

Ecology response for F/24/98269 Upper area of the River Hamble, between piles V23 and V24, opposite Swanwick Marina

Installation of 1no. floating pontoon between piles V23 & V24

Rachael Morris

3/10/24

I have discussed possible biodiversity enhancements to pontoons with the River Hamble Harbour Authority. They have explained that the pontoons themselves do provide biodiversity enhancement, acting as a home for mussels, invertebrates and algae. They also provide shelter for juvenile fish and large mullet, resting places for turnstones and a platform for oystercatchers to use for breaking open shells. Therefore, we don't need to condition any additional enhancements for this application.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

2/10/24

This proposal for fitting a pontoon between 10 and 13.5 m in length is eligible for the de minimis exemption to providing 10% biodiversity net gain. The piles are already in place. The pontoon will cause some shading but should not impact significantly on the full water column or the riverbed as the movement of the sun ensures that only a small shadow will be cast. This is an estuary so turbidity will be fairly high much of the time anyway.

I have no ecological objections to this application. A Habitats Regulations Assessment will need to be completed, and some form of biodiversity enhancement will be required, which can be conditioned.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist