

Dear Sir/Madam,

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, has undertaken an Appropriate Assessment of the proposal, in accordance with Regulation 63 of the Regulations. Natural England is a statutory consultee on the Appropriate Assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

Summary of Natural England Advice

We consider that without appropriate mitigation this proposal would have a significant effect on: Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA & Ramsar, the Solent Maritime SAC and the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.

No objection subject to securing appropriate mitigation

Recreational disturbance - Special Protection Areas within the Solent

This application is within 5.6km of Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA & Ramsar and will lead to a net increase in residential accommodation. Natural England is aware that Havant Borough Council has adopted planning policy to mitigate against adverse effects from recreational disturbance on the Solent SPA sites, as agreed by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP). Provided that the applicant complies with the policy and the Bird Aware Definitive Strategy, Natural England is satisfied that the applicant has mitigated against the potential adverse effects of the development on the integrity of the European site(s), and would have no objection to this aspect of the application.

Nitrogen Neutrality

Natural England is aware that your authority has adopted an interim strategy using Grampian conditions to address nutrient impacts from developments currently in the planning system and we have been working with the Council to develop this approach. It is noted that the mitigation would be secured through a Grampian condition, requiring the mitigation package to be agreed, provided to the Council and implemented prior to the occupation of the development.

It is noted that there is no detail of the nature of mitigation measures to address the issue of nutrient neutrality. However, provided you as competent authority can be satisfied that, based on a sufficient level of evidence, the development will achieve nutrient neutrality by first occupation and that the appropriate level of mitigation can be fully secured in perpetuity, Natural England would advise that the Appropriate Assessment can conclude there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Solent European Sites in relation to water quality impacts.

If you have any queries regarding the advice in this letter please contact me at the number below.

Yours Faithfully

Alex Wilson | Lead Advisor
Natural England