

APP/15/00534 | Supplementary wall to existing sea defences; cladding to same with associated earthworks |Shallows, Woodgaston Lane, Hayling Island, PO11 0RL 15.0937

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application site, in common with adjacent sites, supports a population of green-winged orchids: it is clear that this area of Hayling is a hotspot for this species, containing areas of unimproved grassland, a dwindling habitat. As with the recent application APP/14/00343, the proposed works area will not directly impact the orchids but there is potential for works access/material storage to result in trampling and/or compaction which could affect the plants.

At this site, the small colony of orchids is situated at the north-eastern end of the site, well-away from the foreshore and proposed construction works. It is proposed to delineate a 'safe' works access route through the grounds so as to direct pressure away from the orchids: this route needs to be marked out whilst the orchids are visible above ground – i.e. between April and June (so if not already done this route should be marked ASAP). As with the previous application I consider this to be a sensible solution. I do not consider that further ecological works are needed.

The proposed works will entail physical alteration to the existing foreshore defences and therefore works will take place within Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site, Solent Maritime SAC and Chichester Harbour SSSI. Although the works are highly unlikely to result in significant impacts to these designated sites I would recommend that consultation is sought with Natural England. The main issue would be noise and visual disturbance to overwintering bird species associated with the SPA – restrictions on the timing and levels of construction noise would be sufficient to negate any impacts.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team**