

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:	10 January 2022
HRA completion date:	25/1/22
Application reference:	APP/21/01169
Application address:	Land at Palk Road, Havant
Application description:	Ground mounted solar installation on Land at Palk Road, Bedhampton
Lead Planning Officer:	Lesley Wells
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:	Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC
Is the planning application directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (if yes, Applicant should have provided details)?	No. The development is an extension of an existing ground mounted solar panels
Are there any other projects or plans that together with the planning application being assessed could affect the site?	No.

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.

Habitat loss

The site is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory wildlife site designation. As such, there is no direct habitat loss.

The site is close to, though not within, the Bechstein's Bat area of search, as set out in Policy E15 of the submitted Havant Borough Local Plan.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal assesses the site and concluded that the site provides good foraging and commuting resources for bats, however that there are no suitable roost sites visible in the trees present. The proposed development will not result in the loss of any foraging or

commuting habitat and indeed the new hedgerow and tree planting will increase the quality of the habitat for bats.

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

No.

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.

Not applicable.

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

This assessment represents Havant Borough Council's Appropriate Assessment as a Competent Authority in accordance with requirements under Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive and having due regard to its duties under Section 40(1) of the NERC Act 2006 to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

This assessment concludes that the application will not have a likely significant effect on the above Solent European sites.

Natural England Officer:

NO OBJECTION

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites within the Solent and has no objection.