

Michelle Houghton

From: Norton, Tristan <Tristan.Norton@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 May 2017 10:43
To: Rachael McMurray
Cc: Planning and Development Shared Mailbox; Havant Auto-Reply
Subject: APP/17/00178 Hayling Island Sailing Club, Sandy Point, Hayling Island 17.0645

Dear Rachael,

APP/17/00178 | Erection of 2no. pontoon locating piles, repositioning of 2no. existing pontoon locating piles and extend pontoon 10m northwards. | Hayling Island Sailing Club, Sandy Point, Hayling Island 17.0645

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is not accompanied by any ecological information and I have therefore carried out my own non-exhaustive desk-based assessment using the application documents, online sources and recent GIS mapping.

The proposals are to replace the previous pontoon design with a 'floating' system and to extend this by a short distance. In general terms, the proposal is essentially a replacement but with the removal of direct contact between the pontoon base and the underlying substrate. Two new piles will be driven at the northern end.

The main potential impact would be to bird species during the overwintering period. I note that the applicant has sought advice from Natural England on this matter and that NE are broadly content with the proposals, subject to certain conditions.

If works can be undertaken outside the key overwintering period then this avoids the potential disturbance of key SPA/Ramsar features. The reduction of contact between the pontoon and substrate will also reduce any obstruction of sediments within the SPA/Ramsar/SAC.

I also note the comments from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in respect to nesting waders (ringed plovers). The shingle and sands in the vicinity of the works are a known nesting site for this species, a very rare breeding bird in the County. There is a recommendation from NE to conduct a nesting bird check prior to works commencing which, although fine in principle, would need to be carried out by a suitably-qualified person. There would need to be a plan for action should nesting birds be encountered within/adjacent to the proposed works: is there a contingency for a situation where an active nest is within the works footprint?

I concur with the Trust in suggesting that a sensible measure at this site would be to designate and enforce a fenced area for nesting waders during the summer months. This would at the least give birds attempting to breed an opportunity to do so and would hopefully ensure that any nests were situated well-away from any areas of human activity.

If you are minded to grant permission, can I suggest that measures to protect the surrounding highly-sensitive environment are secured by condition?

Prior to the commencement of development activities, a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) shall be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP shall include details of all measures to protect features associated with the adjacent nationally- and

internationally-designated nature conservation sites. This should include details of measures to survey for and protect nesting birds (to be conducted by a suitably-qualified person) and details of measures to avoid pollution of the marine environment. Development shall proceed in strict accordance with the approved CEMP. Reason: to protect biodiversity in accordance with the Conservation Regulations 2010, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the NERC Act (2006), NPPF and with and with Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
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