



Mr David Eaves
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
Hampshire
PO9 2AX

Beechcroft House
Vicarage Lane
Curdrige
Hampshire
SO32 2DP

e feedback@hiwwt.org.uk
t 01489 774400
www.hiwwt.org.uk

By email only:
planning.development@havant.gov.uk

28th April 2014

Your Ref: APP/14/00343

Our Ref: 13.70.3.27

Dear David

**PROPOSAL:
REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SEA DEFENCES AND NEW SLIPWAY**

**LOCATION:
LANGNESS, WOODGASTON LANE, HAYLING ISLAND, HAMPSHIRE PO11 0RL**

**DESIGNATED SITES:
CHICHESTER AND LANGSTONE HARBOURS – RAMSAR
CHICHESTER AND LANGSTONE HARBOURS - SPECIAL AREA OF PROTECTION (SPA)
SOLENT MARITIME - SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)
CHICHESTER HARBOUR - SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)
GUTNER FARM – SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION.**

Thank you for consulting the Wildlife Trust on this application. As you will be aware the Trust has significant interest in Hampshire and on the Isle Wight, both as a landowner and manager. In our role we are committed to protecting habitats and species within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and therefore welcome the opportunity to comment on this application.

We note that the application site is located in an area that is highly designated under both UK and European law, and therefore there is the potential that the proposals could negatively impact on the interest features of the designated sites. However, having reviewed the documentation provided with this application we note that the proposals are generally aimed at repairing sea defences that were damaged as a result of the storms over the winter of 2013/2014. In addition the proposed development footprint does not appear to extend beyond the existing sea defence boundary.

In commenting on this application we have referred to the Environment Agencies Shoreline Management Plan¹, which provides the strategy for coastal defence in the region. As you will be aware coastal defence prevents the natural re-alignment of the coastline, which results in the coastal squeeze of the intertidal. The Shoreline Management Plan provides a strategic overview of coastal defence issues by balancing defences with re-alignments. Under the Shoreline Management Plan we

¹ Environment Agency (2009) Shoreline Management Plan

note that the application site is included under policy SMP 13 (North Solent Shoreline – Selsey Bill to Hurst Spit); the 20 and 50 year management policy is 'hold the existing defence line'.

We are generally content that, based on the information provided, there will not be a likely significant effect on the interest features of the designated sites. However, we do note in the Method Statement² that the proposed works involve driving Larssen sheet piles with an excavator coupled to a hydraulic vibro piler. There is no detail included as to the decibel noise level that the proposed works will generate, nor the actual timings as to when the work will be carried out. Given that the majority of the designations in the vicinity of the application site relate to wintering bird species that are susceptible to disturbance from noise during the winter period, we consider that a suitably worded condition should be placed on any planning permission, that your authority should be minded to grant.

This condition should be worded in such a way to ensure that no piling works are carried out during the winter period, which extends from the 1st October to the 31st March, inclusive. If it is not possible to avoid piling works during the winter months restrictions should be placed on the noise levels to be generated by the proposed piling works, and the methods used during the piling operations. For example this would include contractors adopting best practice with regard to operating machinery to reduce unnecessary noise and the implementation of a soft start approach to piling, whereby the noise levels start low and are gradually ramped up to the maximum.

The above advice is given based on the information made available at this time and may change should further or amended details be submitted. If you wish to discuss these matters further, then please do not hesitate to do so. I also ask that you keep the Trust informed of the progress and outcome of this application.

Yours sincerely



Trevor Codlin
Senior Planning Ecologist
My Direct Dial: 01489 774457
Fax: 01489 774401
Main Switchboard: 01489 774400
Email: Trevor.Codlin@hiwwt.org.uk

² Burras Ltd (2013) Method Statement Sea Defence Works – Langness, Woodgaston Lane, Hayling Island PO11 0RL