

Habitat Regulations 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:	14 th March 2024
HRA completion date:	9 th April 2024
Application reference:	DC/23/96279
Application address:	Land between Burnetts Lane and Allington Lane,
Application description:	Discharge of Condition 3 (second part) - Long term maintenance of surface water drainage system of Planning Permission F/21/91185 for Construction of road between Allington Lane and Burnetts Lane with associated footway, cycle paths, water crossings, drainage and landscaping
Lead Planning Officer:	Nick Parker
Case Officer:	Dawn Errington
Please note that all references in this assessment to the 'Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019'.	

Stage 1 - details of the plan or project	
European site potentially impacted by planning application, plan, or project:	Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site; River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC); New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar; and Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Although the above Ramsar sites are not subject to the Wild Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive, or the Habitats Regulations, they are given the same protection as SPAs and SACs (NPPF paragraph 176(b)). The assessment, therefore, also addresses the relevant Ramsar criteria for which this site is designated.
Is the planning application directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (if yes, Applicant should have provided details)?	No. The project consists of construction of a road, associated footways and cycleways, water crossings, drainage and landscaping.
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. The link road, the subject of this application, falls within the boundaries and the description and scope of the development proposed in the outline application number O/20/89498 "Outline: Phased mixed-use development comprising severable and separate phases of development (as per the Phasing Plan) consisting:

- Up to 2,500 residential units in total (across The Lower Acre, Quobleigh Breach, The Upper Acre, Round Copse, The Holme, The Homestal, Chalcroft Farm and The Folds phases and partially within Chalcroft Outfarm Works phase);
 - A Local Centre (and supporting secondary local centres) on land up to 3.1ha comprising mixed-use residential/retail/leisure/community/employment/day nursery/food establishment uses (Local Centre Phase);
 - Further non-residential floorspace on land up to 5ha comprising of office, commercial and industrial uses and general industrial and storage & distribution uses (Chalcroft Outfarm works and Fir Tree Farm Hub phases and partially within the Chalcroft Farm phase);
 - A 3FE Primary School (Primary School Phase);
 - Public open space including formal sports facilities and informal provisions (across Green Infrastructure Phases);
 - Allotments, ecological, landscape and sustainable drainage works;
 - key infrastructure and utilities provision including new roads, footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths;
 - Vehicular access from Allington Lane, Fir Tree Lane and Burnetts Lane with improvements to the existing road junction at Fir Tree Lane/Burnetts Lane; and
 - Site preparation and demolition works
- All Matters Reserved Except Access. This application is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment"

- additionally, a separate planning application for full planning permission has also been permitted for the first phase of the residential development within the wider site of the current outline application: application number F/20/89500 (*Erection of 381 residential units with public open space, hard and soft landscape works, internal roads, footway/cycleways, associated parking spaces, substation, SuDS and associated infrastructure (This application is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment)*) and there is a current application for Construction of an internal distributor road and associated footways, cycleways, lighting, landscaping and SuDS basins, and diversion of Public Rights of Way footpaths FOHHF 701 and 702 as part of the One Horton Heath development (proposal constitutes EIA development) under consideration (ref F/23/96631).

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.

River Itchen SAC

The River Itchen qualifies as a SAC for its supporting of the Annex I habitat *Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche Batrachion vegetation* (rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by watercress).

It also qualifies for its designation by supporting the following species listed in Annex II of the Directive:

- Southern Damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*;
- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*;
- White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*;
- Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*;
- Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*; and
- Otter *Lutra lutra*.

Conservation objectives

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:

- 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;
- 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.

The SAC also contains one component of the River Itchen SSSI. The SSSI has broadly the same qualifying features as the SAC and additionally breeding water bird populations, freshwater invertebrate species and assemblages, water voles and other wetland habitats.

Potential Impacts	Comments
Impacts from construction activities	The majority of the Link Road site is modified grassland containing high proportions of silt and clay which when disturbed (e.g. during the cultivation of arable land, cattle poaching of stream banks or during construction operations) can give rise to fine particle sediment in surface water run-off into the watercourses to which the site drains. The Link Road crosses over Moorgreen Stream (Main River), Foxwood Stream (ordinary Watercourse draining onto Moorgreen Stream) and Fair Oak Stream (Main River); the last named drains into the Moorgreen Stream which becomes the Allington Brook draining into the River Itchen SAC to the south of Chickenhall Lane Wastewater Treatment Works. Development of the Link Road within or close to the two main river streams and ordinary watercourse that drain the application site

	would be likely to have the most immediate effects on mobilising and conveying fine particle sediments. This includes the construction of the three proposed river crossings. Not only does the excavation and disturbance of the ground present risks of fine particle sediment mobilisation and run off, but other construction related activities such as the temporary stockpiling of topsoil and subsoil which could wash away if unconsolidated and unprotected and wheel washing facilities for plant and vehicles leaving the construction site. There is also the potential for spillages/other pollution events to occur during the construction period which if allowed to enter the water courses on site could be conveyed into the River Itchen SAC. Appropriate measures and control the types of construction methods used and nature of operation of the construction process via a CEMP are necessary and were <u>screened in for the River Itchen SAC into the Appropriate Assessment for planning permission F/21/91185 and approved under discharge of application DC/23/94783 but are screened out for the discharge of part 2 of condition 3 of permission F/21/91185 which does not address the construction phase.</u>
Increased recreational disturbance	Construction of the Link Road as a standalone project will not result in any increase in residential development or associated recreational pressures. In addition, recreational disturbance is not identified in the Standard Data Form or Site Improvement Plan as a threat or pressure to the conservation objectives of the River Itchen SAC. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from recreational disturbance on the River Itchen SAC from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts on water quality and pollution	The standalone link road project will not result in any net increase in accommodation, and therefore does not need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality. Natural England provided the following advice on the link road application in April 2022: <i>"We can confirm that this link road project will not result in any net increase in accommodation, and therefore will not need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality."</i> The associated applications (O/20/89498 and F/20/89500) will need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in line with the most up to date guidance from Natural England. The River Itchen is designated because of its riverine habitat, its Southern damselfly and its bullhead fish; but it also has as qualifying features the white-clawed crayfish, brook lamprey, Atlantic salmon and otter. The Itchen SAC is at risk from increased sediments ("fines") with salmon in particular being very sensitive.

	Impacts identified from sediments include: • Excessive fine sediments are lethal to spawning fish species such as salmon; and exposure to fine sediment during incubation lowers the fitness of those salmon alevins that survive hatching; • Chalk streams are very sensitive to even minor increases in fine sediment concentrations because their riverbeds are unable to flush fines from gravels – hence the long tradition of cleaning gravel beds in these rivers; • The rate and amount of fine sediments that accumulate in spawning fish nests in riverbed gravels are directly related to the concentration and total load of fine sediment in the river; • Fine organic matter is more lethal than inorganic fine sediment for incubating salmonid embryos, and the finest sediments (clays) are much more lethal than larger particles To ensure that there is no increase in sediment load arising from the link road during operation, the associated SuDS features must function efficiently to minimise the likelihood of sediment transport through carriers into the Itchen SAC. Efficient function requires an appropriate management regime for the SuDS to be produced, agreed and implemented. <u>It is necessary therefore to screen in impacts on water quality and pollution on the River Itchen SAC into the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts resulting from water abstraction	The link road as a Standalone project will not impact the River Itchen SAC through water abstraction. Impacts relating to surface water flow and wastewater flow from the construction and operation of the road are addressed in the section on water quality. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from water abstraction on the River Itchen SAC from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts from atmospheric pollution	Construction of the link road itself will not generate any new operational vehicular traffic, and construction traffic would result in emissions below AADT thresholds (One Horton Heath, Phase 3 Road Construction Traffic Management Plan. Paul Basham Associates. August 2021). However, the associated applications (O/20/89498 and F/20/89500) will need to consider potential impacts from atmospheric pollution generated by vehicle movements in combination with this application. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on the River Itchen SAC from atmospheric pollution from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>

Introduction of non-native/invasive plant species	Ecological survey work for the wider Outline application site (O/20/89498) identified Himalayan balsam, rhododendron and laurel as being present, predominantly in the north of the site at Quobleigh Woods. Japanese Rose and Japanese knotweed were also recorded in two discrete locations, neither of which are impacted by construction of the link road. For construction of the road, the main risk is from the spread of Himalayan Balsam as a result of disturbance of plants causing seed to be released into the Fair Oak/Quobleigh Stream and carried downstream via the Allington Stream to the River Itchen SAC. Works proposed within the Fair Oak/Quobleigh Stream include a road crossing. Without adequate controls, these works have the potential to cause the spread of Himalayan balsam. <u>However, this application does not deal with the construction phase and it is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from non-native/invasive plant species on the River Itchen SAC into the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts on land used by species outside the European site boundaries for which the species are a qualifying interest feature	Otters are a qualifying feature of the River Itchen SAC. While there is no recent evidence of otter activity within the application site, there is historic evidence of such use and it is considered that the application site is functionally linked to the River Itchen SAC for this reason. Therefore, the application site can be said to be functionally linked to the River Itchen SAC for the purposes of assessing the potential effects of the proposed development on otter. Noise and vibration from construction activities would have the effect of disturbing otters if they entered certain areas of the application site during the planned build programme for the link road. Whilst otters are largely nocturnal, they do regularly feed and move during the daytime and will sometimes rest up in a 'couch' in a secluded location which could include for example the banks of the watercourses on the application site. Works associated with bridging watercourses during construction of the link road could act as temporary barriers to movement and dispersal of otters through the wider landscape. <u>However, this application does not deal with the construction phase and it is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on otters as a qualifying interest feature of the River Itchen SAC in the Appropriate Assessment.</u>

Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar

Solent and Southampton Water qualifies as a SPA for its breeding and wintering bird species. As breeding species, the site contains Common Tern, Little Tern, Mediterranean Gull, Roseate Tern

and Sandwich Tern. Over wintering birds include Black-tailed Godwit, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Ringed Plover and Teal.

Solent and Southampton Water also qualifies as a Ramsar site under four criteria, including:

- Supporting many wetland habitats such as saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.
- Supporting an important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates.
- Supporting avian assemblages of international importance.
- Regularly supporting 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of water bird (in this case, dark-bellied Brent goose).

Conservation objectives

Subject to natural change, ensure that the integrity of the SPA 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 the extent and distribution, the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features and the population of each of the qualifying features.

SPAs classified under the EU Birds Directive and SACs designated under the EU Habitats Directive together form the Natura 2000 network. The Habitats Directive establishes the need to properly protect these sites and identifies that this should be carried out having regard to defined 'conservation objectives'. Ramsar sites were established as part of a global convention on important wetland areas; as such, on their own, they are not part of the EU protected sites. Therefore, Ramsar sites do not have agreed conservation objectives as a requirement of EU legislation. However, Ramsar sites are generally contiguous with a number of wetland SPAs and their underlying SSSIs.

While Ramsar sites do not have defined (per EU Habitats Directive) conservation objectives, it is a requirement that any protection and management measures in place for SSSIs, SPAs, and SACs that are contiguous with Ramsar sites adequately cover Ramsar interests where those interests are wider than other underlying UK / EU designation or classification. (<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmhansrd/vo001113/text/01113w12.htm> para 12)

The key way in which this is secured through UK planning policy is through NPPF 2019 paragraph 176 which explicitly states that Ramsar sites must be considered in the same way as EU sites.

Potential Impacts	Comments
Impacts from construction activities	Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar are located approximately 4km from the site, downstream of the River Itchen SAC. Appropriate measures and control to surface water run-off and spillages via a CEMP have been submitted and approved under discharge of condition application DC/23/94783 <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from construction activities on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA into the Appropriate Assessment.</u>

Increased recreational disturbance	Construction of the Link Road as a standalone project will not result in any increase in residential development or associated recreational pressures. However, the associated applications (O/20/89498 and F/20/89500) will need to provide appropriate/commensurate mitigation in line with the current Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (SRMS). <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from recreational disturbance on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts on water quality and pollution	There are no implications for Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar sites resulting from water quality or pollution issues as a result of the link road project. However, the associated applications (O/20/89498 and F/20/89500) will need to assess potential impacts from nitrates on Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on water quality and pollution on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA into the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts resulting from water abstraction	There are no implications for Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar sites resulting from water abstraction as a result of the link road project. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts resulting from water abstraction on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts from atmospheric pollution	Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar are located approximately 4km from the site and will not be impacted by any atmospheric pollution generated during construction of the link road. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from atmospheric pollution on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Introduction of non-native/invasive plant species	There are no implications for Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar sites from non-native/invasive plants as a result of this application. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from non-native/invasive plants on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts on land used by species outside the European site boundaries for which the species are a qualifying interest feature	No qualifying species for Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar sites will be impacted through construction of the link road. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on qualifying features of Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>

Solent Maritime SAC

The Solent Maritime SAC qualifies for its designation by supporting the following habitats that are listed in Annex 1 of the Directive and are the primary reason for the selection of the site.

- Estuaries;
- Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*); and
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

It also qualifies for its designation by supporting the following Annex 1 Habitats

- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time;
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;
- Coastal lagoons (a priority feature);
- Annual vegetation of drift lines;
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks;
- Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; and
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes").

The site also qualifies for its designation by supporting Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* which is listed in Annex 2 of the Directive.

Conservation objectives

The conservation objectives for Solent Maritime SAC are listed as follows:

- 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;
- 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.

Sixteen component SSSI occur within the area designated as a SPA: Bouldnor and Hamstead Cliffs SSSI, Chichester Harbour SSSI, Eling and Bury Marshes SSSI, Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI, Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI, King's Quay Shore SSSI, Langstone Harbour SSSI, Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI, Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI, Lower Test Valley SSSI, Medina Estuary SSSI, Newtown Harbour SSSI, North Solent SSSI, Thorness Bay SSSI, Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI and Yar Estuary SSSI. Of these component SSSIs only Lower Test Valley SSSI, Eling and Bury Marshes SSSI and Upper Hamble and Woods SSSI are considered to be within the potential Zone of Influence.

Potential Impacts	Comments
Impacts from construction activities	The Solent Maritime SAC is sufficiently distant from the site at its nearest point and is separated by a large expanse of urban development. Hydrologically, the site and SAC are separated by the large, tidal expanse of Southampton Water. Therefore, any unmitigated effects arising from construction activities on site will have negligible impact on the SAC.

	<u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from construction activities on the Solent Maritime SAC from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Recreational impacts	Construction of the Link Road as a standalone project will not result in any increase in residential development or associated recreational pressures. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from recreational disturbance on the Solent Maritime SAC from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts on water quality and pollution	There are no implications for Solent Maritime SAC resulting from water quality or pollution issues as a result of the link road project. However, the associated applications (O/20/89498 and F/20/89500) will need to assess potential impacts from nitrates on the Solent Maritime SAC. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on water quality and pollution on the Solent Maritime SAC from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts resulting from water abstraction	There are no implications for Solent Maritime SAC resulting from water abstraction as a result of the link road project. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on the Solent Maritime SAC from water abstraction from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts from atmospheric pollution	Solent Maritime SAC is located approximately 4.3km from the site at its nearest point and will not be impacted by any atmospheric pollution generated during construction of the link road. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from atmospheric pollution on the Solent Maritime SAC from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Introduction of non-native/invasive plant species	There are no implications for the Solent Maritime SAC from non-native/invasive plants as a result of this application. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from non-native/invasive plants on the Solent Maritime SAC from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts on land used by species outside the European site boundaries for which the species are a qualifying interest feature	No qualifying species for the Solent Maritime SAC site will be impacted through construction of the link road. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on qualifying features of the Solent Maritime SAC from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>

New Forest SAC

The New Forest SAC qualifies for its designation by supporting the following Annex 1 habitats which are the primary reason for the selection of the site:

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)
- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix
- European dry heaths
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)
- Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
- Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)
- Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests
- Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains
- Bog woodland (Priority feature)
- Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) (Priority feature)

It also qualifies for its designation by supporting the following Annex 1 Habitats (not a primary reason for selection):

- Transition mires and quaking bogs
- Alkaline fens

Annex II species present as qualifying species a primary reason for selection:

Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercurial (a primary reason)

Stag beetle Lucanus cervus (a primary reason)

Great crested newt Triturus cristatus (not a primary reason)

Conservation objectives

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To 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;

- 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
- 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.

New Forest SPA

The New Forest SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive by supporting breeding populations of European importance of the following species listed in Annex I of the Directive:

- Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus, 300 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (count as at 1991)
- Woodlark Lullula arborea, 177 pairs representing at least 29.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (no count period specified)

- Honey buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, 2 pairs representing at least 12.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain (no count period specified)
- Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata*, 538 pairs representing at least 33.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain (no count period specified)

It also qualifies under Article 4.1 by supporting the following overwintering Annex 1 species:

- Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 15 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (no count period specified)

The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive by supporting breeding populations of European importance of the following regularly occurring migratory species:

- Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, 25 pairs representing at least 5.0% of the population in Great Britain (no count period specified)
- Wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, unspecified pairs representing at least 2.0% of the population in Great Britain (no count period specified).

Conservation objectives

To 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:

- 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.

New Forest Ramsar

The New Forest Ramsar site qualifies under the following Ramsar Convention criteria:

- 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 of their type in Britain.
- Criterion 2: The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.
- Criterion 3: 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.

Potential Impacts	Comments
Impacts from construction activities	The New Forest SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar is located approximately 11km from the site at its nearest point and is separated by a large expanse of urban development. Hydrologically, the site and SAC are separated by the large, tidal expanse of Southampton Water. Therefore, any unmitigated effects arising from construction activities on site will have a negligible impact on the SAC. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from construction activities on the New Forest SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>

Increased recreational disturbance	Construction of the Link Road as a standalone project will not result in any increase in residential development or associated recreational pressures. However, the associated applications (O/20/89498 and F/20/89500) will need to provide appropriate mitigation in line with Eastleigh's Interim Strategy to address recreational disturbance in the New Forest. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from recreational disturbance on the New Forest SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts on water quality and pollution	There are no implications for the New Forest as a result of potential impacts from water quality and pollution for the link road project. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on water quality and pollution on the New Forest SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts resulting from water abstraction	There are no implications for the New Forest as a result of potential impacts from water abstraction for the link road project. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from water abstraction on the New Forest SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts from atmospheric pollution	There are no implications for the New Forest as a result of impacts from atmospheric pollution for the link road project. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from atmospheric pollution on the New Forest SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Introduction of non-native/invasive plant species	There are no implications for the New Forest as a result of non-native/invasive plant species for the link road project. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts from non-native/invasive plants on the New Forest SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>
Impacts on land used by species outside the European site boundaries for which the species are a qualifying interest feature	There are no implications for qualifying species of the New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar for the link road project. <u>It is therefore acceptable to screen out impacts on qualifying species from the New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar from the Appropriate Assessment.</u>

Other Natura 2000 Sites

Other Natura 2000 Sites have been considered and screened out due to their distance from the development site and them being outside the zones of influence.

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

YES – Stage 2 of the HRA of the planning application has also concluded that the development would have a likely significant effect on River Itchen SAC from impacts to water quality and pollution.

(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.

River Itchen SAC

Potential Impacts	Comments
Impacts on water quality and pollution	The post- construction sediment shed would be lower than the existing baseline as the majority of the land within the link road application is currently agricultural (Hilson Moran. 2022. Technical Note – One Horton Heath Link Road. Sediments Baseline and Post-Construction Impact). To ensure that this remains the case, SuDS features need to be managed and maintained appropriately. The approach taken to surface water management includes a SuDS management train approach and at least three forms of filtration which meets EBC Policy DM6 and also accords with NE guidance. A long term adaptive management and monitoring regime for SuDS is necessary. The Strategic SuDS Features will incorporate the following treatment processes as a minimum: - • Sediment forebays at inlets; • Extensive wetland areas incorporating micro pools; • Wetland planting; • Secondary sedimentation areas prior to outlets. It was considered that these strategic SUDS Features themselves integrate 4 effective forms of natural filtration, in addition to the other key measures identified elsewhere in the SUDS Train. Following Appropriate Assessment https://eastleighbc.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/0Y000000ZLnm/a/Tv000000HEcr/1.sDoBIWI3La0QhEcd174F3gsm0V0_5d_n94ELFBcE planning permission F/21/91185 for “Construction of road between Allington Lane and Burnetts Lane with associated footway, cycle paths, water crossings, drainage and landscaping” was granted on 29 September 2022 subject to conditions including Condition 3: “ No development shall begin until a detailed final surface water drainage scheme, based on the approved documentation, including at least the 3 forms of naturalised drainage, has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The submitted details shall include: a) A technical summary highlighting any changes to the design from that within the approved Flood Risk Assessment and addendums.

- b) Groundwater monitoring to be undertaken across the site to inform which drainage features need to be lined to ensure separation of surface water and groundwater.
- c) Any updated drainage plans and calculations as appropriate to include type, layout and dimensions of drainage features including references to link to the drainage calculations.
- d) Any updated exceedance plans demonstrating the extent of flooding expected at the 1:100 + climate change event.
- e) Details of land drainage provision to allow suitable drainage where overland flow routes are disrupted as a result of the development and to manage high groundwater levels
- f) Details for all run-off from roads and carriageways.
- g) Details of (number, type and construction of) drainage outfalls to be located in watercourses on site).
- h) Details to ensure protection of sensitive receiving waters, especially relating to the prevention of the release of silt and sediment from these SUDS features
- i) A timetable for implementation
- j) Details of protection measures

and within 3 months of the commencement of development details for the long term maintenance, management, adoption and monitoring arrangements for the surface water drainage system shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and shall include:

- i. Maintenance schedules for each drainage feature type
- ii. A plan detailing ownership of each drainage feature
- iii. Confirmation that adoption of features is accepted by Southern Water/Highways Authority/other public body
- iv. the responsibilities of each party for the post-construction implementation, management and maintenance of the SuDS scheme

The sustainable drainage system shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to first use of the road and thereafter monitored, managed and maintained in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To prevent significant damage to water dependent designated species and habitats both on site and downstream within the River Itchen SSSI and SAC. This approach is supported by paragraphs 174 and 180 of the NPPF which recognise that the planning system should conserve and enhance the environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity and Policies DM6 and DM11 of the EBLP (2016-2036)

An application for the partial discharge of Condition 3 (first parts a-j) for SuDS details (Ref DC/23/94783) was approved on 2 January 2024. Natural England were consulted on this application on 23 March 2023. Details included

- 10413-SEG 3-350 C3 (2023-07-17) OVERALL DRAINAGE LAYOUT SOUTHERN SECTION
- 10413-SEG 3-351 T2 DRAINAGE LAYOUT SOUTHERN SECTION SHEET 1 OF 7
- 10413-SEG 3-352 C3 (2023-07-17) DRAINAGE LAYOUT SOUTHERN SECTION SHEET 2 OF 7
- 10413-SEG 3-353 C3 (2023-07-17) DRAINAGE LAYOUT SOUTHERN SECTION SHEET 3 OF 7
- Part 1 condition 3 design details only discharged 2.2.24 (Part 2 management and maintenance details not submitted or discharged)
- 10413-SEG 3-354 C3 (2023-07-17) DRAINAGE LAYOUT SOUTHERN SECTION SHEET 4 OF 7
- 10413-SEG 3-355 C3 (2023-07-17) DRAINAGE LAYOUT SOUTHERN SECTION SHEET 5 OF 7
- 10413-SEG 3-356 C3 (2023-07-17) DRAINAGE LAYOUT SOUTHERN SECTION SHEET 6 OF 7
- 10413-SEG 3-357 C3 (2023-07-17) DRAINAGE LAYOUT SOUTHERN SECTION SHEET 7 OF 7
- G277 FN19 Technical Summary Note
- The Avenue Design FRA technical note
- 10413-SEG 3-120 T2 S104 SURFACE AGREEMENT PLAN SOUTHERN SECTION

- 10413-SEG 3-121 T1 S104 SURFACE AGREEMENT PLAN NORTHERN SECTION
- 10413-SEG 3-130 T1 DRAINAGE CONSENT SOUTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-131 T2 DRAINAGE CONSENT SOUTHERN SECTION LOCATION PLAN • 10413-SEG 3-134 T2 DRAINAGE CONSENT NORTHERN SECTION LOCATION PLAN • 10413-SEG 3-135 T1 DRAINAGE CONSENT SOUTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-136 T1 DRAINAGE CONSENT NORTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-358 T1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT NORTHERN SECTION SHEET 2 OF 6 • 10413-SEG 3-359 T1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT NORTHERN SECTION SHEET 3 OF 6 • 10413-SEG 3-360 T1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT NORTHERN SECTION SHEET 4 OF 6 • 10413-SEG 3-361 T1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT NORTHERN SECTION SHEET 5 OF 6 • 10413-SEG 3-362 T1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT NORTHERN SECTION SHEET 6 OF 6 • 10413-SEG 3-363 T2 DRAINAGE LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS SHEET 1 OF 2 • 10413-SEG 3-364 T1 DRAINAGE LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS SHEET 2 OF 2 • 10413-SEG 3-365 T2 DRAINAGE LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS NORTHERN SECTION SHEET 1 OF 2 • 10413-SEG 3-366 T2 DRAINAGE LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS NORTHERN SECTION SHEET 2 OF 2 • 10413-SEG 3-368 T1 S38 DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS SOUTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-369 T2 DRAINAGE SETTING OUT SOUTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-370 T1 S38 DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS NORTHERN SECTION 2 • 10413-SEG 3-371 T1 S104 DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS SOUTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-372 T1 S104 DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION DETAILS NORTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-373 T1 DRAINAGE LAYOUT NORTHERN SECTION SHEET 1 OF 6 • 10413-SEG 3-374 T1 OVERALL DRAINAGE LAYOUT NORTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-375 T1 DRAINAGE SETTING OUT NORTHERN SECTION • 10413-SEG 3-380 T1 GULLY CATCHMENT AREAS • 10413-SEG 3-381 T1 GULLY CATCHMENT PLAN • 10413-SEG 3-383 C2 DRAINAGE EXCEEDANCE PLAN NORTHERN SECTION • G277 - 30 - Rev M Typical SuDS Drainage Details • 10413-SEG 3-382 C2 (2023-11-29) DRAINAGE EXCEEDANCE PLAN SOUTHERN SECTION • Drainage calculations Northern section Net 1 100y 2022-09-15 • Net 2 • K25020 RAMS 3 Rev. A Temporary fluming of streams (Environmental) • K25020 RAMS 5 Rev. A Works in vicinity of watercourses (Environmental) Summary Note

Surface water monitoring and ongoing management (the subject of this application and Appropriate Assessment) is required by part 2 of Condition 3 of planning permission F/21/91185 for SuDS (shown highlighted above)

The information submitted in support of this include:

- Monitoring and Management Protocol Link Road DATE OF ISSUE: 9 FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE: 05 HM REFERENCE: 25709-HML-XX-XX-TN-U-90000
- Confirmation that EBC will be the body responsible for maintenance of all SuDS which is not adopted by Hampshire County Council as Highways Authority.
- No objection from HCC Highways or the LLFA

This provides the detail sought by part 2 of Condition 3 and provided this is implemented in full it is concluded that the link road project including SuDS management, monitoring and maintenance will not have a significant effect on the sediment loading of the River Itchen SAC.

An appropriate long-term maintenance, management, adoption and monitoring plan for the SuDS system has been provided, ensuring that there will be no impact on the integrity of the River Itchen during both construction and during the operational lifetime

of the development and that the River Itchen SAC and its interest features are protected throughout the operation of the development.

It can therefore be concluded that adequate levels of sediment control during operation of the link road can be secured such that there will be **no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Itchen SAC.**

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

An appropriate long-term maintenance, management, adoption and monitoring plan for the SuDS system has been provided as required by condition 3 of planning permission F/21/91185 to ensure that there will be no impact on the integrity of the River Itchen during both construction and during the operational lifetime of the development and to ensure that the River Itchen SAC and its interest features are protected throughout construction and operation of the development.

This represents the authority's 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 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Consideration of the Ramsar site/s and potential Special Protection Areas is a matter of government policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

Natural England Officer:

Emma Taylor