

Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

Screening Matrix and Appropriate Assessment Statement

PLEASE NOTE: Undertaking the HRA process is the responsibility of the decision maker as the Competent Authority for the purpose of the Habitats Regulations. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the Competent Authority with the information that they require for this purpose.

HRA drafting date:	22/06/2023
HRA completion date:	28/06/2023
Application reference:	F/22/94174
Application address:	Fair Oak Sports Pavilion, Pavilion Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7PS
Application description:	Conversion of the existing playing field to accommodate 2.no football pitches and 2.no cricket pitches with the loss of 1.no football pitch. Erection of a single-storey cricket score-box & storage cabin. Erection of cricket nets. Extension to an existing culvert. Associated landscaping and footpath upgrade.
Lead Planning Officer:	Nicholas Parker
Case Officer:	Rachael Morris
Please note that all references in this assessment to the 'Habitats Regulations' refer to The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.	

Stage 1 - details of the plan or project	
European site potentially impacted by planning application, plan or project:	River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and SSSI
Is the planning application directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (if yes, Applicant should have provided details)?	No. The development involves the conversion of an existing playing field, erection of a score-box/storage cabin, erection of cricket nets with associated alterations to the site including an extension to the existing culvert, footpath upgrade and landscaping which is neither connected to nor necessary to the management of any European site.
Are there any other projects or plans that together with the planning application being assessed could affect the site (Applicant to provide details to allow an 'in combination' effect to be assessed)?	Yes, there is a potential that other development sites could have an in-combination effect on the watercourse however large sites will be supported by their own Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP).

Stage 2 - HRA screening assessment
Screening under Regulation 63(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations – The Applicant to provide evidence so that a judgement can be made as to whether there could be any potential significant impacts of the development on the integrity of the SPA/SAC/Ramsar.
<u>Geology and Hydrogeology</u>

The site lies on the Wittering Formation bedrock consisting of greyish brown laminated clay; wavy- to lenticular-bedded sand interbedded with clay in equal proportions; and fine- to medium-grained sparsely glauconitic sand. Based on the British Geological Survey (BGS) and Environment Agency's classification scheme the Wittering Formation is classified as a Secondary A Aquifer (Permeable layers capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers). The site is not located in a Source Protection Zone (SPZ) and it is likely groundwater is shallow, within 5m of the ground surface.

Surface Water

Based on a review of the Ordnance Survey Watercourse Link the nearest surface water body is a tributary of the River Itchen running east to west dissecting the southern portion of the proposed site. There are also surface water ditches present along the north-western, north-eastern, western and southern boundaries. The site is located in the Itchen Operational Catchment and is just over 2km upstream from the River Itchen SAC.

Would the proposal lead to a likely significant effect on European site integrity? YES

(If yes, continue to Stage 3).

Stage 3 - Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 63(1) - if there are any potential significant impacts, the applicant must provide evidence showing avoidance and/or mitigation measures to allow an Assessment to be made. The Applicant must also provide details which demonstrate any long term management, maintenance and funding of any solution.

The proposal has the potential to create significant impacts on the water quality of surface water features during the phase of construction.

Procedures detailed in a submitted Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Culvert Extension Method Statement detail precautions that will be undertaken in order to limit the potential for environmental impact. This includes the following:

- Where refuelling of plant and equipment is required on site it must take place using drip trays, with the operator present at all times. Where a secure, hardstanding area is not available then a temporary bunded and lined area must be used i.e. impermeable sheets, drip trays and sandbags.
- On completion all fuels must be returned to permanently bunded storage areas. These bunded store areas will be made secure at the end of each working day.
- Where required, waste arising from site will be removed by a licensed contractor and disposed of in line with duty of care. Prior to collection, waste must be contained and covered using a suitable tarpaulin (or similar) to prevent fugitive emissions (dust) migrating off-site and protect the area from the elements and rodents.
- In the event of a fugitive emission the following mitigation is recommended: Spill kits must be present on site at all times, including absorbent mats, granules, shovels, gloves and temporary drain seals/covers; Refuelling of plant and machinery on site will take place using drip trays or in temporary bunded areas; All storage of hazardous liquids, for example hydrocarbons/fuels, will be carried out in a bunded area with an impervious base to prevent spillage and leaks; Maintenance of plant and machinery shall be carried out along with visual inspection to reduce the risk of catastrophic loss of product to the environment; and In the event of a significant leak/spill and/or discovery of contamination occurs the following procedure, presented in Chart 1, will be adopted (Stop Work, Contain

and Report). In the event of unanticipated contamination in the sub-surface contact with the Environment Agency, LPA and a qualified environmental consultant will be made.

In addition, sediment control is an important feature of the construction phase on this site and keeping sediment at source; preventing it entering water courses is essential during these works. In order to ensure this can be achieved the following will be implemented during the construction phase:

- Install physical barriers around earthwork areas as detailed in the CEMP. This will be undertaken by creating silt traps and with the installation of silt fencing, designed to slow overland flow, ensure sediments cannot enter the water course, and to protect retained habitat as much as possible.
- Any areas of surface water ponding/pooling within work compounds/enclosures must be contained and not allowed to spill over into surface water features or the culverted area in the north of the site.
- The catchpits and collection chambers will be sealed during earthworks to prevent sediment entering the environment, a sediment sock shall be placed across the exit of the discharge and further down-stream of the tributaries identified.
- Earthworks should not take place on days with heavy rainfall forecasted or very dry days that would emit significant dust from the site.
- A Culvert Extension Method Statement will also be supplied to the Lead Local Flood Authority for determination under the Ordinary Watercourse Consent, separate to planning permission.
- The Culvert Extension Method Statement follows the three principles of diverting clean water away from working areas, minimising erosion of exposed soils and preventing contaminated water from entering the watercourses.

These measures will be conditioned through the submitted Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Culvert Extension Method Statement.

Stage 4 – Summary of the Appropriate Assessment (To be carried out by the Competent Authority (the local planning authority) in liaison with Natural England

In conclusion, the application could have a likely significant effect on the European protected Solent SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites in the absence of avoidance and mitigation measures. The authority has concluded that any adverse effects arising from the proposal can be mitigated through a condition relating to the submitted Construction Environmental Management Plan and Culvert Extension Method Statement. It can therefore be concluded that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the designated sites identified above. This represents the authorities Appropriate Assessment as Competent Authority in accordance with requirements under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive and having due regard to its duties under Section 40(1) of the NERC Act 2006 to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Consideration of the Ramsar site/s is a matter of government policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (Jul 2021).