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Sent: 20 January 2021 10:24

To: Wells, Lesley <Lesley.Wells@easthants.gov.uk>

Cc: Havant Planning and Development Mailbox New <planning.developmentnew@havant.gov.uk>

Subject: APP/20/00610 | Replacement sheet piled quay wall with concrete capping beam. | Sparkes Marina, 38 Wittering Road, Hayling Island, PO11 9SR

Dear Lesley,

**APP/20/00610 | Replacement sheet piled quay wall with concrete capping beam.
| Sparkes Marina, 38 Wittering Road, Hayling Island, PO11 9SR**

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is accompanied by an issue Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the LPA can therefore, in principle, be content that issues relating to the natural environment have been assessed and judged to be acceptable, provided that certain licence conditions are met.

The proposed works are to amend the existing sea defences by installing a new line of sheet pilings seaward of the existing sea wall, fill the void between, and cap the new defence with concrete. The works are situated within the boundaries of the Chichester & Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area, Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation and Chichester Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest. Works are to be carried out from the landward side of the existing wall and will use vibratory and non-vibratory piling methods. All vibratory piling works will be undertaken outside the main wintering bird period of 1 October to 31 March. The works will take place in two phases lasting approximately six months each. Other works include the addition of new granular materials within the space between the old and new defences, the installation of a new concrete cap on the new defences and the removal of pontoons structures attached to the existing wall.

No detailed ecological information has been submitted, although presumably such information was provided to the MMO. Evidence for this is provided by the Marine Licence conditions, especially the condition at 5.2.2 which states '*A suitably qualified ecologist will be appointed as an Ecological Clerk of works (ECoW) to overlook the works and supervise on site from 01 October to 31 March inclusive. Notification of the extent of the ECOW attendance on site will be submitted to the MMO at least five days prior to the commencement of works. Written approval must be received from the MMO prior to the commencement of works.*' Other conditions relate to the prevention of pollutants entering the marine environment. There is clearly risk of works such as concrete breaking and shot-blasting to result in inorganic debris entering the intertidal habitats and therefore strict pollution control measures are essential.

I am unclear what assessment has been made of direct land-take within the designated sites. The new sheet piling defences will be placed within the intertidal area, resulting in a limited but nonetheless real loss of intertidal habitat within the SPA, SAC and SSSI, and it seems as though some limited excavation of intertidal substrate is required. Irrespective of the nature of works, the loss should be quantified and qualified in relation to the conservation objectives of the designated sites in

accordance with the Habitats Regulations 2017. I am unclear whether the MMO have considered information relating to habitat loss or whether Natural England have reviewed the submitted information. Consultation with NE may well have taken place and direct impacts to intertidal habitats assessed as acceptable: however, the submitted information does not make this clear.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

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Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Hampshire County Council's response to the Covid-19 is available here (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>).

In line with Government advice to reduce non-essential travel and work from home where possible, Ecology officers are now working remotely. Whilst we will endeavour to conduct our services in a timely manner and to meet statutory timescales where we can, there may be some impact to the services we deliver. We will ensure that we keep all applicants / interested parties informed of any further impacts to our services should they arise. The Council's response also means that no non-essential site visits or face to face meetings will be undertaken until further notice. Essential and contractual surveys may continue take place where there is no risk to the surveyor or the public, and in line with Government advice. This will be reviewed on an on-going basis.



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