

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:	26/03/2024
HRA completion date:	27/03/2024
Application reference:	F/24/96961
Application address:	Lands End House, Lands End Road, Bursledon, SO31 8DN
Application description:	Installation of a 12m x 2m pontoon between mooring piles V18 and 19 on the River Hamble.
Lead Planning Officer:	Nick Parker
Case Officer:	Rebecca Altman
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:	Solent and Dorset Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
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 consists of the installation of a pontoon, 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 have been other recent applications permitted in the locality. All schemes have mitigation measures secured to protect the integrity of the protected areas, and with these mitigation measures in place for all approved schemes, there is not considered to be any likely significant in-combination impact.

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>Ecological impacts</u>

The proposal is to site a new pontoon in the River Hamble, which is a designated Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation. The new pontoon would be sited between two existing mooring piles, in an area where there are a number of other similar pontoons. There is no requirement for any new piling as part of the development.

The Council's Ecologist has reviewed the proposals and commented that the only potential ecological impacts associated with the proposed pontoon would be from the potential leaching of chemicals from pressure treated timber. Whilst they initially raised shading as a possible impact, the Ecologist has since confirmed that this matter was discussed directly with the Harbour Master and is not considered to be a concern in the proposed location.

The applicant has clarified that the proposal is to re-use an existing pontoon from further up the River. This pontoon is made of hard wood which is untreated and ecologically safe. The Council's Ecologist has reviewed these further details and has advised that no impacts would be anticipated. Therefore, in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, the proposal would not have a likely significant effect on the integrity of the protected sites.

Would the proposal lead to a likely significant effect on European site integrity? No.

(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.

No Appropriate Assessment required.

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 proposal will not have a likely significant effect on the protected sites.

This represents the authority's Assessment as Competent Authority in accordance with the 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.