that mitigation measures detailed below are implemented successfully.

5.68 There is, however, potential for impacts to arise from increased air pollution to ancient

⁴⁵ SWBGS Steering Group (2018) Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy: Guidance on Mitigation and Offsetting Requirements.

⁴⁶ Figure C1 from Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (May 2007) Volume 11 Environmental Assessment, Section 3 Environmental Assessment Techniques. Part 1 HA207/7 Air Quality

⁴⁷ Ricardo Energy and Environment, (2019), Isle of Wight Local Plan: Air Quality Impact Assessment.

woodland habitat located within the 3km CSZ of the SAC and which lie within 200m of the primary road network. This includes New Copse, Elenors Grove and Lushington Copse, which lie immediately adjacent to the A3054. These habitats have the potential to have a significant influence on the resilience and conservation of the bat colony using roosts in the SAC. Following consultation with Natural England on the HRA of the Regulation 18 Island Planning Strategy, impacts from increased air pollution from the plan are considered unlikely to result in adverse effects on the integrity of Briddlesford Copses SAC, taking into account mitigation already provided by the Plan, and therefore no further assessment is required to determine the impact to the SAC.

Mitigation

5.69 Broad mitigation measures outlined in the current AQA include planning measures such as encouraging the use of electric cars, traffic management and investment in public transport. This is being delivered through plan policies as detailed below.

5.70 Policies already contained within the Plan will provide a degree of mitigation. These include T1: Supporting Sustainable Transport, T2: A Better Connected Island and T5: Electric Vehicle Charging. These policies encourage the reduction and use of sustainable transport to minimise impacts from vehicle emission. In addition, policy EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement provides safeguards and mitigation.

Conclusion

5.71 In light of the above, adverse effects on the integrity of the Briddlesford Copses SAC, as a result of air pollution of habitat will be avoided.

Recreation pressure

Isle of Wight Downs SAC

5.72 The SAC is located in two areas along the coastline in the south-east near Ventnor and in the west near Freshwater. Key threats from recreation to this SAC include walking from people living in the local area, as well as from visitors to view the Alfred Lord Tennyson Memorial. The SAC is subject to high levels of pedestrian visitors, which

is particularly affecting the calcareous grassland habitat through trampling and erosion, as well as from nutrient enrichment from dogs being walked within the site.

5.73 The site is currently managed by the National Trust who are implementing measures to restore the chalk grassland, including through cattle grazing and clearance of young trees. It is understood that additional discussions are being held between the National Trust and Natural England to ensure the effective management of the site. As outlined in the Screening Assessment, there is no specific survey data available, which can be drawn to inform a ZOI for this SAC. Therefore, in line with a precautionary approach a ZOI of 7km has been applied as detailed above. This reflects similar visitor studies in the south of the UK, including Thames Basin Heaths and Epping Forest.

5.74 A review of site allocations proposed as part of the plan identified 757 new dwellings proposed within 7km of the SAC. This includes proposed development at West Wight Regeneration Area and the Bay Regeneration Area.

5.75 In light of the above information, it is recommended that mitigation measures as detailed below and which are designed to address the cumulative impacts of increased recreation on the SAC as a result of the plan are implemented to ensure a sufficient level of certainty in concluding that the plan will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC.

Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.76 The SPA and Ramsar site are located along the northern coastline of the Isle of Wight. Key threats from recreation to these Solent European Sites include walking/dog walking, cycling and jogging, which represent 91% of all recreational activity along this coastline. Additional threats from recreation include surfing, horse riding and rowing, which comprise of 9% the remaining recreational activity.

5.77 As detailed in the Screening Assessment, targeted visitor surveys undertaken as part of the

Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project⁴⁸ established that 75% of visitors to the Solent and Southampton Water SPA come from within 5.6km. The research predicted a 13% increase in visitor numbers as a result of planned new housing. The same research also highlighted that dogs off lead were a cause of 47% of all 'major flights' i.e. bird(s) flying more than 50 metres to escape disturbance. The findings of these visitor surveys have been used to inform a suite of avoidance and mitigation measures as part of the Bird Aware Solent Strategy^{49, 50}. Given the overlap of habitats between the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, the same ZOI of 5.6km has been applied in relation Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

5.78 A review of site allocations proposed as part of the plan identified the following number of proposed dwellings within the ZOI of each of the European sites:

- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar: 4,995 new dwellings.

5.79 This includes proposed development at West Wight Regeneration Area, West Medina Regeneration Area, Newport Regeneration Area, East Medina Regeneration Area, Ryde Regeneration Area and the Bay Regeneration Area.

5.80 In light of the above and providing mitigation measures detailed in the Bird Aware Solent Strategy are incorporated in the plan and delivered successfully, there is a high level of confidence that the mitigation strategy being prepared will provide the appropriate mechanisms required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity in relation to the SAC, SPAs and Ramsar site.

Solent and Dorset Coast SPA

5.81 The SPA is a marine designated site located along the northern coastline and extending along the south-western coastline of the Island of Wight. Due to the coastal, estuarine and marine nature of the SPA, which is used by the qualifying tern species to forage only, impacts from recreation are

considered to be primarily restricted to water-based activities.

5.82 Based on findings presented in the visitor surveys undertaken for the Solent and Southampton Water SPA (for which a large portion of the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA overlaps), it was found water-based activities, included surfing and rowing, which comprised of less than 9% of recreational activities along this stretch of the coastline with the majority (91%) of activities relating to walking/dog walking, cycling and jogging, which foraging terns are unaffected by due to the reliance of sea habitat to forage.

5.83 In light of the above and providing mitigation measures detailed below are incorporated in the plan and delivered successfully, there is a high level of confidence that the mitigation strategy being prepared will provide the appropriate mechanisms required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity in relation to the SPA.

Mitigation

5.84 It is recommended that the following mitigation measures are implemented to ensure that there is a sufficient level of certainty that proposed development in the Plan will not result in an adverse recreation effect on the integrity of the European sites described above. These measures have been designed to ensure that each site allocation's contribution to cumulative increases in recreational pressure on each European site is addressed.

Provision of Open Spaces

5.85 The provision of alternative natural green space and green infrastructure (GI) represents an important aspect of mitigation for non-coastal European sites, such as Isle of Wight Downs SAC. Therefore, the strategic approach to incorporating protective measures specified in the plan is considered likely to provide an effective contribution in mitigating significant effects associated with recreation. This mitigation is provided in the plan through Policy EV6 Protecting

⁴⁸ Phase 2 report, Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project Phase II: Predicting the impact of human disturbance on overwintering birds in the Solent, (Footprint Ecology, February 2012) Available here: http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/SRMP/SDMP/

⁴⁹ Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership, (2014), Interim Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy

⁵⁰ Bird Aware Solent, (2017), Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy

and Providing Green and Open Spaces, which outlines:

"Development proposals are required to provide and enhance green and open space in line with the standards set out in the Isle of Wight Open Space Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they:

- 1. Avoid the loss of identified open space, as shown on the Policies Map.*
- 2. Ensure the deficiencies identified within the councils Open Space Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy are being addressed.*
- 3. Where relevant, make provision for public green, open and recreational space through on site or off site provision, taking into account proposals within the Isle of Wight Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)."*

5.86 To maximise the effectiveness of its role in mitigating recreational impacts on European sites, the design and management of open space and green infrastructure will need to be focused towards attracting those groups of visitors who regularly visit the Isle of Wight Downs SAC, such as walkers and dog walkers.

5.87 Given the unique nature and attraction of coastal European sites, provision of alternative open space is less applicable as a mitigation measure for the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and therefore the focus of the Mitigation Strategy should be primarily on access management and monitoring.

Access Management and Monitoring of the Isle of Wight Downs SAC

5.88 The Isle of Wight Downs SAC is currently being actively managed by the National Trust, which includes measures to protect and restore the chalk grassland and in turn mitigate for impacts relating to recreational pressure. This will be an important aspect of mitigation in-combination with the provision of open spaces as detailed above.

Project Level HRA

5.89 Site specific planning applications, especially larger ones in proximity to the above European

sites, will need to consider the requirement to undertake project level HRA, and where appropriate would be expected to incorporate necessary safeguards in line with the policy safeguards included within the plan. Detail of this requirement is outlined in policy EV2 Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement.

Financial Contribution / Developer-led Mitigation Scheme for the Solent European Sites

5.90 Development proposals that will result in a net gain of residential housing within 5.6km of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar will be required to provide mitigation through either a financial contribution or a developer-led mitigation scheme that achieves the requirements of the Bird Aware Solent Strategy. The level of financial contribution will be subject to the net increase in residential housing proposed. This mitigation is provided in the plan through Policy EV3 Recreation Impact on the Solent European Sites.

Watercraft – Code of Conduct

5.91 Water-based recreational activities have the potential impact coastal and marine habitats. These activities can be difficult to manage and monitor the location and frequency of these activities because they are less predictable and take place in inaccessible locations. As a result, it is recommended that the most appropriate means of reducing the frequency and severity of such activities is by promoting a Code of Conduct and encouraging increased self-regulation from participants. This is being delivered as part of the Bird Aware Solent Strategy through rangers who are present on site.

Policy Wording

5.92 Policies in the plan already provide some safeguards and mitigation from recreational impacts. These include: EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which provides safeguards and mitigation to European protected sites, and EV3 Recreation Impact on the Solent Marine Sites and EV6 Protecting and Providing Green and Open Spaces, which provide the mechanism for providing mitigation in the plan.

Conclusion

5.93 Provided that the above recommendations incorporated into the plan, and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Isle of Wight Downs SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site / Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, as a result of recreational impacts will be avoided.

Water quantity

5.94 The Isle of Wight supports a small Water Resource Zone (WRZ) and is reliant on water being supplied from a range of water sources, including from the River Yar and River Medina (23%), from groundwater sources from the chalk aquifer on the Island (47%) and from water supplied from the mainland from the Hampshire South WRZ, which is directed via a sub-Solent water main (30%).

5.95 The Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS)⁵¹ has identified that The Hampshire South and Isle of Wight WRZ's are at risk of large supply deficits and as such will require appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures to ensure that there is no adverse effects on integrity to European sites that are hydrologically connected to the WRZ.

Catchment Abstraction Licencing Strategy (CALs)

5.96 The Environment Agency is responsible for managing water resources in England. The Environment Agency controls how much water is abstracted with a permitting system, regulating existing licences and granting new ones. It uses the CALs process and abstraction licensing strategies to do this. The CALs process aims to aid the meeting of the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive by:

- Providing a water resource assessment of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries and groundwater referred to as water bodies under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

- Identifying water bodies that fail flow conditions expected to support good ecological status.
- Preventing deterioration of water body status due to new abstractions.
- Providing results which inform River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

5.97 The Isle of Wight lies within the Isle of Wight WRZ for which the most recent CALs was published in March 2019⁵². The CALs identifies that the Isle of Wight is "*heavily committed to abstraction and there is very little scope for additional abstraction*" to be available.

5.98 The CALs process has developed a classification system in order to inform the abstraction process. This classification provides an indication of:

- The relative balance between the environmental requirements for water and how much is licensed for abstraction.
- Whether water is available for further abstraction.
- Areas where abstraction may need to be reduced.

5.99 In terms of water resource availability, this has been calculated at four different flows with Q30 being higher flows and Q90 being lower flows. The findings are presented below for each flow rate.

- Q30 – this comprises a mixture of restricted water and no water availability in relation to the Eastern Yar and Medina and water available in relation to the remaining waterbodies.
- Q50 – this identified a large area of no water availability in relation to the Eastern Yar and Medina and restricted water in relation to the Caul Bourne. Water was available in relation to the remaining waterbodies.
- Q70 – this comprised of no water availability in relation to the Easter Yar (with exception to the Upper Yar, which was identified as a discharge rich waterbody), Caul Bourne and

⁵¹ Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, (2018), Integrated Water Management Strategy.

⁵² Environment Agency, (2019), Isle of Wight Abstraction Licensing Strategy

the Medina, and restricted water availability in relation to Atherfield Stream. Water was available in relation to the remaining waterbodies.

- Q90 - this comprised of no water availability in relation to the Easter Yar (with exception to the Upper Yar, which was identified as a discharge rich waterbody), Caul Bourne and the Medina, and restricted water availability in relation to Atherfield Stream. Water was available in relation to the remaining waterbodies.

5.100 In terms of groundwater resource availability, the CALS identified this to have restricted water available across the Island.

Mitigation

5.101 The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), Natural England and the Environment Agency are working together to develop an Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS). The purpose of the IWMS is to examine the potential for the PFSH region to accommodate future housing growth without having a detrimental effect upon the water environment (both in terms of water quality and quantity). The IWMS contains an Action Plan for how to take forward recommended actions and includes:

- Water efficiency to minimise increase in demand.
- Protection and enhancement of watercourses.
- Ensuring sufficient capacity for the treatment of wastewater.

5.102 The Island Planning Strategy has taken these measures into consideration. In addition to ongoing engagement with both the Environment Agency and Natural England, the council has been working in partnership with Southern Water to ensure synergy between the water company's Water Resource Management Plan and the plan and to deal with any potential conflicts as early as possible.

5.103 Policy EV13: Managing our Water Resources sets out ways the council expect new development to conserve and manage water resources. This includes:

- Implementing measures to restrict predicted internal potable water consumption to 100 litres per person per day.
- Providing on-site recycling measures, where appropriate, to include, but not limited to, rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling and the use of flood mitigation measures such as attenuation to augment supply.
- Ensuring no negative impact upon the Island's watercourses and providing environmental enhancements wherever relevant.
- Ensuring no risk to the Island's aquifers, including through the appropriate provision of sustainable drainage systems.
- Ensuring no net increase in surface water run-off, compared with the predevelopment rate and for development on greenfield sites, where relevant, reduce run-off rates to below the greenfield run-off rates by at least 20%.
- Ensuring drainage systems meet the drainage needs of the development in full over the lifetime of the development and do not increase flood risk elsewhere.
- Where sewers have limited capacity, site promoters need to work with Southern Water to ensure delivery of the network aligns with occupation of the development. A condition may be required.
- When planning site layout, taking into account any existing water and/or sewerage infrastructure, to safeguard future access for maintenance and upsizing purposes.

5.104 Policies detailed within the plan will provide, to some degree, safeguards and a level of mitigation to European sites. This includes EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which outlines protection measure to European designated sites, and EV13: Managing our Water Resources, EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development and EV15: Monkton Mead Catchment Area, which outline safeguards and mitigation measures specifically in relation to management of water resources and preventing flooding.

Conclusion

5.105 Provided that the policy wording incorporated into the plan is implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Solent Maritime SAC, South Wight Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons, Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and River Itchen SAC, as a result of impacts from water quantity on habitat will be avoided.

Water quality

5.106 Proposed development as part of the plan on the Isle of Wight has the potential to contribute to increased levels of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Solent causing eutrophication of the European sites.

5.107 Natural England has advised that any new development proposed that uses WwTW that discharge into the Solent European sites and/or waterbodies that subsequently discharge into these designated sites will need to demonstrate no adverse effects on integrity by achieving nutrient neutrality. This should be calculated using the Natural England methodology⁵³ and may require appropriate mitigation to achieve this.

5.108 As part of this advice, Natural England has confirmed that any development that will discharge into the Sandown, Brighstone, Shorwell or St Lawrence WwTW will not be required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality because this WwTW discharges into the English Channel rather than the Solent. Southern Water has confirmed that a large proportion (97%) of the sites proposed as part of the plan will discharge to the Sandown WwTW and will not therefore result in an adverse effect on integrity of the Solent European Sites. Only one site allocation (HA096) proposed will not discharge into Sandown, Brighstone, Shorwell and St Lawrence WwTW and is therefore required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality. In addition to this, the plan includes for the provision of 1,500 windfall sites. These windfall sites will be subject to HRA and will be required to follow the approach detailed

in the IWC Position Statement at the time of application.

5.109 The council has prepared a nutrient budget⁵⁴ for HA096 and for windfall sites⁵⁵. This budget demonstrates that impacts will arise from proposed development in the plan and that mitigation as detailed below will be required to ensure no adverse effect on integrity of Solent European sites. The nutrient budget confirms that there is sufficient mitigation options available for proposed development in the plan for impacts from increased nutrients to be mitigated for.

5.110 In addition to this, Natural England as part of the Regulation 18 Island Planning Strategy consultation have advised that there is potential for impacts to arise in relation to increased levels of phosphorus pollution from proposed development discharging into WwTW whose effluent discharges into the River Medina. The nutrient budget⁵⁵ prepared by the council confirms that no proposed allocations will discharge into the Medina catchment and as such it can be concluded that no adverse effect on the integrity of the Solent European sites will arise as a result of proposed development. Should any windfall sites come forward, which will result in the discharge of wastewater into the Medina catchment then mitigation as detailed below and in line with Natural England's guidance³⁸ will be required.

Combined Sewer Overflows

5.111 Since the previous IWC Position Statement prepared in 2022, further discussions have been undertaken with Natural England in relation to Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and the Position Statement has been updated to reflect this.

5.112 CSO events relate to unscheduled discharges, primarily comprised of excess surface water in response to periods of high rainfall into watercourses, including those connected to European sites. Therefore, there is potential for increased housing units, including overnight tourist accommodation, to result in adverse effects on the

⁵³ Natural England (2020), Advice on Achieving Nutrient Neutrality For Development in the Solent Region.

⁵⁴ Isle of Wight Council (2022), Island Planning Strategy Evidence Paper: Nutrient and Phosphorous budget 2022-2037.

⁵⁵ This has been calculated on a precautionary basis that 75% of windfall sites will connect to Sandown, Brighstone, Shorwell or St Lawrence.

integrity of European sites as a result of CSO events affecting water quality. Natural England has advised that this includes Sandown, Brightstone, Shorwell and St Lawrence WwTW, which support CSOs which discharge into Solent European sites.

5.113 The IWC Position Statement identifies a number of regulatory permitting regimes, which are considered to provide appropriate mechanisms to ensure that no impacts arise. This includes:

“Each CSO is subject to permit limits, and the Environment Agency work closely with water companies to ensure that they are monitoring and reporting back on their discharge activity.

Where new development that involves a net increase of residential units (including overnight tourist accommodation) proposes to connect to the foul drainage network, the sewerage provider (Southern Water) will review the capacity of the storage in its sewer network as part of the planning application / request to connect.

If such development would lead to an increase in the base flows to a treatment works, then the Environment Agency would require storage to be increased either in the sewer network, or at the WwTW to ensure the average spills from the CSOs do not increase⁵⁶...

...The Council is also aware and fully supportive of measures taken to reduce flooding risk and better manage surface water across the Island and recognises Southern Water’s commitment to reducing storm water overflows, in line with the Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, the latter which requires WwTW serving more than 2,000 population to meet defined nitrogen pollution standards on or before 1 April 2030.”

5.114 However, to ensure that no adverse effects on the integrity of Solent European sites as a result of proposed development in the plan, mitigation measures have been provided and are detailed below.

Mitigation

Policy Wording

5.115 The plan includes provision of a specific policy, EV4 Water Quality Impact on Solent Marine Sites, which specifically addresses the potential impacts to water quality in the Solent from nutrient enrichment that may arise from proposed development in the plan. The policy states:

For all planning applications that involve a net increase of residential units or a net increase in guests at tourist accommodation), it must be demonstrated that the development would not cause harm to the Solent Marine Sites as a result of drainage that would result in a net increase in nutrients. Development proposals should demonstrate how nutrient neutrality has been achieved by:

a) Confirming that the development will connect to the public sewer system and if so, gain written confirmation from Southern Water that it would drain to Sandown, Brightstone, Shorwell or St Lawrence Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW). If this is the case, then the IWC will impose a planning condition on any grant of planning permission that secures the drainage solution in perpetuity;

b) If the proposed development would not drain to Sandown, Brightstone, Shorwell or St Lawrence WwTW, then details of the drainage solution for the development and an accompanying nitrogen budget must be provided together with any required mitigation in agreement with Natural England;

All development should be in accordance with the Council’s Position Statement on this issue that will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

5.116 In relation to impacts from CSO events, the plan includes provision for Policy EV13 Managing our Water Resources, which states:

“Development proposals will be required to conserve and manage water resources by:

- *separating foul and surface water and not directing surface water into the sewer*

⁵⁶ Review of the Need for Nutrient Neutral Development in the Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works catchment. June 2020. Ricardo Energy and Environment, on behalf of Havant Borough Council,

Portsmouth City Council, East Hampshire District Council, and Winchester City Council (available here)

system unless no other feasible option is available. In such cases, developers must work with Southern Water to ensure no adverse impact on the sewer network and the delivery of any necessary network enhancements align with occupation of the development. Planning conditions or obligation clauses may be required”

5.117 Policy EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development, which states:

The Council will require all development proposals to reduce on-site and off-site risk of flooding on the Island. Development proposals will be required to:

- provide appropriate on-site sustainable drainage systems for the disposal of surface water in order to ensure there is no net loss of flood storage capacity or impact on water quality and demonstrate how surface water will not be connected to the sewer system.

5.118 These policies address the potential impacts to water quality in the Solent from nutrient enrichment as a result of CSO events that may arise from proposed development in the plan.

5.119 In addition, the Isle of Wight Council has prepared a position statement⁵⁷ on these issues that sets out the Council’s approach to both new housing development being proposed on the island and island land being used to offset mainland development. This position statement has been agreed with Natural England and will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes on this issue.

Project-level HRA

5.120 Sites that will result in a net increase in nutrient levels will be required to achieve nutrient neutrality and to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity (adverse effects on integrity) of the Solent European Sites. This must be demonstrated through the provision of a project-level HRA and where there is an increase nutrient levels, appropriate mitigation measures implemented to ensure the scheme achieves nutrient neutrality. As

recommended by Natural England, this should include consideration of the following measures. These options have been considered in more detail in the nutrient budget prepared by the Council.

- Nature-based solutions:
 - Interceptor Wetlands – wetlands can be effective at uptake of nutrients through natural processes. They include storm interceptor wetlands and interceptor wetlands to take effluent from WwTWs before discharge into watercourses. Wetlands need to be appropriately designed and located to be effective and this would need to be assessed on a case by case basis.
 - Offsetting – through change in land use in the catchment area from land uses with high nutrient loads to conversion of less nutrient intensive land uses, for example converting agricultural land with high phosphorous and nitrogen inputs to woodland or semi-natural grassland such as chalk grassland with no additional nutrient inputs and low natural discharge.
- Upgrade existing WwTWs:
 - To increase nutrient removal capacity and therefore reduce the effluent nutrient loading.

5.121 In support of this, PfSH have also completed a Nutrient Mitigation Supply and Demand Analysis⁵⁸ which shows a sufficient supply of ‘strategic’ nutrient neutrality mitigation options to aid the delivery of growth in the Solent region. There are currently ten strategic mitigation sites listed on the PfSH website to guide developers to potential mitigation schemes.

5.122

Conclusion

5.123 **Provided that the above mitigation is incorporated into the plan, and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of**

⁵⁷ Isle of Wight Council, Isle of Wight Council Position Statement: Nitrogen neutral housing development

⁵⁸ PfSH (2022), Nutrient Mitigation Supply and Demand Analysis

Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent, Dorset Coast SPA Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar site and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of impacts from water quality of habitat will be avoided.

Summary of Appropriate Assessment

5.124 The conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment are summarised in **Table 5.6:**

- The European sites that are shown as screened out with no colour indicate sites that were considered to have no likely significant effect at the Screening stage.
- The European sites highlighted in grey were found to have no adverse effect on integrity (AEoI) provided the mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 5 are implemented.

Table 5.6: Summary of Appropriate Assessment

European Site	Physical damage and/loss	Non-physical disturbance	Air Pollution	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Water Quality
Briddlesford Copses SAC	No AEoI	No AEoI	No AEoI	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI	Screened out	Screened out
Solent Maritime SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI	No AEoI	No AEoI
South Wight Maritime SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI	No AEoI	Screened out
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI	No AEoI
Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar	No AEoI	No AEoI	Screened out	No AEoI	No AEoI	No AEoI
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	No AEoI	No AEoI	Screened out	No AEoI	No AEoI	No AEoI
New Forest SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out

European Site	Physical damage and/loss	Non-physical disturbance	Air Pollution	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Water Quality
New Forest SPA and Ramsar	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI
Dorset Heaths SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
Dorset Heathlands SPA	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
River Avon SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI
River Itchen SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI	Screened out

Chapter 6

Conclusions and next steps

Findings at this stage of HRA and information required prior to the next stage

6.1 At the Screening stage, likely significant effects on European sites, either alone or in combination with other policies and proposals, were identified for plan policies:

- C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map)
- C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies
- G2: Priority Locations for Development and Growth
- H1: Planning for Housing Delivery
- H2: Sites Allocated for Housing
- KPS1: Key Priority Site 1: HA39 Camp Hill
- KPS2: Key Priority Site 2: HA44 Newport Harbour
- E1: Supporting and Growing our Economy
- EA1: Employment Allocation Land to the east of Pan Lane
- EA2: Employment allocation at Nicholson Road, Ryde
- EA3: Employment allocation at Somerton Farm, Cowes
- EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes
- EA5: Employment allocation at Lowtherville, Ventnor
- EA6: Employment allocation at Sandown Airport, Sandown
- E4: Supporting the Rural Economy

- E7: Supporting and Improving our Town Centres
- E10: The Bay Tourism Opportunity Area
- E11: Ryde Tourism Opportunity Zones

6.1 The findings of the HRA Screening determined that impacts from physical damage and loss, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality could result in a likely significant effect in relation to:

- **Physical damage and loss** – in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC (offsite only), Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.
- **Non-physical disturbance** – in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.
- **Air pollution** – in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC.
- **Recreation** – in relation to Isle of Wight Downs SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.
- **Water Quantity** – in relation to Solent Maritime SAC, South Wight Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and River Itchen SAC.
- **Water Quality** – in relation to Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar site and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site.

6.2 The Appropriate Assessment stage identified whether the above likely significant effects will, in light of mitigation and avoidance measures, result in adverse effects on integrity of the European sites either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. The findings of the Appropriate Assessment are detailed below.

6.3 It can be concluded that no adverse effect on integrity will occur for the following European sites

subject to the provision of safeguarding and mitigation measures as detailed in Chapter 5.

- **Physical Damage and Loss (onsite)** - the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of physical damage and loss in relation to Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA. Sufficient mitigation is provided in the plan through policy EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement.
- **Physical Damage and Loss (offsite)** - the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of physical damage and loss in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA providing the following safeguards and mitigation measures are implemented:
 - Completion of bat surveys for site allocations to determine the ecological value of these sites in relation to Bechstein's bats. At this stage, all sites identified have received planning permission, however, should this lapse then any new applications for these sites will be required to deliver this mitigation.
 - There is a commitment in the plan that proposals will mitigate for impacts, including avoidance of damage and loss of irreplaceable habitat, such as ancient woodland, which this bat species relies.
 - Completion of wintering and breeding bird surveys for site allocations identified with moderate suitability for qualifying bird species and where bird surveys identify the potential for a site allocation to exceed the threshold of >1% for birds that there is a commitment in the plan for specific mitigation, such provision of suitable habitat for birds to be implemented.
 - Any sites that have been identified to contribute to and are classified as part of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy⁴³ network that have potential to be affected by proposed development will be required to provide mitigation that is in line

with the requirements of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy mitigation guidance⁴⁵. At this stage, two of these sites have received planning permission. However, should this lapse then any new applications for these sites will be required to deliver this mitigation.

- **Non-physical disturbance** - the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of non-physical disturbance in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA. Sufficient mitigation is provided in the plan through policy EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement.
- **Air Quality** - the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of increased air pollution in relation to Briddlesford Copses SAC. Sufficient mitigation is provided in the plan through policy T1: Supporting Sustainable Transport, T2: Better Connected Island, T5: Electric Vehicle Charging and EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement.
- **Recreation** - the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of increased recreational pressure in relation to all European sites provided that the following safeguards and mitigation measures are required by the plan and successfully implemented. This includes:
 - Provision of Open Spaces.
 - Project-level HRA, where site allocations are proposed in close proximity to these European sites.
 - Financial Contribution / Developer-led Mitigation Scheme for the Solent European Sites.
 - Watercraft – Code of Conduct.
- **Water Quantity** – the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of increased recreational pressure in relation to all European sites. Sufficient mitigation is provided through Policy EV13: Managing our Water Resources.

- **Water Quality** – the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of water quality issues from the plan in relation to all European sites. Sufficient mitigation is provided through EV4 Water Quality Impact on Solent European Sites (Nitrates), EV13 Managing our Water Resources and EV14 Managing Flood Risk in New Development and as part of the position statement prepared by the Isle of Wight Council. This was supported by the nutrient budget⁵⁴ prepared by the council.

Next steps

6.4 HRA is an iterative process and as such is expected to be updated in light of newly available evidence and comments from key consultees. It is recommended that this report is subject to consultation with Natural England and the Environment Agency to confirm that the conclusions of the assessment are considered appropriate at this stage of plan-making.

Appendix A

Figures

Appendix B

European site information

This appendix contains information about the European sites scoped into the HRA. Information about each site's area, the site descriptions, qualifying features and pressures and threats are drawn from Natural England's Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) and the Standard Data Forms or Ramsar Information Sheets available from the JNCC website. Site conservation objectives are drawn from Natural England's website and are only available for SACs and SPAs

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
SACs					
Briddlesford Copses SAC	166.71	Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteini</i>	<p>Offsite habitat availability/management – Bechstein's bat is known to forage widely across undesignated pasture and hedgerow habitat surrounding the SAC and there is considerable uncertainty over the potential impact on essential invertebrate populations. The value and likely optimal condition of these habitats needs to be much better understood. Local solar array developments, campsites and other development adjacent to the designated site may impact on bat foraging opportunity.</p> <p>Air pollution – Nitrogen deposition exceeds site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects on the sensitive features but this has not been established, and requires further investigation.</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying habitats. ■ The structure and function of (including typical species) of its qualifying habitats. 	<p>The following has been identified in the supplementary advice⁵⁹:</p> <p>Bechstein's primarily feed on invertebrates such as spiders and day-flying insects that are picked from branches and leaves. The species is closely associated with mature deciduous woodland and appears to select old woodpecker holes or rot holes in trees for breeding. It also occurs in coniferous woodland in some areas. Maternity colonies may move between suitable crevices within a small area, such as a piece of woodland. It is believed to</p>

⁵⁹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4805699678765056>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The supporting process (on which the feature relies) ■ The population of qualifying feature 	<p>hibernate in hollow trees and sometimes in underground localities.</p> <p>Connectivity to Firestone Copse should be maintained as bats from Briddlesford Copses use the wetland between the two sites for foraging. It is important to maintain the intervening undesignated grassland because it provides a foraging area as well as improved connectivity between other areas/habitats.</p> <p>Soil biodiversity has a vital role to recycle organic matter. Changes to natural soil properties may therefore affect the ecological structure, function and processes associated with the supporting habitat of this Annex II feature.</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	458.59	<p>1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p> <p>4030 European dry heaths, comprising tracts of 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>; and some strands of the rare chalk heath, with features intermediate between <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Avenula</i></p>	<p>Public access/disturbance – Tennyson Down, a part of Headon Warren & West High Down SSSI, is locally experiencing high levels of pedestrian visits that damage the chalk grassland habitat.</p> <p>Air pollution – Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation.</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying habitats. ■ The structure and function of (including typical species) of its qualifying habitats. ■ The supporting process (on which the feature relies ■ The population of qualifying feature 	<p>The following has been identified in the supplementary advice⁶⁰:</p> <p>Maritime cliff grassland habitat on both cliff faces and fringing cliff tops are maintained by a combination of grazing and natural factors, such as erosion, periodic cliff falls and exposure to salt-spray and wind. Together these maintain a characteristic open sward and bare ground mosaic. Changes in agricultural practices led to the abandonment of grazing and subsequently scrub encroachment has occurred in small areas.</p> <p>The following vegetation types are present and associated with the H2 heathland and are integral parts to the heathland</p>

⁶⁰ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5856185597034496>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<i>pratensis</i> grassland and <i>Calluna – Ulex</i> heath			<p>mosaic, but are not SAC features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ W23 <i>Ulex europaeus</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> scrub ■ W24 <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> - <i>Holcus lanatus</i> underscrub ■ W25 <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> under-scrub ■ MG5 <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> – <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland ■ U1 <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> – <i>Rumex acetosella</i> grassland <p>The following vegetation types are present and associated with the CG NVC types and are integral parts to the chalk grassland mosaic, but are not SAC features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CG1 <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Carlina vulgaris</i> grassland

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CG2 <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Avenula pratensis</i> grassland ■ CG3 <i>Bromus erectus</i> grassland
Solent Maritime SAC	11240.83	<p>1130 Estuaries</p> <p>1320 <i>Spartina swards Spartinion maritimae</i></p> <p>1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</p> <p>H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by</p>	<p>Public access/disturbance - Many human activities in the area can disturb birds. This includes activities such as: walking; dog walking; bird watching; boating; kayaking; kite surfing; hang gliding; paramotors; jet skis; wildfowling; model helicopters/aircraft; boat mooring, and Hovercraft.</p> <p>Water pollution - Water pollution affects a range of habitat and bird species at the site through eutrophication and toxicity. Sources include both point source discharges (including flood alleviation / storm discharges) and diffuse water pollution from agriculture / road runoff, as well as historic contamination of marine sediments, primarily from copper and Tributyltin (TBT). Environment Agency flood event discharge consents allow untreated waters to be discharged which end up in the SAC and</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of 	<p>Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive estuarine flats, often with intertidal areas supporting eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> spp. and green algae, sand and shingle spits, and natural shoreline transitions. The mudflats range from low and variable salinity in the upper reaches of the estuaries to very sheltered almost fully marine muds in Chichester and Langstone Harbours. Unusual features include the presence of very rare sponges in the Yar estuary and a sandy 'reef' of the polychaete <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> on the steep eastern</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</p> <p>H1150 Coastal lagoons</p> <p>H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves</p> <p>H1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals</p>	<p>are likely to have a negative impact. There is a threat of spillage from Oil Transportation and Transfer and by the usage by Ships & Pilotage.</p> <p>Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition - Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. Locally observed effects are unknown.</p> <p>Hydrological changes - Titchfield Haven has a high level of water abstraction licences - if all were used then water levels would be too low in the SAC/SPA . Percolation of sea water through sea walls is causing saline intrusion into non-saline grassland habitats and changing them.</p> <p>Direct impact from 3rd party - Off-roading is causing damage to some areas of grassland. Private sea defences are causing disruption to the natural movement processes of natural materials along the coast. Military helicopters cause disturbance to wintering birds. House boats are unlicensed and have the potential to cause damage to intertidal habitats. Fly</p>	<p>qualifying natural habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely ■ The populations of qualifying species, and, <p>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	<p>side of the entrance to Chichester Harbour.</p> <p>In contrast to the Severn estuary, the salt meadows at this site are notable as being representative of the ungrazed type and support a different range of communities dominated by sea-purslane <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>, common sea-lavender <i>Limonium vulgare</i> and thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i>.</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>colonising mud and sand</p> <p>H1330 Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i></p> <p>H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram</p> <p>S1016 <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>; <i>Desmoulin's</i> whorl snail</p>	<p>grazing is causing issues affecting large areas of Chichester Harbour.</p> <p>Extraction: non-living resources - Shingle extraction for aggregates may have an adverse impact upon intertidal fauna and flora and may affect the movement of coastal sediments that would in turn have an impact upon intertidal habitats.</p>		
South Wight Maritime SAC	19866.15	<p>H1170 Reefs</p> <p>H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the</p>	Public access disturbance - There are potential impacts of recreational boat	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate,	There is a large reef of harder limestone off Bembridge and Whitecliff Bay, where the

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>H8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves</p>	<p>anchoring and landings upon subtidal reef and intertidal rocky shore habitats</p> <p>Physical modification - Potential measures to stabilise areas of SAC cliff habitat in the Compton Chine to Steephill Cove SSSI could impact upon habitat function.</p> <p>Physical modification - The presence of beach huts in areas of the Whitecliff Bay & Bembridge Ledges SSSI is reducing natural processes and the consequent diversity of SAC vegetation types.</p>	<p>and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and <p>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely</p>	<p>horizontal and vertical faces and crevices provide a range of habitats. The bedrock is extensively bored by bivalves. Their presence, together with the holes they create, give shelter to other species, which adds further to habitat diversity. Intertidal pools support a diverse marine life, including a number of rare or unusual seaweeds, such as the shepherd's purse seaweed <i>Gracilaria bursa-pastoris</i>.</p> <p>At the western end, the site adjoins the Isle of Wight Downs, providing an unusual combination of maritime and chalk grassland. The most exposed chalk cliff tops support important assemblages of nationally rare lichens, including <i>Fulgensia fulgens</i>. The longest section is composed of slumping acidic sandstones and neutral clays</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
					<p>with an exposed south-westerly aspect. The vegetation communities are a mixture of acidic and mesotrophic grasslands with some scrub and a greater element of maritime species, such as thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i>, than is usual on soft cliffs. This section supports the Glanville fritillary butterfly <i>Melitaea cinxia</i> in its main English stronghold. A small, separate section of the site on clays has a range of successional stages, including woodland, influenced by landslips.</p> <p>This site also contains the only known location of subtidal chalk caves in the UK. The large littoral caves in the chalk cliffs are of ecological importance, with many hosting rare algal species, which are restricted to this type of habitat. The fauna of these sea caves</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
					includes a range of mollusc species such as limpets <i>Patella</i> spp. and the horseshoe worm <i>Phoronis hippocrepia</i> .
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	38.03	<p>1150 Coastal lagoons – Three notable species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Foxtail stonewort <i>Lamprothamnium papulosum</i> ■ Lagoon sand shrimp <i>Gammarus insensibilis</i> ■ Starley sea anemone <i>Nematostella vectensis</i> 	<p>Hydrological changes - Sluices around the lagoons, particularly in East Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are in poor condition/potentially not functioning fully. This causes water quality issues and changes in the hydrology of the lagoons, for example, a poor condition outfall at Gilkicker Lagoon has caused an inappropriate salinity regime which threatens its ability to support lagoonal specialist communities. Freshwater streams and land and golf course drainage also threaten the salinity and water quality of the lagoons.</p> <p>Air pollution – Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats 	<p>The lagoons show a range of salinities and substrates, ranging from soft mud to muddy sand with a high proportion of shingle, which support a diverse fauna including large populations of three notable species: the nationally rare foxtail stonewort <i>Lamprothamnium papulosum</i>, the nationally scarce lagoon sand shrimp <i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>, and the nationally scarce starlet sea anemone <i>Nematostella vectensis</i>.</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			condition on the site. This requires further investigation.	The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely	
New Forest SAC	29254.11	<p>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i></p> <p>3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i></p> <p>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>4030 European dry heaths – H2</p>	<p>Drainage - A legacy of 150 years of drainage of mires, wet heathlands, wet grasslands and streams to improve grazing has led to a loss of peat, reduction of habitat condition, bracken and scrub encroachment.</p> <p>Air pollution - Air pollution impacts on vegetation diversity. Aerial deposits of nitrogen may exceed the threshold limits above which the quality and character of vegetation begins to be altered and adversely impacted. This could potentially lead to a loss or change of habitat type which in turn will impact on species reliant on that habitat.</p> <p>Public access/disturbance - The New Forest attracts high numbers of visitors annually and there is an assumption that disturbance affects the breeding success of SPA birds and SAC habitats through erosion,</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Extent and distribution of the feature ■ Structure and function of the feature (including typical species) ■ Supporting processes on which the feature relies ■ Population of the feature 	<p>The following has been identified in the supplementary advice⁶¹:</p> <p>Habitats</p> <p>Hatchet Pond - It contains shoreweed <i>Littorella uniflora</i> and isolated populations of northern species such as bog orchid <i>Hammarbya paludosa</i> and floating bur-reed <i>Sparganium angustifolium</i>, alongside rare southern species such as Hampshirepurslane <i>Ludwigia palustris</i>. Hatchet Pond is therefore important as a southern example of this lake type where northern species, more common in the uplands of the UK, co-exist with</p>

⁶¹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5727577884852224>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p><i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Ulex minor</i> heath type, and H3 <i>Ulex minor</i>- <i>Agrostis curtisii</i> heath</p> <p>6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils <i>Molinion caeruleae</i></p> <p>7150 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer <i>Quercion robur-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i></p> <p>9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and</p>	<p>compaction and damage to vegetation and water bodies.</p> <p>Water pollution - Many villages have properties that are not on mains sewerage and have domestic treatment units which discharge into ditches and streams that are either within or flow into the SAC. The ditches and streams have seasonal flow and this in combination with a number of properties all discharging into the same channel could lead to an increase in nutrient levels impacting on the habitats they flow through, reducing species richness and diversity.</p> <p>Forestry and woodland management - Lack of management of woodlands in private ownership has led to loss of characteristic ground flora and shrubs and threat from non-natives such as scots pine, turkey oak and rhododendron</p> <p>Vehicles - Much of the SAC is unfenced with open access and numerous roads crisscrossing the site. Although the area is well served by car parks, parking on the verges is common, this is a particular problem in villages with parking on verges</p>		<p>southern species. Fish communities may exert a strong influence on overall lake ecology and may cause or exacerbate eutrophication symptoms. Where fisheries are present it should be a balanced mixed fishery. Eight species of fish have been recorded from Hatchet Pond; Northern Pike <i>Esox lucius</i>, European Perch <i>Perca fluviatilis</i>, Common Roach <i>Rutilus rutilus</i>, Eurasian Ruffe <i>Gymnocephalus cernuus</i>, Common Bream <i>Abramis brama</i>, Tench <i>Tinca tinca</i>, Common Carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>, Mirror Carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> and Common Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>. - The minimum biomass present is estimated to be 159.3 kg/ha, although the actual fish stock was surmised to be above 200 kg/ ha.</p>

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		<p>sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer <i>Quercion robur-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i></p> <p>9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests</p> <p>9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>91D0 Bog woodland</p> <p>91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</p>	<p>outside properties, village greens and Manorial wastes. This leads to a loss of vegetation, compaction of the soil and pollution. There are a variety of solutions available, but funding will be required.</p>		<p>In the New Forest vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> occurs on the edge of large temporary ponds, shallow ephemeral pools and poached damp hollows in grassland, which support a number of specialist species in a zone with toad rush <i>Juncus bufonius</i>. These include the two nationally scarce species coral-necklace <i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i> and yellow centaury <i>Cicendia filiformis</i>, often in association with allseed <i>Radiola linoides</i> and chaffweed <i>Anagallis minima</i>. Heavy grazing pressure is of prime importance in the maintenance of the outstanding flora of these temporary pond communities. Livestock maintain an open habitat, controlling scrub</p>

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		<p>1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercurial</i></p> <p>1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i></p>			<p>ingress, and trampling the surface.</p> <p>Wet heaths - Wet heaths enriched by bog myrtle <i>Myrica gale</i> are a prominent feature of many areas of the Forest. Unlike much lowland heath, the New Forest heaths continue to be extensively grazed by cattle and horses, favouring species with low competitive ability. Dry heaths in the New Forest are also characterised by a continuous history of grazing.</p> <p>Species</p> <p>The southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> has very specialised habitat requirements, being confined to shallow, well-vegetated, base-rich runnels and flushes in open areas or small side-channels of chalk rivers. Most sites are on wet heath. Females lay eggs onto submerged plants, and the</p>

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					<p>predatory aquatic larvae probably take two years to mature.</p> <p>The stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> is the UK's largest terrestrial beetle, and amongst the most spectacular, reaching 7 cm in length. Larvae develop in decaying tree stumps and fallen timber of broad-leaved trees in contact with the ground, especially of apple <i>Malus</i> spp., elm <i>Ulmus</i> spp., lime <i>Tilia</i> spp., beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> and oak <i>Quercus</i> spp. Such timber is an essential feature for conservation of structure and function of the habitat for this species. Development takes around 3-4 years.</p> <p>The great crested newt is the largest native British newt, reaching up to around 17cms in length. Newts require aquatic habitats for breeding.</p>

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					Eggs are laid singly on pond vegetation in spring, and larvae develop over summer to emerge in August – October, normally taking 2–4 years to reach maturity.
Dorset Heaths SAC	5719.54	4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> 4030 European dry heaths 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils	Public Access/Disturbance – Public access and disturbance affect large parts of the site mainly in the area of Poole/Bournemouth. Disturbance of breeding SPA birds, mostly by dogs, can affect their breeding success, with implications for population level effects e.g. nightjar and woodlark. Other effects include predation by domestic cats and urban foxes, habitat change from nutrients in dog faeces, and dumping of garden rubbish. On a number of sites the illicit use of heaths for motorcycle scrambling is resulting in disturbance and erosion, however motorcycle use on heathlands has generally declined relative to previous levels in response to site wardening and alternative facilities being made available.	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of 	The following has been identified in the supplementary advice ⁶² : The dry heath occurs on very infertile soils and is dominated by heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> growing in association with bell heather <i>Erica cinerea</i> , gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> and usually one of the dwarf gorse species. The dry heath, in conjunction with the wider heathland mosaic, supports important assemblages of animal species that include grasshoppers (Orthoptera), bees and wasps (Hymenoptera), spiders

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		<p>(<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i> * Priority feature</p> <p>7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></p> <p>1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>	<p>Water Pollution – Pollution from different sources affect a number of areas. It comprises of pollution from adjacent agricultural land (run-off causing nutrient enrichment); leaching from adjacent landfill sites (3 sites); pollution from foul drainage (septic tanks, sewage discharge); urban run-off. Poor water quality from the sources listed can also impede the ability to restore the sites' natural hydrology. Silt/sand run-off from adjacent sand/gravel workings and now capped landfill have smothered part of a mire system at Upton Heath. Successful remedial work in the above cases is difficult.</p> <p>Air Pollution: impact of Pressure atmospheric nitrogen deposition - Air pollution impacts on the site's vegetation diversity. As with most lowland heathlands and mires in England N deposition is close to, and in some cases exceeds critical loads.</p>	<p>qualifying natural habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely ■ The populations of qualifying species, and, ■ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>(Arachnida), and all six species of native British reptiles.</p> <p>The wet heaths occupy areas of impeded drainage on the lower sides of valleys and on areas of less steeply sloping ground over more impermeable soils.</p> <p>The valley mires contain small pockets of wet woodland but most of these appear to be of recent origin.</p> <p>At Studland there is a large acidic dune system. The structure and function are well conserved with dune-building processes still active.</p> <p>Acidic humid dune slack communities with a high water table lie in the parallel hollows between the dune ridges.</p> <p>To the north of the Purbeck chalk ridge and in places elsewhere, spring-fed water</p>

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					flushes the heathland wetlands. The heathland wetlands together with numerous small water bodies form a stronghold for invertebrates. Some of the ponds, particularly towards the edges of the heathland area where there is base enrichment of the groundwater, support populations of great crested newt.
River Avon SAC	467.58	H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating	Water pollution - Elevated levels of phosphate (P) lead to dominance by algae and a loss of characteristic plant species. Within Blashford Lakes high P levels could switch the system from a macrophyte dominated system to an algal dominated one resulting in a poorer feeding conditions for gadwall. Organic pollution, reducing dissolved oxygen levels (from microbial breakdown of organic material) effects biota and is also an issue. Water quality can also	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying 	The following has been identified in the supplementary advice ⁶³ : Over time the Avon SAC and its tributaries have been managed and modified to suit man's needs. These practices have resulted in more than 50% of the river channel length being modified producing uniform channel habitats,

⁶³ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6048472272732160>

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		<p>vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot</p> <p>S1016 Desmoulin`s whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></p> <p>S1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></p> <p>S1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></p> <p>S1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></p> <p>S1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></p>	<p>affect the habitat quality necessary to support Desmoulin's whorl snail and the SPA species. Diffuse pollution from agriculture, small point discharges and sewage treatment work (STW) discharges are contributing to elevated levels of nutrients (by 10-50ug/l P) and reduced dissolved oxygen levels in parts of the SAC.</p> <p>Water abstraction - Water abstraction causes lower than natural river flows that affects a range of habitat factors including current velocity, water depth, wetted area, substrate quality, dissolved oxygen levels and water temperature</p> <p>Public access/disturbance - Dog walkers disturbing wildfowl in areas outside public rights of way is a concern.</p> <p>Hydrological changes - Desmoulin's whorl snail is an annual species and requires localities that are stable hydrologically. Changes in the hydrology that may affect the species include flooding or drying out due to low ground water levels which may be linked to either changing climate conditions or over-abstraction.</p>	<p>natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely ■ The populations of qualifying species, and, ■ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>detrimentally modified water velocities and water depths and loss of key features such as gravel substrates, in-channel woody material and tree cover. Surveys have also found the riparian and floodplain vegetation to be severely degraded over much of the system. In addition to the physical impacts; elevated levels of nutrients and sediment loads from diffuse and point sources also continue to impact on the habitat.</p> <p>Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> is the largest <i>Vertigo</i> species, with a shell height up to about 2.6 mm. This snail is restricted to calcareous wetlands, usually bordering lakes or rivers, or in fens where high levels of humidity appear to be important in determining local</p>

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			<p>Inappropriate weed control - Insensitive weed cutting may impact on the chalk stream habitat and the fish species it supports.</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation - SAC/SPA boundaries may not adequately cover the extent of all Annex 1 and Annex 2 features and/or their supporting habitats</p>		<p>distribution within sites. It normally</p> <p>lives on reed-grasses and sedges, such as reed sweet-grass <i>Glyceria maxima</i> and tussocks of greater pond-sedge <i>Carex riparia</i> and lesser pond-sedge <i>C. acutiformis</i>, where it feeds on the micro-flora, and in autumn it may climb taller reeds and scrub. It is highly dependent on the maintenance of existing local hydrological conditions. The restoration of a naturally functioning river and floodplain with a network of back-water swamp and fen habitats is critical to the survival of this species in the catchment.</p> <p>Like other species of lamprey, sea lampreys need clean gravel for spawning, and marginal silt or sand for the burrowing larvae following egg-hatching. They spawn between</p>

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					<p>the months of May-July in areas of pebble and cobble substrate. The River Avon SAC represents sea lamprey in a high-quality river in the southern part of its range. There are excellent examples of the features that the species needs for survival, including extensive areas of sand and gravel in the middle to lower reaches of the river where sea lampreys are known to spawn.</p> <p>Like other lamprey species, the brook lamprey requires clean gravel beds for spawning and soft marginal silt or sand for the larvae. It spawns mostly in parts of the river where the current is not too strong. The Avon is a high-quality river that represents the southern part of the range of brook lamprey. A healthy, stable population occurs in the main river and in a number of tributaries. The</p>

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					<p>main river, and in particular its tributaries, provides clean beds of gravel for spawning and extensive areas of fine silt for juveniles to burrow into.</p> <p>The impact of summer low flows and high temperatures are now considered to be the principal limiting factors on the recovery of the salmon population. However, there also continue to be a number of in-river factors that also impact on the salmon population. These include past channel modifications affecting channel habitat such as gravels, water velocities and water depth, and diffuse pollution from a variety of land uses in the wider catchment.</p>

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River Itchen SAC	303.99	<p>H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot</p> <p>S1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercurial</i></p> <p>S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish</p>	<p>Water pollution - Pollution causes excessive algal growth, smothering macrophytes, and increased BOD, decreasing oxygen availability for spawning gravels used by salmon and trout.</p> <p>Water abstraction - Abstraction modifies the natural flow regime on which the Annex I river habitat depends for its proper functioning. Impacts may occur on habitat character and habitat extent, within the channel or in riparian wetland areas. All parts of the flow regime may be affected but low-to-intermediate flows are most likely to be significantly impacted. Abstraction should not impact on floodplain SAC features such as southern damselfly, as well as riverine features such as salmon</p> <p>Hydrological changes - Some locations on the floodplains are too dry</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species 	<p>The following has been identified in the supplementary advice⁶⁴:</p> <p>The H3260 habitat type is generally characterised by the abundance of water-crowfoots <i>Ranunculus</i> spp. Floating mats of these white-flowered species are characteristic of river channels in early to midsummer. They help to vary water flow, promote fine sediment deposition, and provide shelter and food for fish and invertebrate animals.</p> <p>The southern damselfly has very specialised habitat requirements, with most populations being confined to shallow, well-vegetated, base-rich runnels and flushes in open areas or small side-channels of chalk rivers. Some important populations are</p>

⁶⁴ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5130124110331904>

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		<p><i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></p> <p>S1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></p> <p>S1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></p> <p>S1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></p> <p>S1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely ■ The populations of qualifying species, and, ■ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>however found on larger carrier streams and sections of rivers and their margins.</p> <p>White-clawed crayfish can grow up to 12cms long and live in rivers and streams about 1 metre deep where they hide in rocks and submerged wood.</p> <p>Like other lamprey species, the brook lamprey requires clean gravel beds for spawning and soft marginal silt or sand for the ammocoete larvae. It spawns mostly in parts of the river where the current is not too strong.</p> <p>The Atlantic salmon is an anadromous species (i.e. adults migrate from the sea to breed in freshwater). Spawning takes place in shallow excavations called redds, found in shallow gravelly areas in clean rivers and streams where the water flows swiftly.</p>

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					<p>The bullhead is a small bottom-living fish that inhabits a variety of rivers, streams and stony lakes. It appears to favour fast-flowing, clear shallow water with a hard substrate (gravel/cobble/pebble) and is frequently found in the headwaters of upland streams. However, it also occurs in lowland situations on softer substrates, so long as the water is well-oxygenated and there is sufficient cover. It is not found in badly polluted rivers. The Itchen is a classic lowland chalk river that supports high densities of bullhead throughout much of its length. The river provides good water quality, extensive beds of submerged plants that act as a refuge for the species, and coarse sediments that are vital for spawning and juvenile development.</p>

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					Otters mainly eat fish, though crustaceans, frogs, voles and aquatic birds may also be taken. Being at the top of the food chain, an otter needs to eat up to 15% of its body weight in fish daily.
SPA					
Solent & Southampton Water SPA	5399.6	<p>A046a Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding) <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></p> <p>A052 Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) <i>Anas crecca</i></p> <p>A137 Ringed plover (Non-breeding) <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></p> <p>A156 Black-tailed godwit (Non-</p>	<p>Public access/disturbance - Many human activities in the area can disturb birds. This includes activities such as: walking; dog walking; bird watching; boating; kayaking; kite surfing; hang gliding; paramotors; jet skis; wildfowling; model helicopters/aircraft; boat mooring, and Hovercraft.</p> <p>Water pollution - Water pollution affects a range of habitat and bird species at the site through eutrophication and toxicity. Sources include both point source discharges (including flood alleviation / storm discharges) and diffuse water pollution from agriculture / road runoff, as well as historic contamination of marine sediments, primarily from copper and Tributyltin (TBT). Environment Agency flood event discharge</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features 	<p>In general, the qualifying bird species of the SPA rely on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The sites ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats below). ■ Maintenance of populations of species that they feed on (see list of diets below). <p>Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Tundra, on migration marshes & estuaries.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>breeding) <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></p> <p>A176 Mediterranean gull (Breeding) <i>Larus melanocephalus</i></p> <p>A191 Sandwich tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></p> <p>A192 Roseate tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna dougallii</i></p> <p>A193 Common tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna hirundo</i></p> <p>A195 Little tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna albifrons</i></p>	<p>consents allow untreated waters to be discharged which end up in the SAC and are likely to have a negative impact. There is a threat of spillage from Oil Transportation and Transfer and by the usage by Ships & Pilotage.</p> <p>Direct land take from development - Private sea defences are causing disruption to the natural processes of allowing erosion to move sediments around the SAC.</p> <p>Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition - Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. Locally observed effects are unknown.</p> <p>Hydrological changes - Titchfield Haven has a high level of water abstraction licences - if all were used then water levels would be too low in the SAC/SPA . Percolation of sea water through sea walls is causing saline intrusion into non-saline grassland habitats and changing them.</p> <p>Direct impact from 3rd party - Off-roading is causing damage to some areas of grassland. Private sea defences are causing disruption to the natural movement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Diet: Eelgrass (<i>Zostera</i>), also vegetation by grazing on land or shallow water. <p>Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Lakes, marshes, ponds & shallow streams. ■ Diet: Omnivorous, mostly seeds in winter, feeds mostly at night in shallow water. <p>Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Sandy areas with low vegetation, on migration estuaries. ■ Diet: Summer, invertebrates, Winter primarily marine worms, crustaceans and molluscs. <p>Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>processes of natural materials along the coast. Military helicopters cause disturbance to wintering birds. House boats are unlicensed and have the potential to cause damage to intertidal habitats. Fly grazing is causing issues affecting large areas of Chichester Harbour.</p> <p>Extraction: non-living resources - Shingle extraction for aggregates may have an adverse impact upon intertidal fauna and flora, and may affect the movement of coastal sediments that would in turn have an impact upon intertidal habitats.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Marshy grassland & steppe, on migration mudflats. ■ Diet: Invertebrates, also some plant material, located by touch and sight <p>Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Steppe, seacoasts, marshes, lakes. ■ Diet: Summer, insects, Winter, marine fish and molluscs. <p>Little Tern: <i>Sterna albifrons</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: nest exclusively on the coast in well-camouflaged shallow scrapes on sand and shingle beaches, spits or inshore islets. ■ Diet: fish, crustacean and invertebrates. <p>Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i></p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Sandy seacoasts, in winter pelagic. ■ Diet: Fish, mostly plunge-diving. <p>Common Tern: <i>Sterna hirundo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: shallow water, along coasts, at freshwater inland lakes and in estuaries. ■ Diet: mainly eat fish, but also consume shrimps and other crustaceans, small squid, marine worms, and leeches. <p>Sandwich Tern: <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: coastal areas, nesting in colonies on sand and shingle beaches. ■ Diet: fish such as sandeels, sprats and whiting.

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Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	88980.55	<p>A195 Little tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna albifrons</i></p> <p>A193 Common tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna Hirundo</i></p> <p>A191 Sandwich tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></p>	No site improvement plan has been prepared, which identified the key vulnerabilities to this site. Reference should be made to Solent and Southampton Water SPA above, which overlaps the SPA.	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, 	See Solent and Southampton Water SPA above.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	
Portsmouth Harbour SPA	1249.6	<p>A046a Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding) <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></p> <p>A069 Red-breasted merganser (Non-breeding) <i>Mergus serrator</i></p> <p>A149 Dunlin (Non-breeding) <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></p> <p>A156 Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) <i>Limosa islandica</i></p>	<p>Public access/disturbance - Many human activities in the area can disturb birds. This includes activities such as: walking; dog walking; bird watching; boating; kayaking; kite surfing; hang gliding; paramotors; jet skis; wildfowling; model helicopters/aircraft; boat mooring, and Hovercraft.</p> <p>Water pollution - Water pollution affects a range of habitat and bird species at the site through eutrophication and toxicity. Sources include both point source discharges (including flood alleviation / storm discharges) and diffuse water pollution from agriculture / road runoff, as well as historic contamination of marine sediments, primarily from copper and Tributyltin (TBT). Environment Agency flood event discharge consents allow untreated waters to be discharged which end up in the SAC and are likely to have a negative impact. There is a threat of spillage from Oil</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely 	<p>See Solent and Southampton Water SPA above.</p> <p>Additional species include:</p> <p>Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat preference: Lakes, rivers, on migration also seacoasts Diet: Primarily fish, often pursued by swimming short distances. <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat preference: undra, moor, heath, on migration estuaries & coasts. Diet: Invertebrates, located by sight and touch.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>Transportation and Transfer and by the usage by Ships & Pilotage.</p> <p>Direct land take from development - Private sea defences are causing disruption to the natural processes of allowing erosion to move sediments around the SAC.</p> <p>Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition - Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. Locally observed effects are unknown.</p> <p>Hydrological changes - Titchfield Haven has a high level of water abstraction licences - if all were used then water levels would be too low in the SAC/SPA . Percolation of sea water through sea walls is causing saline intrusion into non-saline grassland habitats and changing them.</p> <p>Direct impact from 3rd party - Off-roading is causing damage to some areas of grassland. Private sea defences are causing disruption to the natural movement processes of natural materials along the coast. Military helicopters cause disturbance to wintering birds. House boats are unlicensed and have the potential to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>cause damage to intertidal habitats. Fly grazing is causing issues affecting large areas of Chichester Harbour.</p> <p>Extraction: non-living resources - Shingle extraction for aggregates may have an adverse impact upon intertidal fauna and flora, and may affect the movement of coastal sediments that would in turn have an impact upon intertidal habitats.</p>		
New Forest SPA	27997.59	<p>A072 European honey-buzzard (Breeding) <i>Pernis apivorus</i></p> <p>A082 Hen harrier (Non-breeding) <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p> <p>A099 Eurasian hobby (Breeding) <i>Falco Subbuteo</i></p> <p>A224 European nightjar (Breeding) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i></p>	<p>Air pollution - Air pollution impacts on vegetation diversity. Aerial deposits of nitrogen may exceed the threshold limits above which the quality and character of vegetation begins to be altered and adversely impacted. This could potentially lead to a loss or change of habitat type which in turn will impact on species reliant on that habitat.</p> <p>Public access/disturbance - The New Forest attracts high numbers of visitors annually and there is an assumption that disturbance affects the breeding success of SPA birds and SAC habitats through erosion, compaction and damage to vegetation and water bodies.</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features 	<p>In general, the qualifying bird species of the SPA rely on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The sites ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats below). ■ Maintenance of populations of species that they feed on (see list of diets below). <p>European honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Open wood and forest edge. ■ Diet: Mostly bees and wasps (<i>Hymenoptera</i>), also

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>A246 Woodlark (Breeding) <i>Lullula arborea</i></p> <p>A302 Dartford warbler (Breeding) <i>Sylvia undata</i></p> <p>A314 Wood warbler (Breeding) <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i></p>	<p>Water pollution - Many villages have properties that are not on mains sewerage and have domestic treatment units which discharge into ditches and streams that are either within or flow into the SAC. The ditches and streams have seasonal flow and this in combination with a number of properties all discharging into the same channel could lead to an increase in nutrient levels impacting on the habitats they flow through, reducing species richness and diversity.</p> <p>Vehicles - Much of the SAC is unfenced with open access and numerous roads crisscrossing the site. Although the area is well served by car parks, parking on the verges is common, this is a particular problem in villages with parking on verges outside properties, village greens and Manorial wastes. This leads to a loss of vegetation, compaction of the soil and pollution. There are a variety of solutions available but funding will be required.</p> <p>Direct impact from 3rd party - Private property owners modify verges which are SAC habitats outside of their ownership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<p>other insects, small vertebrates.</p> <p>Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Moor, marsh, steppe and fields. ■ Diet: Mostly, small birds, nestlings and small rodents. <p>Eurasian hobby <i>Falco Subbuteo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Open forest, steppe, farmland. ■ Diet: Small birds and large insects taken in flight. <p>European nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Open country. ■ Diet: Insects, esp. moths and beetles, taken from air following pursuit; nocturnal. <p>Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i></p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>Issues include: creating new drives; re-turfing; planting hedges; encroachment by moving boundaries, and storage of material and equipment</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Woodland edge, savanna. ■ Diet: Summer, insects and spiders, otherwise mostly seeds, feeds on ground. <p>Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Scrub, heath. ■ Diet: Arthropods, occ. fruit, mainly in low scrub. <p>Wood warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Forest. ■ Diet: Insects and other invertebrates, some fruit.
Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA	5812.9	<p>A046a Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding) <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></p> <p>A048 Common shelduck (Non-</p>	<p>Public access/disturbance - Many human activities in the area can disturb birds. This includes activities such as: walking; dog walking; bird watching; boating; kayaking; kite surfing; hang gliding; paramotors; jet skis; wildfowling; model helicopters/aircraft; boat mooring, and Hovercraft.</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds</p>	<p>See Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Portsmouth Harbour SPA above.</p> <p>Common shelduck <i>Anas Penelope</i></p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>breeding) <i>Anas Penelope</i></p> <p>A052 Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) <i>Anas crecca</i></p> <p>A054 Northern pintail (Non-breeding) <i>Anas acuta</i></p> <p>A056 Northern shoveler (Non-breeding) <i>Anas clypeata</i></p> <p>A069 Red-breasted merganser (Non-breeding) <i>Mergus serrator</i></p> <p>A137 Ringed plover (Non-breeding) <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></p>	<p>Coastal squeeze - Habitats are being lost as they are squeezed between rising sea levels and hard coastal defences that are maintained. There is a direct impact due to loss of the SAC habitats such as saltmarsh. There is also an impact on birds due to the loss of habitat for feeding, roosting and breeding. In some areas rising sea levels will result in coastal grasslands being lost to more saline grasslands, thus losing habitat for some breeding waders of the waterbird assemblage.</p> <p>Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine - Dredges (inc. Hydraulic), Benthic trawls and seines and Shore-based activities are categorised as 'Red' for these interest features (and specifically the sub-features: Intertidal muddy sand communities; Subtidal eelgrass <i>Zostera marina</i> beds as part of Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries management in European Marine Sites (EMS), and requisite mechanisms are being or will be implemented by Southern IFCA and Sussex IFCA.</p>	<p>Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Coasts, estuaries & lakes. ■ Diet: Mostly invertebrates, esp. insects, molluscs and crustaceans <p>Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Lakes, rivers, marsh & tundra. ■ Diet: Omnivorous, feeds on mud bottom at depths of 10-30cm. <p>Northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Shallow lakes, marsh, reedbed & wet meadow. ■ Diet: Omnivorous, esp. small insects, crustaceans, molluscs, seeds; filters particles with sideways sweeping of bill. <p>Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>A141 Grey plover (Non-breeding) <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></p> <p>A144 Sanderling (Non-breeding) <i>Calidris alba</i></p> <p>A149 Dunlin (Non-breeding) <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></p> <p>A157 Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) <i>Limosa lapponica</i></p> <p>A160 Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding) <i>Numenius arquata</i></p> <p>A162 Common redshank (Non-breeding) <i>Tringa tetanus</i></p>	<p>Changes in species distributions - Many waders and wildfowl are decreasing in the Solent probably as they move north and east under national trends. Some fish, such as Sand eels, may be moving their breeding grounds resulting in less food availability for breeding terns. Invertebrate populations in the intertidal muds are changing and this may disadvantage some wintering wader species. Desmoulin's Whorl Snail has decreased dramatically. Areas of salt-marsh are eroding and decreasing resulting in decreasing breeding gulls and terns as their habitat decreases and decreasing plant species of salt-marshes.</p> <p>Climate change - Climate change has impacts upon coastal species, in that gull and tern colonies are more frequently washed out with raising sea levels when storm surges cause flooding to habitats.</p> <p>Change to site conditions - There is an increasing loss of salt-marsh in much of the Solent for reasons unknown, and this needs to be investigated.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Tundra, on migration pasture & estuaries. ■ Diet: Summer, invertebrates, Winter primarily marine worms, crustaceans and molluscs. <p>Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Tundra, on migration coastal. ■ Diet: Mostly small invertebrates, some plant material when newly arrived on arctic breeding grounds. <p>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Coastal tundra, on migration mudflats, flooded fields. ■ Diet: Invertebrates, esp insects, molluscs, crustaceans and worms.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>A169 Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding) <i>Arenaria interpres</i></p> <p>A191 Sandwich tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></p> <p>A193 Common tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna hirundo</i></p> <p>A195 Little tern (Breeding) <i>Sterna albifrons</i></p>	<p>Invasive species - The highest risk pathways through which marine INNS are introduced and then spread have been identified as: commercial shipping (through release of ballast water, and biofouling on hulls); recreational boating (through biofouling on hulls); aquaculture (through contamination of imported or moved stock - or escaped stock in the case of the pacific oyster), and natural dispersal.</p> <p>Direct land take from development - Private sea defences are causing disruption to the natural processes of allowing erosion to move sediments around the SAC.</p> <p>Biological Resource Use - Gull egg collecting occurs in some places, and wildfowling occurs in several places. These activities are likely to be disturbing to breeding and wintering birds even though they are licenced/consented at the moment</p> <p>Change in land management - Changes to land management are likely to occur in areas where tidal flaps/slucices are altered and this results in changes to water levels or salinity of that land. Some sluices are failing, which may also result in changes to</p>		<p>Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Marsh, grassland, on migration mudflats. ■ Diet: Omnivorous, though principally invertebrates located by touch. <p>Common redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Rivers, wet grassland, moors & estuaries. ■ Diet: Invertebrates, esp earthworms, crane fly larvae (inland) crustaceans, molluscs, marine worms (estuaries). <p>Ruddy turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Tundra, on migration beaches & rocky coasts.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>water levels or salinity of land. Some ditches and drains are neglected and this can cause difficulties in land management, resulting in changes.</p> <p>Inappropriate pest control - Predator control is decreasing, resulting in increased predation by foxes etc. and this is the likely cause of decrease in successful breeding of gulls and terns.</p> <p>Air pollution - Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. Locally observed effects are unknown.</p> <p>Hydrological changes - Titchfield Haven has a high level of water abstraction licences - if all were used then water levels would be too low in the SAC/SPA . Percolation of sea water through sea walls is causing saline intrusion into non-saline grassland habitats and changing them.</p> <p>Direct impact from 3rd party - Off-roading is causing damage to some areas of grassland. Private sea defences are causing disruption to the natural movement processes of natural materials along the coast. Military helicopters cause</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Diet: Summer, mostly insects, wider range of invertebrates and other material at other times.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>disturbance to wintering birds. House boats are unlicensed and have the potential to cause damage to intertidal habitats. Fly grazing is causing issues affecting large areas of Chichester Harbour.</p> <p>Extraction: non-living resources - Shingle extraction for aggregates may have an adverse impact upon intertidal fauna and flora, and may affect the movement of coastal sediments that would in turn have an impact upon intertidal habitats.</p>		
Dorset Heathlands SPA	8166.97	<p>A082 Hen harrier (Non-breeding) <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p> <p>A098 Merlin (Non-breeding) <i>Falco columbarius</i></p> <p>A224 European nightjar (Breeding) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i></p>	<p>Inappropriate scrub control - Invasion of heath by trees and scrub results, in the long term, loss of heathland vegetation. The process is at different stages on different sites but scrub control is necessary on the majority of these sites.</p> <p>Public Access/Disturbance - Public access and disturbance affect large parts of the site mainly in the area of Poole/Bournemouth. Disturbance of breeding SPA birds, mostly by dogs, can affect their breeding success, with implications for population level effects</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features 	<p>See New Forest SPA above.</p> <p>Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Moor, heath, desert, open coniferous forest. ■ Diet: Mostly small birds, caught in open country, usually by pursuit low over ground.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>A246 Woodlark (Breeding) <i>Lullula arborea</i></p> <p>A302 Dartford warbler (Breeding) <i>Sylvia undata</i></p>	<p>e.g. nightjar and woodlark. Other effects include predation by domestic cats and urban foxes, habitat change from nutrients in dog faeces, and dumping of garden rubbish. On a number of sites the illicit use of heaths for motorcycle scrambling is resulting in disturbance and erosion, however motorcycle use on heathlands has generally declined relative to previous levels in response to site wardening and alternative facilities being made available.</p> <p>Undergrazing - Generally grazing has now been successfully introduced on most of the larger heathland sites but there remain some ungrazed areas (about 1350ha, usually where the greatest practical difficulties are present) which would benefit from the introduction of an extensive grazing regime.</p> <p>Forestry and woodland management - Several of the heathlands have conifer plantations on former heathland (most planted after notification) or mature conifers (or sometimes birch) that have invaded heathland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>Drainage - Drainage is generally the result of ditches made within the site to endeavour to drain wet heath or mire. These drains invariably result in adverse changes to wet heath and mire communities in the vicinity.</p> <p>Water pollution - Pollution from different sources affect a number of areas. It comprises of pollution from adjacent agricultural land (run-off causing nutrient enrichment); leaching from adjacent landfill sites (3 sites); pollution from foul drainage (septic tanks, sewage discharge); urban run-off. Poor water quality from the sources listed can also impede the ability to restore the sites' natural hydrology. Silt/sand run-off from adjacent sand/gravel workings and now capped landfill have smothered part of a mire system at Upton Heath. Successful remedial work in the above cases is difficult.</p> <p>Invasive species - Various invasive species are present including rhododendron and gaultheria, and these have the potential to impact negatively on the site's features. A population of carp has recently become established in Little Sea lake (previously there were no fish) and has virtually</p>		

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>eliminated what was previously an abundant and diverse assemblage of macrophytes. The interest of Little Sea is also affected by Australian swamp stonecrop and Canadian pondweed. Invasion of bracken on unmanaged sites is a concern although ongoing bracken management is required on most sites.</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation - Dorset's lowland heathland is a fragmented remnant of a once extensive landscape. Some 86% of Dorset's heathland has been lost since the 1800s, and the surviving area is broken into many fragments. This curtails the genetic and physical interchange of a number of species and leads to edge effects on smaller sites. Moreover, species populations that are dependent on the wider habitat network of heath and forest beyond the designated site boundaries are vulnerable to changes within that wider network.</p> <p>Conflicting conservation objectives - Heathland management aimed at maintaining open heathland does not cater</p>		

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>for a number of rare species that require more specific management measures.</p> <p>Wildfire/arson - Fire predominantly affects the urban heaths (about a third of the heathland area in and around Poole and Bournemouth) which are subject to arson. The result is that some heaths are burned too frequently and in spring and summer.</p> <p>Air pollution - Air pollution impacts on the site's vegetation diversity. As with most lowland heathlands and mires in England N deposition is close to, and in some cases exceeds critical loads (e.g. fFor Rhynchosporion).</p> <p>Deer - High deer numbers have affected heathland and mire on Arne Heath, Holton Heath and Stokeford Heath. Deer numbers are now being reduced and the habitats are recovering.</p>		
Avon Valley SPA	1351.05	A037 Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewicki</i>	Water pollution - Elevated levels of phosphate (P) lead to dominance by algae and a loss of characteristic plant species. Within Blashford Lakes high P levels could switch the system from a macrophyte dominated system to an algal dominated	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds	<p>Bewick's swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewicki</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Lakes, ponds & rivers, also estuaries on migration.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		A051 Gadwall (Non-breeding) <i>Anas strepera</i>	<p>one resulting in a poorer feeding conditions for gadwall. Organic pollution, reducing dissolved oxygen levels (from microbial breakdown of organic material) effects biota and is also an issue. Water quality can also affect the habitat quality necessary to support Desmoulin's whorl snail and the SPA species. Diffuse pollution from agriculture, small point discharges and sewage treatment work (STW) discharges are contributing to elevated levels of nutrients (by 10-50ug/l P) and reduced dissolved oxygen levels in parts of the SAC</p> <p>Water abstraction - Water abstraction causes lower than natural river flows that affects a range of habitat factors including current velocity, water depth, wetted area, substrate quality, dissolved oxygen levels and water temperature. The maintenance of both flushing flows and base flows, based on natural hydrological processes, is vital to the sustaining the SAC chalk stream habitat as a whole and to fish species at low flows in particular</p>	<p>Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, ■ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Diet: Plant material (e.g. tubers, shoots, leaves) in water or flooded pasture. <p>Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Habitat preference: Marshes, lakes, on migration also rivers, estuaries. ■ Diet: Leaves, shoots, mostly while swimming with head under water.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
			<p>Public access/disturbance - Dog walkers disturbing wildfowl in areas outside public rights of way is a concern.</p> <p>Hydrological changes - Desmoulin's whorl snail is an annual species and requires localities that are stable hydrologically. Changes in the hydrology that may affect the species include flooding or drying out due to low ground water levels which may be linked to either changing climate conditions or over-abstraction.</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation - SAC/SPA boundaries may not adequately cover the extent of all Annex 1 and Annex 2 features and/or their supporting habitats</p>		
Ramsar sites					
Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	5304.63	Criterion 1 - The site is one of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland in	See key vulnerabilities for Solent & Southampton Water SPA.	See conservation objectives for Solent & Southampton SPA.	See Solent & Southampton SPA above.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>European waters, exhibiting an unusual strong double tidal flow and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It includes many wetland habitats characteristic of the biogeographic region: saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.</p> <p>Criterion 2 - The site supports an</p>			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates. At least 33 British Red Data Book invertebrates and at least eight British Red Data Book plants are represented on site.</p> <p>Criterion 5 – Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter – 51343 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99/2002/2003)</p>			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>Criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance –</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, Europe/Northwest Africa <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> 			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Eurasian teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>, NW Europe ■ Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe 			
Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar	1249.6	<p>Criteria 3 -</p> <p>The intertidal mudflat areas possess extensive beds of eelgrass <i>Zostera angustifolia</i> and <i>Zostera noltei</i> which support the grazing dark-bellied brent geese populations. The mud-snail <i>Hydrobia ulvae</i></p>	See key vulnerabilities for Portsmouth Harbour SPA.	See conservation objectives for Portsmouth Harbour SPA.	See Portsmouth Harbour SPA Above.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), page 3 Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11055 Page 3 of 9 Portsmouth Harbour Produced by JNCC: Version 3.0, 13/06/2008 found at extremely high densities, which helps to support the wading bird interest of the site. Common cord-grass <i>Spartina anglica</i> dominates large areas of the saltmarsh and there are also extensive areas of green algae</p>			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p><i>Enteromorpha</i> spp. and sea lettuce <i>Ulva lactuca</i>. More locally the saltmarsh is dominated by sea purslane <i>Halimione portulacoides</i> which gradates to more varied communities at the higher shore levels. The site also includes a number of saline lagoons hosting nationally important species.</p> <p>Criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of</p>			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>international importance</p> <p>Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>,</p>			
New Forest Ramsar	27997.59	<p>Criterion 1 - Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires</p>	See key vulnerabilities outlined for New Forest SPA.	See conservation objectives outlined for New Forest SPA	See New Forest SPA above.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>of their type in Britain.</p> <p>Criterion 2 - The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plants are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.</p> <p>Criterion 3 - The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones.</p>			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>The invertebrate fauna of the site is important due to the concentration of rare and scarce wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England. The site contains a rich invertebrate fauna.</p>			
Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar	5812.9	Criterion 1 – Two large estuarine basins linked by the channel which divides	No threats specified. See threats associated with Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA for threats likely to affect the RAMSAR site.	No specific conservation objectives outlined. See conservation objectives associated with Chichester	See Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA above.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>Hayling Island from the main Hampshire coastline. The site includes intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits and sand dunes</p> <p>Criterion 5 – Assemblages of international importance</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter: 76480 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Criterion 6 – species populations occurring at levels of</p>		and Langstone Harbours SPA.	

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>international importance</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring autumn are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/North west Africa) ■ Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland/W Europe) ■ Common redshank, <i>Tringa tetanus tetanus</i> 			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>Species with peak counts in winter are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dark-bellied goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> ■ Common shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, (Northwestern Europe) ■ Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (E Atlantic/W Africa – wintering) ■ Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>, W Siberia/W Europe 			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
Avon Valley Ramsar site	1390.37	<p>Criterion 1a – The site shows a greater range of habitats than any other chalk river in Britain, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland and small areas of woodland</p> <p>Criterion 2a – The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally-rare species</p> <p>Criterion 3c – Over winter the site regularly supports internationally important</p>	No threats specified. See threats associated with Avon Valley SPA for threats likely to affect the RAMSAR site.	No specific conservation objectives outlined. See conservation objectives associated with Avon Valley SPA.	See Avon Valley SPA above.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>populations of: Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i></p> <p>The site supports nationally plant species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Cyperus fuscus</i>, <i>Pulicaria vulgaris</i> <p>The site also supports bird species of international importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i> (Northwestern Europe) <p>And of national importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bewick's Swan, <i>Cygnus</i> 			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p><i>columbianus bewickii</i> (Western Siberia/Northeastern & Northwestern Europe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coot, <i>Fulica atra</i> (Northwestern Europe (wintering)) ■ Little Grebe, <i>Tachybaptus reficollis</i> (Western Palearctic) ■ Mute Swan, <i>Cygnus olor</i> (Northwestern Mainland & Central Europe) ■ Pochard, <i>Aythya farina</i> 			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>(Northwestern /Northeastern Europe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i> (Northwestern /central Europe) ■ White-fronted Goose, <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> (Northwestern Siberia/Northeastern Europe) ■ Wigeon, <i>Anas Penelope</i> (Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe) <p>The site also supports</p>			

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Key Vulnerabilities	Conservation Objectives	Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend
		<p>nationally important invertebrate species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Libellula fulva</i>, <i>Vulvata macrostoma</i>, <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>, <i>Pisidium tenuilineatum</i> 			

Appendix C

Screening matrix

C.1 The table below shows which types of impacts on European sites could potentially result from each of the policies and site allocations in the Isle of Wight Local Plan. Where a policy or site allocation is not expected to have a particular type of impact, the relevant cell is shaded green. Where a policy or site allocation could potentially have a certain type of impact, this is shown in orange. The final column sets out the nature of potential significant effects if they were to arise. Where uncertain or likely significant effects are identified, these are required to be considered further via Appropriate Assessment.

Policy	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Potential effects if proposal implemented	Is the policy likely to have significant effects and therefore need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?
Section 1: Introduction			
N/A	N/A	N/A	No
Section 2: The Island and the issues we face			
N/A	N/A	N/A	No
Section 3: How the IPS reflects corporate priorities			
CC1: Climate Change	None – This policy relates to the Council's commitment in the Climate & Environment Strategy to achieve net zero Council by 2030, across the school estate by 2035 and as an Island by 2040. This policy does not directly result in development.		
AFF1 Isle of Wight Affordable Housing	None – This policy outlines the requirement for affordable housing to be delivered. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No

INF1 Infrastructure	None – This policy outlines requirements for applicants to provide or make a financial contribution to improve infrastructure on the Island. The Council will work closely with infrastructure providers to update the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and will support proposals for the improvement of existing or new infrastructure on the Island. This is a strategic policy and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
Chapter 4: Environment			
EV1: Conserving and Enhancing our Historic Environment	None – This policy provides safeguarding measures to conserve and enhance the Island's historic environment and heritage assets. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement	None – This policy provides safeguarding measure to protect and enhance the integrity of biodiversity and geological value on the Island. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV3: Recreation Impact on the Solent Marine Sites	None – This policy provides safeguarding measures to mitigate for impacts to the Solent Special	N/A	No

	Protection Areas (SPAs) sites. This policy will not directly result in development.		
EV4: Water Quality Impact on Solent European Sites (Nitrates)	None – This policy outlines the requirements to ensure that no development will result in an increase in nutrients (nitrates) into the Solent. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV5: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	None – This policy provides safeguarding measures to protect woodland and hedgerow habitat on the Island. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV6: Protecting and Providing Green and Open Spaces	None – This policy outlines the requirements for proposed development to protect and contribute to green and open space on the Island. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV7: Local Green Spaces	None – This policy provides safeguarding measures for local green spaces in the plan. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV8: Protecting High Grade Agricultural Land	None – This policy provides safeguarding measures to protect high grade agricultural land. This	N/A	No

	policy will not directly result in development.		
EV9: Protecting our Landscapes and Seascapes	None – This policy supports the conservation, enhancement and promotion of seascapes and landscapes. This includes requirement to maintain and enhance of links between designated sites and contribute to the aims and objectives of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV10: Preserving Settlement Identity	None – This policy provides protection for settlement identifies and to prevent their coalescence. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV11: Isle of Wight National Landscape (formerly AONB)	None – This policy provides safeguarding measures to protect the integrity of the Isle of Wight National Landscape. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV12: Dark Skies	None – This policy supports the creation of a Dark Skies Park and outlines avoidance and mitigation measures for increased light spill in	N/A	No

	this area. This policy will not directly result in development.		
EV13: Managing our Water Resources	None – This policy outlines measures to manage water resources and avoid adverse effects on water quality, quantity and flow of ground and surface water. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development	None – This policy outlines requirements for development to reduce the risk of flood on and offsite, including demonstration of how surface water will not be connected to the sewer system. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV15: Monkton Mead Catchment Area	None – This policy outlines requirements for development to manage flood risk in the Monkton Mead catchment area. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV16: Managing our Coast	None – This policy outlines requirements for development to demonstrate how coastal erosion and flood risk management has will be dealt with. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No

EV17: Facilitating Relocation from Coastal Change Management Areas	None – This policy outlines requirements for development relocation aware from Coastal Change Management Areas. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV18: Improving Resilience to Coastal Flooding and Coastal Risks	None – This policy outlines requirements for development to improve the resilience from coastal flooding and risks. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
EV19: Managing Ground Instability in New Development	None – This policy outlines requirement for development to avoid risks from land instability and how to demonstrate this. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
Section 5: Community			
C1: High Quality Design for New Development	None – This policy sets out the requirement for development to be designed and constructed in a sustainable manner.	N/A	No
C2: Improving our Public Realm	None – This policy relates to enhancing the public realm during development proposals and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No

C3: Improving Our Health and Wellbeing	None – This policy relates to improving the health and wellbeing of residents and will not directly result in development	N/A	No
C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map)	<p>Health Care and Care-related employment</p> <p>Assisted living and independent living complexes</p> <p>Residential development (key worker, affordable and open market housing)</p>	<p>Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise)</p> <p>Air pollution</p> <p>Recreational pressure</p> <p>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</p>	Yes. This policy will permit the development of a Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital. This will include for employment and residential development, including for key workers, affordable and open market housing. This will contribute to changes in travel, recreational pressure and water demand. Depending on the location this may all contribute to non-physical disturbance to European sites within 500m.
C5: Facilitating Independent Living	None – This policy relates to ensuring the delivery of a range of accommodation types and tenures that enable people to live independently and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
C6: Providing Annexe Accommodation	Yes – This policy sets out the requirements for residential extensions and annexes for existing housing.	N/A	No - this policy will result in small scale development that will not result in likely significant effect on European sites.

<p>C7: Delivering Locality Hubs</p> <p>Land has been allocated at Pyle Street Community Hub, Newport and The Heights/Barracks Community Hub, Sandown.</p>	<p>Yes – This policy outlines the plan for delivering locality hubs at locations which will include leisure, health and wellbeing support, as well as some residential development.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No - this policy will result in small scale development that will not result in likely significant effect on European sites.</p>
<p>C8: Facilitating a Blue Light Hub</p>	<p>Yes – this policy outlines the plan for creating a ‘blue light hub’ in the Newport Area, shared between ambulance, police and fire services.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No - this policy will result in small scale development that will not result in likely significant effect on European sites.</p>
<p>C9: Education Provision</p>	<p>Yes – This policy encourages the provision of new, replacement and extended or altered schools and incorporation of new schools.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No - this policy will result in small scale development that will not result in likely significant effect on European sites.</p>
<p>C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies</p>	<p>Yes - This policy sets out the requirement for the provision of renewable and low carbon energy developments.</p>	<p>Loss of offsite functional habitat Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise) Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</p>	<p>Yes. This policy permits renewables development. This will contribute to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.</p>
<p>C11: Net Zero Carbon and Lowering Energy Consumption in New Development</p>	<p>None – This policy sets out the requirement for new development to incorporate design features that deliver a reduction in carbon emissions. This will help to meet objectives of the Climate &</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No</p>

	Environmental Strategy and to support local energy security and resilience on the island.		
C12: Utility Infrastructure Requirements for New Development	None – This policy sets out the requirement for new developments to make provision for utility infrastructure or make a financial contribution where necessary.	N/A	No
C13: Maintaining Key Utility Infrastructure	None – This policy sets out the requirement for new developments to maintain and/or improve existing key utility infrastructure and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
C14: Providing Social and Community Infrastructure	None – This policy encourages the retention, enhancement and maintenance of existing community facilities and incorporation of new facilities and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
C15: Community-led Planning	None – This policy relates to encouraging community involvement in planning and will not directly result in development	N/A	No
Section 6: Growth			

G1: Our Approach Towards Sustainable Development and Growth	None – This policy outlines what the council will consider as sustainable development and growth during the plan period.	N/A	No
G2: Priority Locations for Housing Development and Growth	Yes – This policy identifies the priority locations for development and growth within the island.	Loss of offsite functional habitat Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise) Air pollution Recreation Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy identifies the priority locations for development and growth within the island and therefore contributes to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.
G3: Developer Contributions	None – This policy outlines the requirement for necessary infrastructure which will support high quality development and will not result in actual development itself.	N/A	No
G4: Managing Viability	None – This policy is in relation to the viability assessment for proposed developments and will not result in development itself.	N/A	No
G5: Ensuring Planning Permissions are Delivered	None – The policy outlines the requirement for consented proposals to be delivered at the earliest opportunity and ensuring any planning conditions are discharged.	N/A	No

	This policy will not result in development itself.		
Section 7: Housing			
H1: Planning for Housing Delivery	Yes – This makes provision for 6,797 net additional dwellings over the plan period.	Loss of offsite functional habitat Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise) Air pollution Recreational pressure Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of housing development that will be proposed as part of the plan and therefore will contribute to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.
H2: Sites Allocated for Housing	Yes – This policy outlines the provision of allocated residential or residential-mixed use development on the Island.	Loss of offsite functional habitat Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise) Air pollution Recreational pressure Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy is the overarching policy for housing allocations and therefore will contribute to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.
KPS1: Key Priority Site 1: HA39 Camp Hill	Yes – This policy makes provision for housing at Camp Hill.	Air pollution Recreational pressure Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for residential development at Camp Hill and will therefore contribute to effects, including air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.

KPS2: Key Priority Site 2: HA44 Newport Harbour	Yes – This policy makes provision for housing at previously developed land at Newport Harbour.	Loss of offsite functional habitat Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise) Air pollution Recreational pressure Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for residential development at Newport harbour and will therefore contribute to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.
H3: Housing Development General Requirements	None – This policy outlines requirements for housing and housing-led mixed-use development to be sustainable and to have a high-quality design. This policy will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
H4: Infill Opportunities outside Settlement Boundaries	Yes – This policy will result in small-scale infill development between existing housing.	N/A	No - this policy will result in small scale development that will not result in likely significant effect on European sites.
H5: Delivering Affordable Housing	None – This policy outlines requirements for proposed development to provide affordable housing and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
H6: New homes in the countryside outside the settlement boundaries	None – This policy sets out requirements for proposed isolated dwellings in the countryside and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No

H7: Rural and First Homes Exception Sites	None – This policy sets out requirements for the provision of rural and first home exception sites and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
H8: Ensuring the Right Mix of Housing	None – This policy sets out the requirements for ensuring the right mix of housing is provided for each development proposed and will not directly result in development itself.	N/A	No
H9: New Housing on Previously Developed Land	Yes – This policy sets out the requirements for new housing proposed on previously development land.	N/A	No – this policy will result in development on previously developed land and as such will not result in a likely significant effect on European sites.
H10: Self and Custom Build	None – This policy sets out requirements for the provision of self and custom build housing as part of proposed development and will not directly result in development itself.	N/A	No
H11: Planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople provision	No – This policy outlines requirement for pitches for gypsy and traveller use and plots for travelling showpeople. However, no sites have yet to be identified as part of the plan and as such should any sites come forward these should be subject to	N/A	No

	HRA (if required) as part of any planning application.		
Section 8: Economy			
E1: Supporting and Growing our Economy	Yes – This policy makes provision for employment land over the plan period.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise) Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of employment development that will be proposed as part of the plan and therefore will contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
EA1: Employment Allocation Land to the east of Pan Lane	Yes – This policy makes provision for employment land east of Pan Lane.	Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for employment development at land east of Pan Lane and will therefore contribute to effects, including air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
EA2: Employment allocation at Nicholson Road, Ryde	Yes – This policy makes provision for employment land at Nicholson Road.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for employment land at Nicholson Road and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
EA3: Employment allocation at Somerton Farm, Cowes	Yes – This policy makes provision for employment land at Somerton Farm, Cowes.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for employment land at Somerton Farm, Cowes and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional

			offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes	Yes – This policy makes provision for employment land at Kingston, East Cowes.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Non-physical damage and loss Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for employment land at Kingston, East Cowes and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, non-physical damage and loss, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
EA5: Employment allocation at Lowtherville, Ventnor	Yes – This policy makes provision for employment land at Lowtherville.	Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for employment land at Lowtherville and therefore may contribute to effects, including air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
EA6: Employment allocation at Sandown Airport, Sandown	Yes – This policy makes provision for employment land at Sandown Airport, Sandown.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for employment land at Sandown Airport, Sandown and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
E2: Sustainable Economic Development	None – this policy relates to the sustainable economic development and will not directly result in development itself.	N/A	No
E3: Upskilling the Island	None – this policy relates to the improving employment skills and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No

E4: Supporting the Rural Economy	Yes – this policy makes provision for development in rural locations.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for development in rural locations and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
E5: Maintaining Employment Sites with Water Access on the River Medina	None – this policy relates to maintaining existing employment sites and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
E6: Future Proofing Digital Infrastructure	None – this policy relates to improving digital infrastructure and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
E7: Supporting and Improving our Town Centres	Yes – this policy makes provision for development in town centres.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for development in town centres in close proximity to European sites and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, and loss, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
E8: Supporting High Quality Tourism	None – this policy relates to encouraging sustainable growth in relation to tourism and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
E9: Short term let holiday accommodation	None – this policy relates to the short term let of residential properties for	N/A	N/A

	holiday accommodation and will not directly result in development.		
E10: Sandown Bay Tourism Opportunity Area	Yes – this policy support development in Sandown Bay Tourism opportunity area.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for development in Sandown Bay Tourism Opportunity Area and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, and loss, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
E11: Ryde Tourism Opportunity Zones	Yes – this policy support development in Ryde Tourism opportunity area.	Loss of functional offsite habitat Air pollution Change in water quantity and increased water pollution	Yes. This policy makes provision for development in Ryde Tourism Opportunity Area and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.
E12 Solent Freeport	None – this policy relates to supporting sustainable development proposals that seek to benefit from and / or play a role in facilitating innovation to the Solent Freeport.	N/A	N/A
Section 9: Transport			
T1: Supporting Sustainable Transport	None – This policy sets out requirements for proposals to provide sustainable transport choices and provide alternative means of travel to the car.	N/A	No

T2: A Better Connected Island	Yes - This policy sets out plans to improve key infrastructure, such as a new shared path routes, East-West Green Link project and improvements to key road junctions.	N/A	No - this policy will result in small scale development that will be designed to provide alternative means of travel to the car and to reduce the impact on air quality and climate change and as such will not result in likely significant effect on European sites.
T3: Cross-Solent Transport	None - This policy sets out requirements for proposals that maintain the current routes and methods of crossing the Solent and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
T4: Supporting Our Railway Network	None - This policy sets out the requirements for proposals to maintain and improve the existing railway infrastructure and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
T5: Electric Vehicle Charging	None – This policy relates to supporting the use of low emission vehicles and facilitating the installation of electric vehicle charging points and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No
T6: Parking Provision in New Development	None – This policy relates to the requirement for proposals to make provision for parking and will not directly result in development.	N/A	No

Chapter 10: Delivery, Monitoring and Review			
N/A	N/A	N/A	No

Appendix D

Appropriate assessment matrix

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
<p>C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map)</p>	<p>This policy will permit the development of a Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital. This will include for employment and residential development, including for key workers, affordable and open market housing. This will contribute to changes in travel, recreational pressure and water demand. Depending on the location this may all contribute to non-physical disturbance to European sites within 500m.</p>	<p><u>Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise)</u></p> <p>Policies within the plan will provide safeguards and mitigation measures from non-physical disturbance, including EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>Broad mitigation measures outlined in the current AQA include planning measures such as encouraging the use of electric cars, traffic management and investment in public transport. This is being delivered through plan policies as detailed below.</p> <p>Policies already contained within the Plan will provide a degree of mitigation. These include T1: Supporting Sustainable Transport, T2: A Better Connected Island and T5: Electric Vehicle Charging. These policies encourage the reduction and use of sustainable transport to minimise impacts from vehicle emission. In addition, policy EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement provides safeguards and mitigation.</p> <p><u>Recreational pressure</u></p> <p>The HRA Appropriate Assessment in Chapter 5 outlines the following recommended mitigation measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provision of open spaces – This mitigation is provided in the plan through Policy EV6 Protecting and Providing Green and Open Spaces. ■ Project-level HRA – This mitigation is provided in the plan through Policy EV2 Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement. ■ Financial Contribution / Developer-led Mitigation Scheme for the Solent European Sites – This mitigation is provided in the plan through Policy EV3 Recreation Impact on the Solent European Sites.

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Watercraft – Code of Conduct – This is being delivered as part of the Bird Aware Solent Strategy through rangers who are present on site. <p>Policies in the plan already provide some safeguards and mitigation from recreational impacts. These include: EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which provides safeguards and mitigation to European protected sites, and EV3 Recreation Impact on the Solent Marine Sites and EV6 Protecting and Providing Green and Open Spaces, which provide the mechanism for providing mitigation in the plan.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>Policies detailed within the plan will provide, to some degree, safeguards and a level of mitigation to European sites. This includes EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which outlines protection measure to European designated sites, and EV13: Managing our Water Resources, EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development and EV15: Monkton Mead Catchment Area, which outline safeguards and mitigation measures specifically in relation to management of water resources and preventing flooding.</p> <p>Specifically, Policy EV13: Managing our Water Resources sets out ways the council expect new development to conserve and manage water resources.</p>
C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies	This policy permits renewables development. This will contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss onsite, loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – onsite</u></p> <p>Policies within the plan will provide safeguards and mitigation measures from physical damage and loss of habitats, including EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which outlines protection measures for European sites and provides specific detail on the protection of irreplaceable habitat.</p>

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
		<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>Policies within the plan will provide safeguards and mitigation measures from physical damage and loss of habitats, including EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which provides protection of the European site and core areas, which are vital for the function of this ecological network and have been identified by the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy, and 5.43 Policy EV3: Recreation Impact on the Solent Marine Sites states, which provides a funding mechanism where development is proposed within areas identified as part of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy.</p> <p>Additional safeguarding and protection measures are provided through EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, EV13: Managing our Water Resources, EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development and EV16: Managing our Coast.</p> <p>The HRA Appropriate Assessment in Chapter 5 outlines the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wintering or and breeding bird surveys for sites with high or moderate suitability to support these qualifying bird species to determine their individual and cumulative importance for these species and inform mitigation proposals. ■ A commitment to mitigation is required within the plan, dependent on the findings of bird surveys. In the unlikely but possible event that cumulative numbers of SPA and Ramsar birds affected are likely to exceed thresholds of significance (i.e. >1% of the population of associated European Site), appropriate mitigation in the form of habitat creation and management in perpetuity, either on-site or through provision of strategic sites

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
		<p>for these species elsewhere on the Island, will be required. If required, mitigation will need to create and manage suitably located habitat which maximises feeding productivity for these SPA and Ramsar species, and such mitigatory habitat would need to be provided and be fully functional prior to development which would affect significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar birds.</p> <p><u>Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise)</u></p> <p>Policies within the plan will provide safeguards and mitigation measures from non-physical disturbance, including EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement.</p> <p>In addition to this, any sites that have been identified to contribute to and are classified as part of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy network will be required to provide mitigation that is in line with the requirements of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy mitigation guidance.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
G2: Priority Locations for Housing Development and Growth	This policy identifies the priority locations for development and growth within the island and therefore contributes to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Non-physical disturbance (lighting and noise)</u></p>

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
		<p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p>for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Recreation</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
H1: Planning for Housing Delivery	<p>This policy defines the overall quantum of housing development that will be proposed as part of the plan and therefore will contribute to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.</p>	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Recreation</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on</p>

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
		policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.
H2: Sites Allocated for Housing	This policy is the overarching policy for housing allocations and therefore will contribute to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Recreation</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
KPS1: Key Priority Site 1: HA39 Camp Hill	This policy makes provision for residential development at Camp Hill and will therefore contribute to effects, including air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Recreation</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
<p>KPS2: Key Priority Site 2: HA44 Newport Harbour</p>	<p>This policy makes provision for residential development at Newport harbour and will therefore contribute to effects, including loss of offsite functional habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.</p>	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Recreation</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
<p>E1: Supporting and Growing our Economy</p>	<p>This policy defines the overall quantum of employment development that will be proposed as part of the plan and therefore will contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment</p>	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on</p>

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
		policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.
EA1: Employment Allocation Land to the east of Pan Lane	This policy makes provision for employment development at land east of Pan Lane and will therefore contribute to effects, including air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
EA2: Employment allocation at Nicholson Road, Ryde	This policy makes provision for employment land at Nicholson Road and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
EA3: Employment allocation at Somerton Farm, Cowes	Yes. This policy makes provision for employment land at Somerton Farm, Cowes and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes	This policy makes provision for employment land at Kingston, East Cowes and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, non-physical disturbance, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
EA5: Employment allocation at Lowtherville, Ventnor	This policy makes provision for employment land at Lowtherville and therefore may contribute to effects, including air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
EA6: Employment allocation at Sandown Airport, Sandown	This policy makes provision for employment land at Sandown Airport, Sandown and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on</p>

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
		policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.
E4: Supporting the Rural Economy	This policy makes provision for development in rural locations and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
E7: Supporting and Improving our Town Centres	This policy makes provision for development in town centres in close proximity to European sites and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
E10: Sandown Bay Tourism Opportunity Area	This policy makes provision for development in Sandown Bay Tourism Opportunity Area and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary’s Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Recreation</u></p>

Policy	Impacts	Potential effects if policy was implemented and the proposed mitigation as detailed in the appropriate assessment
		<p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>
E11: Ryde Tourism Opportunity Zones	<p>This policy makes provision for development in Ryde Tourism Opportunity Area and therefore may contribute to effects, including loss of functional offsite habitat, air pollution, recreation and water abstraction/treatment.</p>	<p><u>Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land</u></p> <p>See policy C10: Supporting Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies for further detail.</p> <p><u>Air pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Recreation</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Change in water quantity and increased water pollution</u></p> <p>See policy C4: Health Hub and St Mary's Hospital (land allocated on policies map) for further detail on mitigation measures.</p>

Appendix E

**Site allocations within 2km of
the Solent and Southampton
Water SPA and Ramsar site and
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA**

Table 6.1 Housing allocations within 2km of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

Site Allocation	No. of Dwellings	Planning Permission Granted
Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar		
Housing Allocations		
West Wight Regeneration Area		
HA005: Land to the east of Football Club, Camp Road	100	No
HA006: Heathfield Campsite, Heathfield Road	70	No
West Medina Regeneration Area		
HA018: Green Gate Industrial Estate, Thetis Road	25	No
HA020: Former Somerton Reservoir, Newport Road	146	No
HA022: Somerton Farm, Newport Road	160	No
HA025: Land rear of 84 Wyatts Lane	20	No
HA118: Bucklers View, Worsley Road	12	No
HA121: Harry Cheek Gardens / Wyatts Lane	25	No
Newport Regeneration Area		
HA31: Various land adjacent to and east of Carisbrooke College	175	No
HA032: Land at Horsebridge Hill & Acorn Farm	203	No
HA033: Land west of Sylvan Drive	125	No
HA036: Land at Noke Common	100	No
HA037: Former Library HQ, land adjacent St Marys Hospital	25	No
HA039: Former HMP site	345	No
HA044: Newport Harbour	250	No
HA110: Land at Moreys Timber Yard, Trafalgar Road	100	No
HA115: Former Polars Residential Home	44	No
East Medina Regeneration Area		
HA046: Land at Crossway	125	No

Site Allocation	No. of Dwellings	Planning Permission Granted
HA120: Land at Red Funnel	40	No
Ryde Regeneration Area		
HA055: Old Hosiden Besson site, Binstead Road	24	No
HA116: Former St Marys Convent, High Street	25	No
HA119: Pennyfeathers	290	No
HA064: Land north of Mill Road and east of High Street	80	No
HA065: Land east of Hillway Road and south of Steyne Road	66	No
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA		
West Wight Regeneration Area		
HA018: Green Gate Industrial Estate, Thetis Road	25	No
Newport Regeneration Area		
HA044: Newport Harbour	250	No
East Medina Regeneration Area		
HA120: Land at Red Funnel	40	No

Table 6.2 Large Sites with planning permission within 2km of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

Site Allocation (Large Sites with Planning Permission)	Homes Permitted	Homes within the plan period
Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar / Solent and Dorset Coast SPA		
West Wight Regeneration Area		
21/00357/FUL: Land off Birch Close	44	44
21/00684/FUL: Land at Lee Farm Main Road	16	16
P/00402/18: West Bay Club, Halletts Shute	26	26
West Medina Regeneration Area		
P/00496/16: Medina Yard	535	400

Site Allocation (Large Sites with Planning Permission)	Homes Permitted	Homes within the plan period
22/00807/FUL: Land rear of 44 Worsley Road	23	9
20/02229/OUT: Land adjacent 77 Place Road	14	14
P/00358/15, 21/00458/RVC: Land fronting Place Road (Phase 4)	21	21
P/00823/18: Land to the rear of 391 Newport Road	66	66
Newport Regeneration Area		
P/01008/18: 11-11D St James Street	11	11
P/00771/18: Pan Meadows (Phase 3)	152	11
19/00382/FUL: Pan Meadows	103	50
21/00470/FUL: Pan Meadows (Phase 2A)	93	93
21/01186/FUL: Land at the corner of St Georges Way and Burnt House Lane	10	10
21/02479/FUL: Land at the rear of 155 & 155A Staplers Road	14	14
East Medina Regeneration Area		
P/00102/14: Folly Works	99	99
P/00941/16: Maresfield Road, Land west of Castle Street	53	53
P/00328/18: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way	30	30
P/01101/14: Frank James Hospital, Adelaide Grove		
P/00741/18: Palmers Farm, Brocks Copse Road	40	40
21/01796/OUT: Land at and Rear of 69 And Part OS 8361 Station Road	29	29
Ryde Regeneration Area		
P/01218/16: Rosemary Vineyard, Smallbrook Lane	140	140
P/00164/17, 21/00964/FUL: Land at Ryde House, Binstead Road	30	21
P/00573/15 / P/01127/16: Land at Former Harcourt Sands Holiday Park	128	128

Site Allocation (Large Sites with Planning Permission)	Homes Permitted	Homes within the plan period
19/00803/RVC: Westridge Farm, Land south of Hope Road (Phase 1)	80	25
20/01061/FUL: Westridge Cross Dairy and land north of Bullen Road	472	472
21/00124/FUL: Part OS parcels 1238,0135 and 0952 Land between Weeks Road and Ashey Road	176	74
P/00867/17: Former Pondwell Holiday Camp, Pondwell Hill	25	11
20/01733/OUT: Land N of Woodland Copse & Adj Cedar Lodge Puckpool Hill	50	50
P/00496/18: Land between Nettlestone Hill and Seaview	17	17
P/00637/14: Sites at The Duver Marina and Bembridge Marina	13	13
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA		
West Wight Regeneration Area		
P/00496: Medina Yard	535	400
Newport Regeneration Area		
East Medina Regeneration Area		
P/00102/14: Folly Works	99	99
P/00941/16: Maresfield Road, Land west of Castle Street	53	53
P/00328/18 / 22/1749/ARM: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way	17	17

Table 6.3 Employment allocations within 2km of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

Site Allocation (Employment)	Total area of employment land (ha)	Planning Permission Granted
Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar		
EA1: Employment Allocation Land to the east of Pan Lane	3ha	No
EA2: Employment allocation at Nicholson Road, Ryde	14.6ha	No
EA3: Employment allocation at Somerton Farm, Cowes	1.9ha	No

Site Allocation (Employment)	Total area of employment land (ha)	Planning Permission Granted
EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes	6.2ha	No
Solent and Dorset Coast SAC		
EA4: Employment allocation at Kingston, East Cowes	6.2ha	No