

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening and Appropriate Assessment (AA)

PLEASE NOTE: Undertaking the HRA process is the responsibility of Havant Borough Council 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:	20/08/2024
HRA completion date:	06/12/2024
Application reference:	APP/24/00439
Application address:	Land adjacent to Car Park Broadmarsh, Harts Farm Way, Havant
Application description:	Temporary planning permission to allow the retention of Portakabin and Container stores for communal use, and yard for boat and trailer parking following the expiry of temporary planning permission dated 31st December 2021. Retention of an existing toilet block and sewage system. To install PV solar panels and wind turbine. To build a workshop and covered area.
Lead Planning Officer:	Josephine Lacey
Please note that all references in this assessment to the 'Habitats Regulations' refer to The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).	

Stage 1 - details of the plan or project

European site potentially impacted by planning application, plan or project:	▪ Chichester & Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) ▪ Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar site ▪ Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC) ▪ Solent and Dorset Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) ▪ Solent and Southampton Water SPA ▪ Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar ▪ Portsmouth Harbour SPA ▪ Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar ▪ Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC (Hereafter known as the Solent European Sites)
Is the planning application directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European site (if yes, Applicant should have provided details)?	No.

Are there any other projects or plans that together with the planning application being assessed could affect the site?

Yes. All new development within Havant Borough that is either a) located in proximity to and may affect directly or indirectly the qualifying habitats and species of the Solent Marine Sites, b) new residential development within 5.6km of the Solent Marine Sites where recreational disturbance is likely to result, and c) new housing schemes and other proposals which include a net gain in overnight accommodation or development which has a high volume of water use and which are located in river catchments draining to the Solent Marine Sites.

Stage 2 - HRA screening assessment

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.

Recreational Pressure

The site is an existing car park, boatyard and cabin facilities including WC. The proposals do not entail an increase in usage of the site and therefore any additional impacts from recreational pressure can be excluded from further assessment.

Water Quality

The proposal entails the retention on the existing WC and drainage. No new or additional sewage infrastructure is proposed. Issues relating to water quality impacts can be excluded from further assessment.

Noise Disturbance

The installation of a new wind turbine is a new element. There is potential for the turbine to generate noise that would result in disturbance to SPA/Ramsar qualifying features.

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

Yes, due to potential impacts from noise and visual disturbance resulting from the proposed wind turbine.

(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.

Noise Disturbance

The site is in close proximity (c.25m) to parts of Chichester & Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site. This area is well-frequented by bird species associated with the SPA/Ramsar.

The proposed turbine will be located on an existing container at c.5m height, and situated c.25m from the SPA/Ramsar boundary.

The application is accompanied by a Report on Noise Measurement Tests (Marlec, December 2013). This provides data on the likely noise emissions from the model of turbine proposed at the site. The data shows that levels at the operating turbine would be in the region of c.58 decibels (dB) on average, with peaks at just over 70dB. This is broadly consistent with background noise levels and noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptor would be below levels expected to result in impacts.

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

Havant Borough Council concludes that the proposed turbine situated approximately 25 metres from the boundary of the Chichester & Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site is not likely to result in unacceptable noise impacts to the qualifying features of the Solent designated sites.

The accompanying noise report which cites an average operating level of c.58db for the wind turbine, the turbine dimensions document which shows an operating height of c.5 metres, and our internal mapping which estimates a distance of c.20m from Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA. Considering the nature, level and likely dissipation of the noise of the turbine when in operation, the works are not likely to result in unacceptable noise impacts to the qualifying features of the Solent designated sites.

Natural England Officer:

Summary of Natural England's comments:

NO OBJECTION

Based on the plans submitted and providing the accompanying noise test is accurate with regard to the proposed noise levels of the wind turbine to be installed, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) & Ramsar, Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservations (SAC), and Langstone Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). and has no objection.