

Design and Access Statement – V18-V19

Mooring piles V18 and 19 are on the west side of the river between Lands End Road and Swanwick Marina. The mooring piles are maintained by The Crown Estate and managed by the River Hamble Harbour Master.

Currently the boats between piles V18 and 19 are moored to the piles just with ropes. Two boats are permitted to berth between the piles.

It is requested that we fit a pontoon in between Piles V18 and V19 to allow alongside berthing of yachts on the pontoon between the two piles.

The proposed pontoon is 12 metres long x 2.0 metres wide and would be located between V18 and 19 piles which are 16 metres apart. The proposed pontoon will be constructed primarily of pressure treated wood with galvanised steel brackets. There will be eight floats made from polyethylene and are filled with foam. The pontoon's surface will sit approx 0.5 metres above the water, 12 metres x 2.0 metres and is within the recommended size range for piles 16 meters apart.

Most other piles in the vicinity have been fitted with floating pontoons between the piles, which separate the two boats and are off the same design and construction. These pontoons are secured to the piles by heavy duty chains.

Piles V18 & 19 are in the middle of the river and cannot be accessed by land. With the introduction of the pontoon each pair of boats (including their mast and rigging) is kept further apart and the boats do not roll against each other in strong winds and damage is considerably reduced. On non-pontoon pile moorings the contra rolling motion between the boats can allow the mast and rigging to collide and can push the inflatable fenders upwards, out of the gap between the boats and the sides of the boats can collide.

It is much safer for a boat approaching a pile mooring to attach to a pontoon, rather than pick up mooring lines from the water. Mooring lines are difficult to pick up in strong winds and at night. It is easy to tangle the boats propeller in the mooring lines as these are suspended just below the water surface. As the pontoon is normally lower than the boats deck, it is also safer to load and unload the boat from a dinghy via a pontoon rather than directly from the dinghy.

Helen Gavine

