

**MAPLE PLACE, 237 CHAMBERLAYNE ROAD AND
5B DERBY ROAD, EASTLEIGH, HAMPSHIRE**

**SHADOW HABITATS REGULATIONS
ASSESSMENT**

Final Document

March 2026

Preliminary Ecological Appraisals • Protected Species Surveys and Licensing • NVC • EclA • HRA • Management Plans
Habitats • Badger • Bats • Hazel Dormouse • Birds • Reptiles • Amphibians • Invertebrates • Riparian and Aquatic Species

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**SHADOW HABITATS REGULATIONS
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ecological Survey & Assessment Limited (ECOSA) have been appointed by MH Architects to undertake a Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to support a planning application for the redevelopment of Maple Place, 237 Chamberlayne Road and 5B Derby Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5HX (hereafter referred to as the site).

A previous planning application for the site was refused in 2023 (Eastleigh Borough Council planning ref: F/23/95574). One of the reasons for refusal was for failing to offset impacts on European protected sites from nutrient loading and recreational pressure.

The purpose of this Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment is to provide sufficient information for the Local Planning Authority, as a competent authority, to conclude whether the proposals will lead to Likely Significant Effects on any European designated sites.

1.2 The Site

The site is located in Eastleigh, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 4512 1843 (**Map 1**). The site is approximately 0.1 hectares and comprises a vacant plot situated on the corner of Derby Road and Chamberlayne Road. Two commercial buildings previously located on the land were demolished in 2021.

The wider landscape is dominated by residential and industrial development associated with Eastleigh. Grantham Green recreational park lies approximately 50 meters north-west of the site. Beyond the town, the landscape is characterised by agricultural fields interspersed with woodland blocks.

1.3 Aims and Scope of Report

This Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment Report aims to assess the Likely Significant Effects of the proposals upon International and/or European sites and their qualifying features, to inform a competent authority undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment. The objectives of this assessment are:

- Identify any aspects of the proposed development that would have a Likely Significant Effect on European designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and, as a matter of National Planning Policy, Ramsar sites¹), either in isolation or in-combination with other plans and

¹ Wetlands of International Importance designated under the Ramsar Convention 1979

projects. In addition, it is a matter of UK Government policy that possible SACs (pSACs) and potential SPAs (pSPA) are considered; and

- To advise on appropriate mechanisms for delivering mitigation where such effects are identified.

A detailed description of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process is provided in **Appendix 1** and the relevant planning policy context for this assessment is provided in **Appendix 2**.

1.4 Site Proposals

The proposals entail the construction of 12 new residential units comprising three 3-bed terraced houses facing Chamberlayne Road and a block of 9 flats facing Derby Road with associated landscaping, parking and access. Access to the site will be from existing access from Derby Road in the site's north-western corner.

The Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment is based on the proposals plan produced by MH Architects Ltd, dated 13th October 2025 (Drawing No. 25-073 004, Revision C02) (**Appendix 3**).

2.0 ASSESSMENT METHODS

2.1 Introduction

This section presents the methodology employed during the Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment.

2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment Methodology

Guidance on HRA screening methodology comprises Planning for the Protection of the National Site Network: Appropriate Assessment guidance (DCLG, 2006) and Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans: Guidance for Plan-making Bodies in Scotland (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2012). These documents have been used for the purpose of this exercise, along with supporting guidance (Infrastructure Planning Commission, 2011). This HRA exercise has been completed in the following stages:

- European Sites have been identified which may be impacted by the development;
- The vulnerabilities and potential development effects, both alone and in combination have been established;
- The development proposals have been screened for likelihood of significant effect on those European Sites; and
- Measures are introduced to avoid any identified likely significant effect which have been considered as part of the Appropriate Assessment.

The results of the Screening exercise are presented in Section 3.0, including details of the geographical scope of the assessment, the particular characteristics of the European sites within that area and consideration of how the proposed works may affect those European Sites. The outcomes from this process were used to populate Screening Matrices to determine Likely Significant Effects. The template for the matrices has been taken from the HRA Stage 1: Screening Matrices' template provided with Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 10 (Planning Inspectorate, 2017). Screening Matrices are presented in **Appendix 4**. Following the completion of the screening exercise the Appropriate Assessment is detailed in Section 4.0.

2.3 Consultation Resources

This report has involved consultation of the following resources to identify designated sites and their features that may be affected by the proposed works:

- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) (DEFRA, 2026);

- River Itchen SAC: nutrient neutrality calculator (Natural England, 2024a)
- Using the Nutrient Neutrality Calculators (Natural England; DEFRA, 2024);
- Nutrient Neutrality – A Summary Guide (Natural England, 2022);
- Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy;
- River Itchen Special Area of Conservation Evidence Pack (Natural England, 2022a)
- Natural England advice letter for development proposals with the potential to affect water quality resulting in adverse nutrient impacts on habitats sites (Natural England, 2022b).
- Eastleigh Borough Council Interim Mitigation Strategy to address recreation impacts on New Forest protected sites (Eastleigh Borough Council, 2022)

2.3.1 Identifying Source-Receptor Pathways

The Stage 1 Screening assessment used the 'source-receptor pathway' approach to identify European sites to be considered in Screening. The assessment identified potential sources of effects arising from the project along with potential pathways to European site features along which such effects might progress. To determine whether a potential source and pathway were relevant to a European site, the geographical location and nature of the receiving environment were considered, including whether the site would cross or lie adjacent to, upstream or downstream of, a watercourse or water body designated as a European site.

An appraisal of the European site's ecology and specific vulnerability to the anticipated level and nature of the effect was conducted. Consideration was given to the potential for more complex pathways that might link a receptor to an impact source, including indirect linkages. This included qualifying species of European sites that are mobile, and which could be present outside European sites but within functionally linked land. Also considered were habitats and species within the European sites that are not qualifying features but where implications to them are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site. This approach is consistent with the ruling in *Holohan v An Bord Pleanala* (C-461/17).

Source-receptor pathways identified as being relevant to this development are presented in **Table 1**. Each source-receptor pathway is assigned a Zone of Influence based on specific project activities (see **Table 1**).

2.3.2 Identification of Project Activities with Potential for Likely Significant Effects

All project activities were assessed for their potential to lead to Likely Significant Effects. The following criteria were considered when reviewing the proposed activities for Likely Significant Effects:

- Size, scale and area of the works as they relate to land-take;
- Extent of physical changes that could arise from proposed activities;
- Resource requirements (e.g. water abstraction); and
- Emissions and waste (disposal to land, water or air).

Each activity was assessed for its potential to generate Likely Significant Effects using the criteria described in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Source-Receptor Pathways and Potential Effects

Impact Phase	Category	Potential Effect
Construction	Physical disturbance	▪ Direct habitat loss or degradation (e.g. through pollution events, groundworks, tracking of machinery, tramping by personnel, vegetation removal, storage of materials) ▪ Disturbance of substrates (e.g. increased sediment loading, groundworks, machinery movement)
	Non-physical disturbance	▪ Noise and visual disturbance from construction traffic, plant, machinery and personnel during construction
	Hydrological changes	▪ Pollution of surface and groundwater (e.g. accidental spillages during construction)
	Air quality changes	▪ Air emissions associated with vehicular traffic and plant during construction ▪ Release of dust during construction
	Ground contamination	▪ Pollution of soils ▪ Changes to soil chemistry (e.g. due to the introduction of new materials such as aggregate for temporary construction compounds, cement used during construction activities)
	Invasive non-native species	▪ Introduction or spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) (e.g. due to plant movements or ground/riverbed disturbance)

Impact Phase	Category	Potential Effect
Operation	Hydrological changes	- Changes to surface water levels and flows (e.g. changes to surface drainage) - Changes to groundwater levels and flows (e.g. due to inadequate soil restoration) - Changes to water chemistry, including changes in nutrient levels (eutrophication) and turbidity
	Recreational Pressure	- Increased residential population causing disturbance to protected species - Trampling causing soil compaction and erosion - Increased nutrient enrichment via dog fouling

2.3.3 In Combination Scope

The impacts and effects of any plan being assessed are not considered in isolation but in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the European sites in question. In practice, ‘in combination assessment’ is of greatest importance when a plan or project would otherwise be screened out because the individual contribution is inconsequential.

For the purposes of this assessment, it has been determined that, due to the nature of the identified impacts, the key plans and projects that are likely to result in ‘in-combination’ effects with the proposed development relate to other residential developments (or those with new overnight accommodation) that lie within the River Itchen SAC surface water catchment and the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC) surface water catchment, as well as any development that has hydrological connectivity with the designated site (Natural England, 2022b) and any residential development within 13.8 kilometres of the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar site.

3.0 SCREENING

3.1 Introduction

This section details the process for screening for likely significant effects and a discussion of the findings to establish how the likely significant effect outcome was determined.

3.2 Relevant European Sites

The European sites identified as relevant to this Habitats Regulations Assessment are the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent Maritime SAC) located approximately 5.3 kilometres south of the site, the River Itchen SAC located approximately 1.5 kilometres east of the site and the New Forest designated sites (New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar site) located approximately 12.1 kilometres south of the site.

The boundaries of these European sites have been mapped in relation to the development site (shown in **Map 1**). The catchment areas of the Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC (which is the Zone of Influence identified for this assessment) and location of the development site is shown in **Map 2**.

3.3 Characteristics of the European Sites

A summary of qualifying features of each relevant European site can be found in the Stage 1 Screening Assessment Matrix in **Appendix 4**.

3.4 Potential Effects on European Sites

Details of the potential effects on each relevant European site and the associated Zone of Influences are summarised in **Table 2**. Those which are relevant to the proposed development are then discussed in further detail below.

Table 2. Impact Categories and Potential Effects

Impact Phase	Category	Potential Effect	Zone of Influence
Operation	Hydrological changes	Changes to water chemistry, including changes in nutrient levels (eutrophication) and turbidity	Effects of changes in water chemistry (e.g. eutrophication from nutrient loading) are assessed where the site falls within river or surface water catchments that flow into, or are part of a European site.
	Recreational Pressure	- Increased residential population causing disturbance to protected species - Trampling causing soil compaction and erosion - Increased nutrient enrichment via dog fouling	Effects from recreational pressure are assessed within a 5.6 kilometre catchment of the Solent designated sites based on visitor surveys and relevant mitigation strategies (Bird Aware Solent, 2017). Effects from recreational pressure are assessed within a 13.8-kilometre buffer of the New Forest designated sites based on visitor surveys and relevant mitigation strategies (Eastleigh Borough Council, 2022).

3.4.1 **Construction Phase**

The Solent and New Forest designated sites and the River Itchen SAC all lie outside the Zone of Influence of any construction phase related effects.

3.4.2 **Operational Phase**

Hydrological Changes

The proposals will result in increased waste-water discharge due to creation of 12 new residential dwellings and as a result, higher levels of nitrogen entering the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC) and the River Itchen SAC, which is specifically vulnerable to phosphorous. Phosphorus and nitrogen in freshwater habitats acts as a key limiting factor to excessive primary productivity. Evidence suggests that phosphorus and nitrogen loading could lead to eutrophication which represents a significant threat to the biodiversity. This ultimately leads to excessive shading and depletion of oxygen in the water column, impacting aquatic species and those that feed on them (Royal Haskoning DHV, 2022).

The current advice provided by Natural England (Natural England, 2022b) is that all new residential development and other overnight accommodation should be “nutrient neutral” in order to conclude that the proposals will have no effect on European sites in the Solent or the Itchen, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Natural England have set out a methodology for calculating whether or not proposals

are nutrient neutral within the Nutrient Budget Calculator Guidance Document (Natural England, 2022c). The Nutrient Budget Calculator used in this assessment is the River Itchen SAC: Nutrient Neutrality Calculator (Natural England, 2024a).

Stage 1 – Nutrient Loading from Additional Wastewater

The proposals entail the creation of 12 new dwellings, with associated landscaping and infrastructure. Each new residential unit has been assigned an average occupancy rate of 2.40 in line with the Natural England Guidance (Natural England, 2022c) and a water usage of 120 litres water per person per day. The receiving wastewater treatment works (WwTW) that the development will drain into is the Chickenhall WwTW. The Chickenhall WwTW has a nitrogen permit of 25mg total nitrogen per litre (TN/litre) and a phosphorous permit of 0.60mg total phosphorous per litre (TP/litre). This means the total phosphorous and nitrogen output, as a result of wastewater generation from the proposed development, is 0.28 kilograms TP/year and 9.09 kilograms TN/year post 2030 and 0.68 kilograms TP/year and 31.56 kilograms TN/year pre-2030.

Stage 2 – Nutrient Loading From Current Land Use

The second stage of the calculation is to determine the amount of total nitrogen and phosphorous currently discharged through existing land uses. The total site area is 0.1 hectares, which is comprised of open urban land. The calculation of total nitrogen from current land use is 1.02 kilograms TN/year and total phosphorous is 0.10 kilograms TP/year.

Step 3 – Nutrient Loading From Future Land Use

The third stage of the calculation is to determine the nitrogen load from future land use. Post-development of the site will consist of 0.1 hectares of residential urban land. This new land use will result in an annual nitrogen nutrient export of 1.72 kilograms TN/year and an annual phosphorous nutrient export of 0.19 kilograms TP/year.

Stage 4 – SuDS

There are no SuDS features proposed as part of this scheme.

Stage 5 – Nutrient Budget Calculation

The final stage automatically calculates the results from Stages 1-4 and includes a 20% buffer, making the total phosphorous mitigation required to achieve nutrient neutrality 0.44 kilograms per year post-2030 and 0.92 kilograms per year pre-2030. The total nitrogen mitigation required to achieve nutrient neutrality is 11.76 kilograms per year post-2030, and 38.72 kilograms per year pre-2030.

Based on the above, in the absence of mitigation, this project alone may lead to a **likely significant effect** on the River Itchen SAC and Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC) as a result of this source-receptor pathway.

Recreational Pressure

Solent Designated Sites

A range of research has been undertaken by the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project and Bird Aware Solent which has identified that any residential development within 5.6 kilometres of the Solent SPAs has the potential to result in a likely significant effect on the Solent SPAs (Bird Aware Solent, 2017) through disturbance, trampling and enrichment through dog fouling. The site lies within this 5.6-kilometre buffer of the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC) and will result in an increase in 12 residential units. Therefore, these designated sites may be subject to recreational impacts via an increased residential population causing disturbance to protected species.

Based on the above, in the absence of mitigation, this project in combination with other plans or projects may lead to a **Likely Significant Effect** on the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC) as a result of this source-receptor pathway.

New Forest Designated Sites

Research was commissioned by six local planning authorities to understand the impacts of recreation arising from new development on the protected sites in the New Forest (Footprint Ecology, 2020). The research identified a range of potential impacts from the projected increase in visitors including disturbance and trampling. The report produced recommended that a 13.8-kilometre Zone of Influence from the New Forest Protected sites be created whereby new residential development would need to provide mitigation for recreational impacts. This research was subsequently translated into Eastleigh Borough Council Interim Mitigation Strategy to address recreation impacts on New Forest protected sites (Eastleigh Borough Council, 2022).

The development will result in an increase of 12 residential units. Therefore, the New Forest designated sites may be subject to recreational impacts via an increased residential population causing disturbance to designated features.

Based on the above, in the absence of mitigation, this project in combination with other plans or projects may lead to a **Likely Significant Effect** on the New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar site as a result of this source-receptor pathway.

3.5 Conclusion

It has been determined that the proposals alone have the potential to lead to **likely significant effects** on the River Itchen SAC, the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC) and the New Forest SPA, Ramsar and SAC. This is as a result of hydrological changes and an increase in recreational pressure in the operational phase. As such, it has not been necessary to undertake an in-combination assessment at Screening Stage (see **Appendix 1**).

In accordance with current case law (People Over Wind and Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta - Case C323/17, 2018) it is not possible to consider proposed mitigation measures as part of the Screening Stage of Habitats Regulation Assessment. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is required.

4.0 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The section presents the Appropriate Assessment and sets out relevant mitigation in order to address the likely significant effects identified as part of the screening stage.

4.2 Summary of Likely Significant Effects

The potential likely significant effects identified as part of the screening process comprise hydrological changes during the operational phase.

4.3 Proposed Mitigation

4.3.1 Operational Phase

Hydrological Changes

The total phosphorous mitigation required to achieve nutrient neutrality is 0.44 kilograms per year post-2030 and 0.92 kilograms per year pre-2030. The total nitrate mitigation required to achieve nutrient neutrality is 11.76 kilograms per year post-2030 and 38.72 kilograms per year pre-2030. The mitigation strategy for the proposals will involve the purchase of phosphorous credits and nitrate credits from a suitable provider. A Section 106 agreement or condition will need to be secured to purchase sufficient credits to offset the nutrient load identified.

Recreational Pressure – Solent Designated Sites

The site is situated within the 5.6-kilometre buffer where residential development has the potential to result in increased recreational pressure on the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC). The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (Bird Aware Solent, 2017) sets out that developers will make a contribution towards the Solent Recreation and Mitigation Strategy to mitigate for potential increased recreational pressure on the Solent designated sites. Developer contributions are determined on a sliding scale dependant on the number of bedrooms per dwelling. The cost per dwelling is updated to account for inflation on 1st April each year. At the time of preparing this report, the developer contribution costs are listed as below:

- One-bedroom property: £482.00
- Two-bedroom property: £696.00
- Three-bedroom property: £907.00
- Four-bedroom property: £1,067.00

The proposals entail the construction of three three-bedroom houses, four two-bedroom apartments and five one-bedroom apartments. Therefore, the total developer contribution to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy will be £7,915.00.

Recreational Pressure – New Forest Designated Sites

The site is situated within the 13.8-kilometre buffer where residential development has the potential to result in increased recreational pressure on the New Forest designated sites. Eastleigh Borough Council's Interim Mitigation Strategy is an interim approach to mitigating additional recreational pressures on the New Forest designated sites, which will apply to new developments until 2027. The strategy sets out that new developments will make a financial contribution to the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs), and to the management of recreational disturbance within the New Forest designated sites (Eastleigh Borough Council, 2022). The New Forest National Park Authority has established Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) services intended to reduce recreational disturbance. The cost per dwelling is updated to account for inflation on 1st April each year. At the time of preparing this report, the total developer contribution from new development in Eastleigh Borough is £2,220 per dwelling.

4.4 Conclusion

Following the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in this section and the Appropriate Assessment undertaken, it is concluded that the proposed development will have a neutral impact and will therefore have **no adverse effects** on the integrity of the River Itchen SAC, the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC) and the New Forest SPA/Ramsar and SAC.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The screening stage of the Shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment concluded that, unmitigated, there would be a likely significant effect as a result of the proposed development on the River Itchen SAC, the Solent designated sites (Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar and SPA and Solent Maritime SAC) and the New Forest designated sites. The unmitigated likely significant effects would result from hydrological changes to the River Itchen SAC and Solent designated sites, and an increase in recreational pressure on the Solent and New Forest designated sites. Therefore, suitable mitigation measures have been proposed and an Appropriate Assessment undertaken.

Following the incorporation of appropriate mitigation comprising contributions made to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, Eastleigh Borough Council SANG provision and New Forest National Park Authority, and the purchase of nitrate and phosphorous credits, it has been concluded that there would be no adverse impact on European site integrity.

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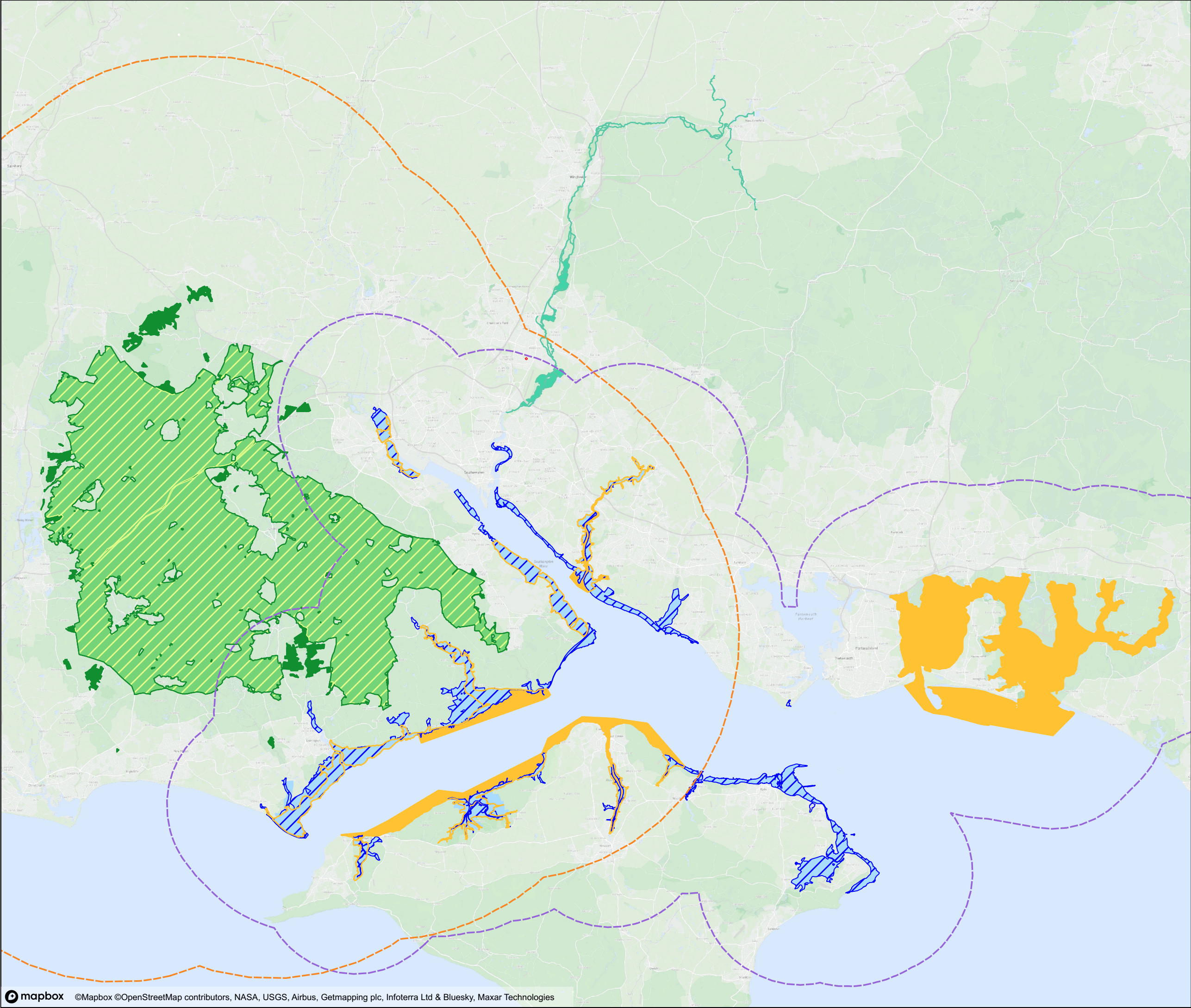
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Map 1 Site Location in relation to The River Itchen SAC, Solent Designated Sites and The
New Forest Designated Sites



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CHAMBERLAYNE ROAD & 5B
DERBY ROAD, EASTLEIGH**

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Map 1 - Site Location in Relation to
Designated Sites

Client:	MH Architects Ltd
Date:	March 2026
Status:	Draft

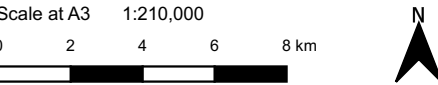
KEY

-  Site Boundary
-  Solent 5.6 km Buffer
-  New Forest 13.8km Buffer

- Ramsar Sites**
-  Solent & Southampton Water
 -  New Forest

- Special Protection Areas (SPA's)**
-  Solent & Southampton Water
 -  New Forest

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)**
-  River Itchen
 -  Solent Maritime
 -  The New Forest



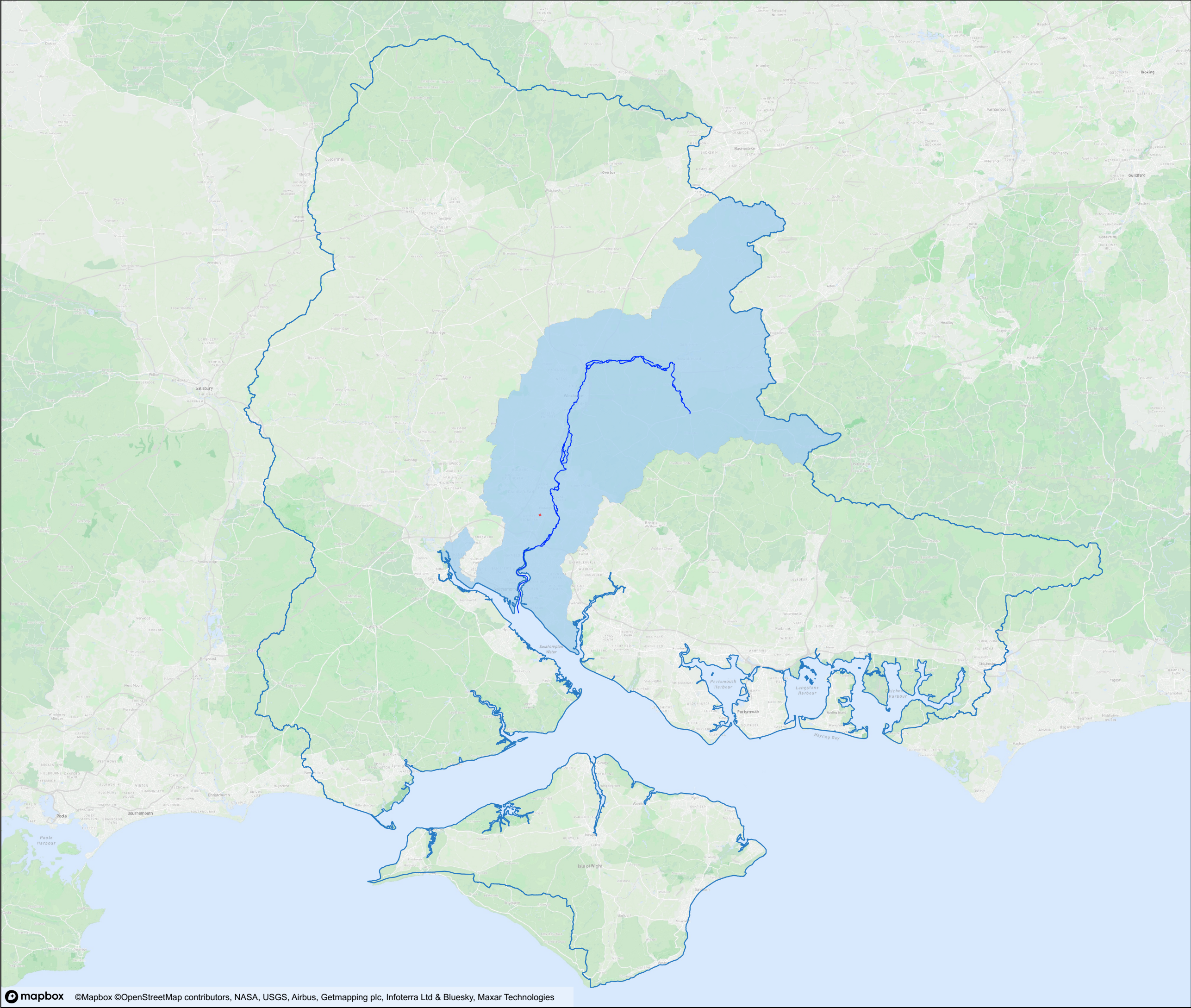
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Map 2 Site Location in relation to the Solent Catchment



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Map 2 - Site Location in Relation to the
Solent Catchment

Client:	MH Architects Ltd
Date:	March 2026
Status:	Draft

KEY

-  Site Boundary
-  Wider Solent Catchment Area
-  River Itchen Catchment
-  River Itchen



Prepared by: LCC	Date: 200226
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Appendix 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment Process

Introduction

This section provides an outline of the Habitats Regulations and the Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

The Habitats Regulations

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), hereafter referred to as ‘the Habitats Regulations’, is a piece of national legislation which was originally derived from the European Union’s Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Wild Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). Following the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union and the end of the transition period on 31st December 2020, these two directives are no longer legally binding on the United Kingdom. Therefore, the legislation on which HRA process is based is set out within the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). However, it is also important to note that under s6(3) of the EU (Withdrawal Act) 2018 (as amended) retained EU law (such as the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017) is to be interpreted in line with “retained caselaw” which includes retained EU caselaw. Therefore, any EU caselaw prior to the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union remains relevant for the purposes of Habitats Regulations Assessments.

The aim of this legislation to is protect and maintain a National Site Network (formally known within the UK as Natura 2000) which includes all existing SACs and SPAs (designated before 31st December 2020) and any new SACs and SPAs designated under the Habitats Regulations.

Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations sets out that where a plan or project is being proposed which is likely to have a significant effect on a site within the National Site Network the competent authority must undertake an Appropriate Assessment in light of the site’s conservation objectives. A competent authority is in practice the decision maker which undertakes, gives consent, permission or other authorisation for such a plan or project. The authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site. However, the onus is on the applicant for any consent or authorisation to provide such information that the competent authority requires in order to undertake the assessment.

Where an Appropriate Assessment has been carried out and any proposed avoidance or mitigation measures anticipated are unable to reduce the potential effect, so it is no longer significant, or if uncertainty remains over the significant effect, consent will only be granted if:

- There are no alternative solutions;
- There are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest for the development;
and

- Compensatory measures have been secured.

National Site Network

Types of sites considered in the Habitats Regulation Assessment process are detailed in **Table 3**. This report considers SPAs, SACs and, as a matter of National Planning Policy, Ramsar sites². In addition, it is a matter of UK Government policy that possible SACs (pSACs) and potential SPAs (pSPA) are considered. For the purposes of this report these sites are collectively referred to as the National Site Network and individually referred to as European sites.

Table 3: National Site Network considered in HRA

Designation Type	Origin	Description
Special Protection Area (SPA)	EU Birds Directive	Strictly protected sites classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory bird species.
Potential SPA (pSPA)	EU Birds Directive	Sites that are proposed as SPAs but have yet to be formally classified. These sites are assessed within HRA in accordance with National Planning Policy.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	EU Habitats Directive	Strictly protected sites forming part of a national network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the habitat types and species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended). The listed habitat types and species are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a national level (excluding birds).
Possible SAC (pSAC)	EU Habitats Directive	Sites that are proposed as SACs and have been submitted but have yet to be formally designated. These sites are assessed within HRA in accordance with National Planning Policy.
Ramsar site	Ramsar Convention	Internationally important wetland habitats are recognised under the Ramsar Convention, with Ramsar sites overlying SPA classifications and SAC designations. While the criteria differ from those of SPAs and SACs, the criteria for Ramsar sites are equally significant in terms of maintaining the ecological integrity of the site. Ramsar designated sites are not part of the National Site Network (although by proxy they relate to the same sites). However, they are assessed within HRA in accordance with National Planning Policy

Conservation Objectives

SPAs and SACs

Each SPA and SAC has set conservation objectives defining what constitutes a favourable conservation status of each primary qualifying feature. These are set out by Natural England

² Whilst Ramsar sites are not protected under the Habitats Regulations National Planning Policy is to subject them to the same HRA process as if National Site Network sites

and describe the targets to be met in order for the feature to qualify as 'favourable'. Conservation objectives vary from site to site but follow the same general principles:

- To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats and the habitats of qualifying species;
- To avoid significant disturbance of qualifying species;
- To ensure the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure that the site makes a full contribution to achieving the favourable conservation status of each of the qualifying features.

The aims are broadly to maintain or restore the structure, function, extent, distribution and supporting processes of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species, and to maintain or restore the populations and distribution of qualifying species.

Ramsar Sites

While Ramsar sites lack set conservation objectives, the correlation between Ramsar qualifying criteria and SAC/SPA qualifying features is such that the objectives of SPAs and SACs negate the need for separate objectives. For sites that are designated both as an SPA/SAC and a Ramsar site, the conservation objectives of SPAs and SACs incorporate the designated features of the Ramsar site.

Conservation Status

Conservation status of a habitat is taken to be (European Economic Community (EEC), 1992): *'The sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species'*.

Species conservation status is defined as:

'The sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations'.

Favourable conservation status of a site is defined as when (McLeod, 2005):

'Its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.

The National Site Network has associations with, or are overlaid by, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). SSSIs are assessed on the basis of their condition at the time of the most

recent assessment survey in order to determine whether the site meets its objectives. The assessment of SSSIs draws upon recent and historic condition assessments, capable of establishing whether a site or component unit is *declining* or *recovering*. It should be noted that European sites often have one or more component SSSIs, any potential impacts to which, or any implications of current condition may also impact the condition of the European site.

European sites are assessed in more depth, on the basis of their conservation status, including an assessment of the presence of specific structure and functions required for its long-term maintenance. It also takes account of whether these necessary structures and functions are likely to persist into the future.

Habitat Regulations Assessment Process

The four stages of HRA (Infrastructure Planning Commission, 2011) are detailed in **Table 4**. If the proposed development cannot be screened out as being unlikely to lead to significant effects, then Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required which will include detailed analysis of identified likely significant effects in order to develop appropriate mitigation that will enable the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in their role as 'competent authority' to conclude that no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites will result. In certain circumstances, a proposal that has failed the integrity test can be allowed to go ahead. This is known as a derogation and combines stages 3 and 4 of the process. The proposal must pass all three of the legal tests for a derogation to be granted: 1. There is no feasible alternative solution that would be less damaging; 2. The proposal needs to be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI); and 3. The necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

Table 4: HRA screening process

Stage	Description
Stage 1 Screening	The process to identify the likely impacts of a project upon a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, and consider whether there is a Likely Significant Effect.
Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment	The consideration of the impacts on the integrity of the European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, with regard to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of mitigation options is carried out to determine adverse effect on the integrity of the site. If these mitigation options cannot avoid adverse effects, and that there will an adverse effect on site integrity, then development consent can only be given if stages 3 and 4 are followed.
Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions	Examining alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project to establish whether there are solutions that would avoid or have a lesser effect on European sites.

Table 4: HRA screening process

Stage	Description
Stage 4 Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)	This is the assessment where no alternative solution exists and where adverse impacts remain. The process to assess whether the development is necessary for IROPI and, if so, the potential compensatory measures needed to maintain the overall coherence of the site or integrity of the European site.

The Habitats Regulations apply the precautionary principle to SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites. This means that it is presumed that a likely significant effect may occur unless it can be demonstrated with a sufficient level of confidence that it will not.

Throughout this document the phrase Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been used to refer to the overall process required, while Appropriate Assessment (AA) is used for the specific stage of the process in which it is necessary to determine in more detail adverse effects on the integrity of European sites and mitigation required. The need for HRA and AA is set out within Article 6.3 of the EC Habitats Regulations 1992, and transposed into British law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The ultimate aim of the Regulations is to “maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest” (Habitats Regulations, Article 2(2)). This aim relates to habitats and species, not the European sites themselves, although the sites have a significant role in delivering favourable conservation status.

Habitats Directive 1992

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.”

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

“A competent authority, before deciding to ... give any consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site... must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that sites conservation objectives ... The authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site”.

Screening

The first stage of any Habitats Regulations Assessment is a Likely Significant Effect test which is a high-level risk assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage known as Appropriate Assessment is required. The essential question is:

“Is the project, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon European sites?”

Likely Significant Effect

The process will firstly involve identifying any effects on the ecological functionality of National Site Network sites likely to arise from the proposed development, either alone or in combination with other development projects in the area.

These effects would be considered significant if they undermine any of the National Site Networks site’s conservation objectives.

The likelihood of each significant effect is then determined. A likely effect is defined as one which cannot be ruled out based on the objective information available.

A European Court of Justice ruling (People Over Wind and Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta - Case C323/17, 2018) has determined that it is not sufficient to screen out projects that include mitigation if that mitigation would not form part of the plan or project were it not for the consideration of the conservation objectives of National Site Network sites. In other words, the project must be screened on its own merits and if mitigation would be required to prevent Likely Significant Effects on European sites then this must be subject to full Appropriate Assessment. With regard to those European sites where it is considered not possible to ‘screen out’ the project without detailed appraisal, it is necessary to progress to the later Appropriate Assessment stage to explore the adverse effects and devise mitigation.

In Combination

HRA takes into account the impacts of proposals both in their own right and in combination with other developments in the vicinity. It is possible for a proposed development to have a de minimus³ impact when taken in isolation, but in conjunction with other proposed development projects it may contribute to a likely significant effect. This is known as an ‘in combination’ effect. In accordance with a statement made by Advocate-General Eleanor Sharpston in a European Court of Justice ruling (Peter Sweetman and Others v An Bord Pleanála – Case C258/11, 2013), where a development project has a neutral effect or no appreciable effect alone, an in-combination assessment is not required.

Likewise, where it has been concluded at screening stage that there is a risk of likely significant effects, or where a likely significant effect has been identified, an in-combination assessment is not required and an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken.

Where it has been determined at screening stage that there is a risk of a de minimis or appreciable adverse effect alone, an in-combination assessment is required.

³ Too small to be meaningful or taken into consideration on its own.

Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment is required when HRA screening of the proposals and the in-combination assessment cannot rule out the possibility that a European site's conservation objectives will be undermined, because of one or more likely significant effects.

Integrity

An effect that directly or indirectly affects a European site's qualifying features resulting in harm to the ecological structure and functioning of the site, its supporting processes and/or adversely affects the site's ability to meet conservation objectives would be considered an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Site integrity is defined as (Jones, 2002):

'The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified'.

Appendix 2 Planning Policy Context

Introduction

This section summarises the national and local planning policy in relation to Habitats Regulations Assessment and European sites within England and the Eastleigh Borough Council administrative area.

National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's requirements for the planning system in England. The original document was published in 2012 with the most recent revised NPPF published in December 2024. A number of sections of the NPPF are relevant when taking into account development proposals and the environment. As set out within Paragraph 11 of the NPPF "*Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development*". However, Paragraph 195 goes on to state that "*The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.*".

The NPPF sets out that development proposals should not only minimise the impacts on biodiversity but also to provide enhancement. Paragraph 187 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by "*...minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures...*".

A number of principles are set out in Paragraph 193, including that where harm cannot be adequately avoided then it should be mitigated for, or as a last resort, compensated for. Where impacts occur on nationally designated sites, the benefits must clearly outweigh any adverse impact and incorporating biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged. Specific reference is also made to the protection of irreplaceable habitats⁴, including ancient woodland⁵. Where loss to irreplaceable habitats occurs planning permission would normally be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and an adequate compensation strategy is in place. Paragraph 193 also states "*development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and*

⁴ The NPPF defines irreplaceable habitats as "*Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen.*"

⁵ Natural England defines ancient woodland as "An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)."

around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.” Paragraph 194 also sets out that potential SPAs, SACs and listed or proposed Ramsar sites or sites acting as compensation for SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites, should receive the same protection as habitat sites.

In addition to the NPPF, Circular 06/05 provides guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation as it applies in England. Paragraph 98 states *“the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat”*. Paragraph 99 states *“it is essential that the presence or otherwise of a protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the Proposed Project Development, is established before planning permission is granted”*.

Local Policy

The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 was adopted on 25th April 2022. It sets out the policies and plans to guide future development to 2036 and replaced the ‘saved’ policies in the Adopted Local Plan 2001-2011. A number of policies relate to ecology:

- **Policy DM10: Water and Waste Water**

This policy states that where new water supply or waste water infrastructure is required or proposed, the development will be phased alongside the provision of infrastructure to ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations; that there is no deterioration of the status of water bodies; and the avoidance or mitigation of any other adverse impacts.

- **Policy DM11: Nature Conservation**

This policy states that developments should seek to protect, conserve and enhance international, national and local nature conservations designations and networks of natural habitats. A ‘project level’ Habitats Regulations Assessment will be required where there are likely significant effects on international or European nature conservation sites. In particular, reference is made to the Solent, the New Forest and the River Itchen designated sites.

Appendix 3 Site Proposals



Notes

1. This drawing is the copyright of MH Architects Ltd

2. Do not scale this drawing except for Local Authority planning purposes

3. All dimensions must be checked on site by the contractor prior to commencement of the works.

Client Approval

X

A - Approved

X

B - Approved with comments

X

C - Do not use

Rev.	Revision Note/Purpose of Issue	Drw By	Date	Chk By	Date

ACCOMMODATION

Apartments

Ground floor

01

2 BED 3 PERSON

62.4 sqm

1 car space

02

1 BED 2 PERSON

50.4 sqm

03

1 BED 2 PERSON

60.0 sqm

1 car space

First floor

04

2 BED 3 PERSON

62.4 sqm

1 car space

05

1 BED 2 PERSON

50.4 sqm

06

2 BED 4 PERSON

70.1 sqm

1 car space

Second floor

07

1 BED 2 PERSON

58.2 sqm

08

1 BED 2 PERSON

50.4 sqm

09

2 BED 4 PERSON

70.1sqm

1 car space

Houses

10

3 BED 5 PERSON

101.9 sqm

1 car space

11

3 BED 5 PERSON

101.9 sqm

1 car space

12

3 BED 5 PERSON

101.9 sqm

1 car space

External refuse
Internal cycle store

Eastleigh Borough Council
Chamberlayne Road
Eastleigh
Residential proposals

Drawing title

SITE PLAN

Drawn	Date	Checked	Date	Scale at A3
JDM	13.10.25	HJG	13.10.25	1:200
Job No.	Pro.	Org.	Zone	Level
25-073	CRE	MHA	XX	XX
Purpose of Issue	Type	Role	No.	Rev.
	DR	AR	004	C02

Planning

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Building
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Limited Company
Registered in England No.1994233



Appendix 4 Stage 1 Screening Assessment Matrix

Matrix Key:

Yes = likely significant effect cannot be excluded

No = likely significant effect can be excluded

(a) = justification supporting conclusion

N/A = feature is not vulnerable to the effect pathway

Table 5. River Itchen SAC Screening Matrix

Site Name and Reference: River Itchen SAC (UK0012599)									
Site Area: 309.26 hectares									
Distance to Site: 1.5 kilometres west									
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways								
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Air Quality Changes	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation. (Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	No (a)	Yes (c)
Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	No (a)	Yes (c)

Site Name and Reference: River Itchen SAC (UK0012599)									
Site Area: 309.26 hectares									
Distance to Site: 1.5 kilometres west									
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways								
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Air Quality Changes	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	No (a)	Yes (c)
Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	No (a)	Yes (c)
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	No (a)	Yes (c)
Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	No (a)	Yes (c)
White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	No (a)	Yes (c)

Justification for supporting conclusions:

- This pathway of impact is unlikely to lead to Likely Significant Effects on this qualifying feature either because the feature is not present within the ZoI or because the habitats within the working areas are not suitable for supporting the feature. Therefore, this pathway of impact with regards to this qualifying feature has been screened out.
- The proposals will result in increased waste-water discharge due to the addition of residential accommodation. Increased levels of nitrogen and phosphorous entering the River Itchen surface water catchment can severely threaten the qualifying habitats of the SAC, leading to algal blooms.
- Where it has been concluded at screening stage that there is a risk of likely significant effects, or where a likely significant effect has been identified, an in-combination assessment is not required and an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken.

Table 6: Solent and Southampton Water SPA Screening Matrix

Site Name and Reference: Solent and Southampton Water SPA (UK9011061)								
Site Area: 5401.12 hectares								
Distance to Site: 5.3 kilometres north								
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways							
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (Breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Dark-bellied Brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Overwinter)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)

Site Name and Reference: Solent and Southampton Water SPA (UK9011061)								
Site Area: 5401.12 hectares								
Distance to Site: 5.3 kilometres north								
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways							
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (Breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)

Justification for supporting conclusions:

- (a) This pathway of impact is unlikely to lead to Likely Significant Effects on this qualifying feature either because the feature is not present within the Zol or because the habitats within the working areas are not suitable for supporting the feature. Therefore, this pathway of impact with regards to this qualifying feature has been screened out.
- (b) The increase in nitrogen discharge as a result of new residents has the potential to increased eutrophication within the site.
- (c) The increase in recreational visits with dogs to the site has the potential to result in increased disturbance to individual birds utilising the site.
- (d) Where it has been concluded at screening stage that there is a risk of Likely Significant Effects, or where a Likely Significant Effect has been identified, an in-combination assessment is not required and an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken.

Table 7: Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site Screening Matrix

Site Name and Reference: Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site (UK11063)								
Site Area: 5346.44 hectares								
Distance to Site: 5.3 kilometres north								
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways							
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
Ramsar Criterion 1 Site contains representative, rare or unique wetland types	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Ramsar Criterion 2 Site supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Ramsar Criterion 5 Site regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)

Justification for supporting conclusions:

- (a) This pathway of impact is unlikely to lead to Likely Significant Effects on this qualifying feature either because the feature is not present within the Zol or because the habitats within the working areas are not suitable for supporting the feature. Therefore, this pathway of impact with regards to this qualifying feature has been screened out.

- (b) The increase in nitrogen discharge as a result of new residents has the potential to increased eutrophication within the site.
- (c) The increase in recreational visits with dogs to the site has the potential to result in increased disturbance to individual birds utilising the site.
- (d) Where it has been concluded at screening stage that there is a risk of Likely Significant Effects, or where a Likely Significant Effect has been identified, an in-combination assessment is not required and an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken.

Table 8: Solent Maritime SAC Screening Matrix

Site Name and Reference: Solent Maritime SAC (UK0030059)								
Site Area: 11243.12 hectares								
Distance to Site: 26 kilometres north west								
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways							
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
Estuaries	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Spartina <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> swards	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)

Site Name and Reference: Solent Maritime SAC (UK0030059)								
Site Area: 11243.12 hectares								
Distance to Site: 26 kilometres north west								
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways							
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
Coastal lagoons	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Annual vegetation of drift lines	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)
Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)	Yes (d)

Justification for supporting conclusions:

- (a) This pathway of impact is unlikely to lead to Likely Significant Effect on this qualifying feature either because the feature is not present within the ZoI or because the habitats within the working areas are not suitable for supporting the feature. Therefore, this pathway of impact with regards to this qualifying feature has been screened out.
- (b) The increase in nitrogen discharge as a result of new residents has the potential to increased eutrophication within the site.
- (c) The increase in recreational visits with dogs to the site has the potential to result in increased damaged to individual habitat features.

- (d) Where it has been concluded at screening stage that there is a risk of Likely Significant Effects, or where a Likely Significant Effect has been identified, an in-combination assessment is not required and an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken.

Table 9: New Forest SPA Screening Matrix

Site Name and Reference: New Forest SPA (UK9011031)									
Site Area: 29213.57hectares									
Distance to Site: approximately 12.1 kilometres north									
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways								
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Air Quality Changes	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
A224 European nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> (breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
A246 Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i> (breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
A302 Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i> (breeding)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)

Justification for supporting conclusions:

- (a) This pathway of impact is unlikely to lead to Likely Significant Effects on this qualifying feature either because the feature is not present within the Zol or because the habitats within the working areas are not suitable for supporting the feature. Therefore, this pathway of impact with regards to this qualifying feature has been screened out.
- (b) Qualifying feature could be significantly impacted by recreational pressure due to degradation of the habitat through damage caused by visitors walking on the habitat and increased disturbance from humans or pets that could reduce the breeding success of the qualifying animal species.
- (c) Where it has been concluded at screening stage that there is a risk of Likely Significant Effects, or where a Likely Significant Effect has been identified, an in-combination assessment is not required and an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken.

Table 10: New Forest Ramsar Site Screening Matrix

Site Name and Reference: New Forest Ramsar Site (UK11047)									
Site Area: 29213.57hectares									
Distance to Site: approximately 8.7 kilometres to the west of the site boundary									
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways								
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Air Quality Changes	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
Ramsar criterion 1 Site contains representative, rare or unique wetland types - 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 of their type in Britain	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
Ramsar criterion 2 Site supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities - the site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)

Site Name and Reference: New Forest Ramsar Site (UK11047)									
Site Area: 29213.57hectares									
Distance to Site: approximately 8.7 kilometres to the west of the site boundary									
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways								
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Air Quality Changes	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate									
Ramsar criterion 3 Site supports populations of plant/animal species important for maintaining regional biodiversity - the mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. 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	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)

Justification for supporting conclusions:

- (a) This pathway of impact is unlikely to lead to Likely Significant Effects on this qualifying feature either because the feature is not present within the Zol or because the habitats within the working areas are not suitable for supporting the feature. Therefore, this pathway of impact with regards to this qualifying feature has been screened out.
- (b) Qualifying feature could be significantly impacted by recreational pressure due to degradation of the habitat through damage caused by visitors walking on the habitat and increased disturbance from humans or pets that could reduce the breeding success of the qualifying animal species.
- (c) Where it has been concluded at screening stage that there is a risk of Likely Significant Effects, or where a Likely Significant Effect has been identified, an in-combination assessment is not required and an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken.

Table 11: New Forest SAC Screening Matrix

Site Name and Reference: New Forest SAC (UK0012557)									
Site Area: 29213.57hectares									
Distance to Site: approximately 8.7 kilometres to the west of the site boundary									
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways								
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Air Quality Changes	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
3110 Oligotrophic water containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)

Site Name and Reference: New Forest SAC (UK0012557)									
Site Area: 29213.57hectares									
Distance to Site: approximately 8.7 kilometres to the west of the site boundary									
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways								
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Air Quality Changes	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
4030 European dry heaths	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caerulea</i>)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
91D0 Bog Woodland	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)

Site Name and Reference: New Forest SAC (UK0012557)									
Site Area: 29213.57hectares									
Distance to Site: approximately 8.7 kilometres to the west of the site boundary									
European Site Features	Source-Receptor Pathways								
	Physical Disturbance	Non-Physical Disturbance	Hydrological Changes (Construction)	Ground Contamination	Air Quality Changes	Invasive Non-Native Species	Hydrological Changes (Operation)	Recreational Pressure	In-combination effects
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>) Priority feature	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs (not a primary reason for selection)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
7230 Alkaline fens (not a primary reason for selection)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercurial</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanthus cervus</i>	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)
1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> (not a primary reason for selection)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	No (a)	Yes (b)	Yes (c)

Justification for supporting conclusions:

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