

Your ref - APP/21/00222 HRA & Appropriate Assessment - Erection of grain store. Northwood Farm, Northwood Lane, Hayling Island PO11 0LR.
Our ref – 352376

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

No objection subject to mitigation

The proposals are adjacent to a Core site H60N identified in the Solent wader and brent geese strategy. The Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) aims to protect the network of non-designated terrestrial wader and brent goose sites that support the Solent Special Protection Areas (SPA) from land take and recreational pressure associated with new development

Natural England is concerned that, without appropriate mitigation, the proposed development could have significant indirect impacts upon the qualifying features of the aforementioned designated site due to impacts on the Solent Waders and Brent Goose ecological network.

Natural England advise that best practice measures are adopted during construction to limit noise and visual disturbance to the adjacent sensitive habitat. Natural England advises that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be submitted to and approved in writing by the district ecologist that identifies the steps and procedures that will be implemented to avoid or mitigate constructional impacts on the adjacent Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, Ramsar and the SPA's functional land mentioned above.

The CEMP should address the following impacts:

- Noise/visual/vibrational impacts
- Visual screening (for SPA birds)
- Storage of construction materials/chemicals and equipment;
- Dust suppression
- Chemical and/or fuel run-off from construction into designated sites
- Waste disposal.

The CEMP should ensure there is no percussive piling or works with heavy machinery (i.e. plant resulting in a noise level in excess of 69dbAmax – measured at the sensitive receptor) to be undertaken during the bird overwintering period (i.e. October to March inclusive). The sensitive receptor is the nearest point of the SPA or any SPA supporting habitat (e.g. high tide roosting site).

Appropriate Assessment

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.

Your appropriate assessment concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question. Having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions. Provided the measures outlined in the CEMP are approved and secured by appropriately worded condition we raise no further concerns.

Please contact me if you have any queries relating to this advice

Kind regards

Rachael Clemson
Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
Thames Solent Area Team