

App/12/00966



Land north of Goldring Close, Mengham, Hayling Island

BRENT GOOSE AND WADER SURVEY REPORT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

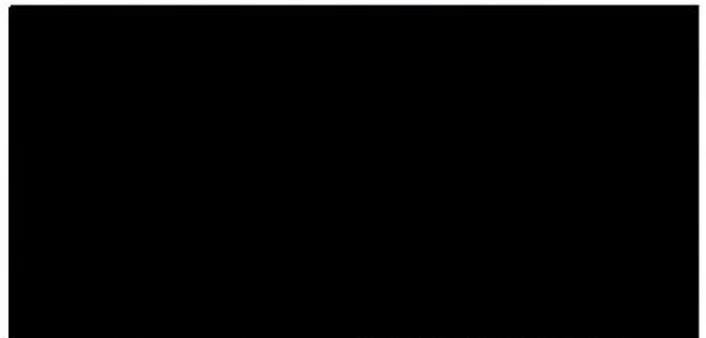
Prepared on Behalf of Tolcarne Drive Developments

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**Land north of Goldring Close
Ecology 7008_Brent Geese and Waders
Issue 01**

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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 PV Ecology was commissioned to carry out a Brent Goose and Wader Survey of the land directly affected by the proposals at the land north of Goldring Close (**Appendix A**) and two adjacent sites to determine the usage of the sites by Brent geese and waders. The three sites were surveyed during the Autumn/Winter 2011/2012, as agreed in consultation with Natural England, to determine the impact of the proposals, in relation to the potential increase in disturbance due to the proposals.
- 1.2 A data search was commissioned to determine the potential impact of any increase in recreational disturbance associated with the proposals on the nearby sections of the Chichester and Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA).
- 1.3 A review of relevant information and journals was undertaken to assess the impacts of the proposals at the local level with a view to mitigating any likely impacts associated with the proposals. The review would assist in advising on an appropriate mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate any impacts associated with the proposals and allow the competent authority, Havant Borough Council, to assess the proposals under the Habitat Regulations, with Natural England being consulted on the assessment.
- 1.4 The results of the study indicate that there is likely to be a low impact in the absence of mitigation in relation to the proposals and that if mitigation is in place in the form of interpretation and signage, as well as other measures there is likely to be no significant negative impact with the proposals and a potential positive impact.
- 1.5 Mitigation and enhancements have been recommended in keeping with the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project and Havant Biodiversity Action Plan (2011). The aim of the mitigation and enhancements is to reduce disturbance to birds and habitats in areas where birds and human activities must co-exist.

2.0 Introduction

Background

- 2.1 PV Ecology was commissioned in September 2011 to carry out a Brent Goose and Wader Survey of the land directly affected by the proposals at 'the land north of Goldring Close', hereafter referred to as 'the site' (**Appendix A**). The site (**Appendix B – H41**), the arable field to the east (**Appendix B – H40F**) and public open space to the north-west (**Appendix B – H42**) were identified in the Solent Wader and Brent Geese Strategy (SWBGS) 2010. The three sites were surveyed during the Autumn/Winter 2011/2012, as agreed in consultation with Natural England and Havant Borough Council (**Appendix D**), to determine the impact of the proposals, in relation to the potential increase in disturbance due to a potential increase in recreational pressure in relation to the proposals. A data search and review of current literature in relation to the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project was also commissioned to determine the impact of the proposals due to a potential increase in recreational disturbance on the nearby Special Protection Area (SPA). The scope of the data search was agreed with Natural England, and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) were consulted for advice and on the design of the study.
- 2.2 A review of relevant data, information and journals was undertaken to assess the impacts of the proposals at the local level with a view to mitigating any likely impacts associated with them. The data review included an analysis of; the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project and current literature on recreational disturbance to birds. The local section of SPA accessible to the public was also considered in terms of its accessibility to the public to understand how best to reduce public presence on more sensitive areas. The review and analysis would assist in advising on an appropriate mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate any impacts associated with the proposals and allow the competent authority, Havant Borough Council, to assess the proposals under the Habitat Regulations, with Natural England being consulted on the assessment. The assessment will be made on up to date, objective scientific evidence. Natural England are the statutory authority who advise on the impacts of the proposals and indicate whether they are in agreement with the conclusions of the local authority.
- 2.3 This report will contribute to a forthcoming planning application to be submitted by the client to Havant Borough Council for permission to construct 131 new residential dwellings and associated landscaping and access on the site, hereafter referred to as 'the proposal'.
- 2.4 The methods employed to obtain ecological information on the site are described in Section 3.0 of this report and the results are detailed in Sections 4.0. Section 5.0 discusses the results and analyses them. Section 6.0 identifies the potential impacts on Brent geese and waders and their habitats in the absence of mitigation. Section 7.0 describes the requirements and recommendations to mitigate against any impacts of the proposed development and recommends measures to be incorporated into the proposals to enhance the site to encourage future residents to maintain a sense of ownership for the SPA and the species contained within it. This section also makes further suggestions for ways to reduce any potential indirect impacts by the funding of schemes outside of the development boundary.

Reasons for the study

- 2.5 The Solent area is required to deliver a significant level of development to meet identified housing needs. The south-east plan identifies South Hampshire to accommodate 74,000 – 80,000 new homes, with the Sussex coast to deliver 69,300 homes. Current local plans propose house numbers as detailed below:
- New Forest District – 3,920
 - New Forest NPA - 220
 - Southampton - 5450
 - Test Valley (South) – 4,300
 - Winchester – 11,000 (4,000 at Winchester)
 - Eastleigh – 9,400
 - Fareham – 10,229 – 11,229
 - Havant – 6,300
 - Gosport – 2,500
 - Portsmouth – 11,500 – 12,800
- 2.6 To achieve sustainable development, the local authorities need to take into account the social, economic and environmental issues to meet the development needs. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) supports this objective. The presence of the protected areas is one of the largest environmental factors in relation to the proposals.
- 2.7 The Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP) has shown that areas within 1km of the Solent area are most sensitive to recreational disturbance from new developments – the site is located just over 210m from the boundary of the SPA, although the site is further than 1km from the SPA when traveling by road or foot. The SDMP has shown that areas of SPA within 1-7km are sensitive to recreational disturbance, and mitigation is required for these developments. Currently the research does not show preferred locations for residential developments and mitigation can be considered where it is good quality and suitable for the proposals. A study by White Young Green (Hawthorne, 2012) found that wide-ranging mitigation measures are essential for progressing proposals on sites, with S106 contributions on smaller developments and alternative recreational spaces, and contributions, on larger developments dependent on the site in question.

3.0 Methodologies

Brent geese and wader survey of the site and adjacent sites

- 3.1 The site and adjacent sites were surveyed between September 2011 and March 2012, in line with the season that the majority of Brent geese and waders spend the winter months in the UK. The survey employed methodologies based on the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS, 2010) survey methodology. Natural England were consulted on the methodology.
- 3.2 Sites were surveyed periodically every two weeks to look for any Brent goose and/or wader activity by expert surveyors and trained ecologists. At each site visit, the date, time of day, high tide times, weather conditions, disturbance factors, feeding or roosting behavior and other comments were noted. The sites surveyed included H41, H40F, H42 and H67 (**Appendix B**). Surveyors were provided with standardised survey forms shown below:

Table 1: Example of standardised survey form

Observer	Site	Date	High Tide Time	Time on Site	Species	Count	Use	Disturbance	Comments/Weather
D.McCloskey	H40 F	21.9.11		1300	BG	10	Roosting	Horses	Public on site, heavy rain

- 3.3 Surveys aimed to cover a range of daylight times, within 2.5 hours of high tide, when Brent geese and waders more commonly use inland foraging and roosting sites.
- 3.4 Equipment used by surveyors included binoculars, scopes and cameras with zoom lenses.
- 3.5 Site users and neighbours of surveyed sites were questioned over bird sitings and were given surveyor details in case any bird activity of relevance was noted during the times surveyors were not present on site.

Data search

- 3.6 Natural England were consulted at the screening stage of the proposals (April 2011) for advice, to determine the likely significant effect and to establish if the proposals needed to be assessed alone or in combination.
- 3.7 Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), Natural England (NE), Hampshire Wildlife Trust (HWT), Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) and Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) were contacted for data on Brent geese and waders in a 2km radius of the site. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) were contacted for High Tide Count data and Core Count data (Low Tide) for Chichester Harbour and the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) areas to the east of the site (**Appendix I**)– the areas most likely to be impacted by the proposal due to increased recreational disturbance. The data was analysed to determine the indirect impact of recreational activities associated with the proposals and the likelihood of them occurring.
- 3.8 The full data search is not included in the appendices but can be obtained on request.

Literature Review

- 3.9 A review of information and journals in relation to birds and disturbance was undertaken along with a review of information regarding Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA. A full list of references is included in Section 8, References and Bibliography.

Site visits during high and low tide

- 3.10 Site visits were also undertaken on the publicly accessible areas of SPA adjacent to the site, along the sea wall to determine accessibility with a view to advising on mitigation – site visits were undertaken at high and low tide to enable an understanding of the local site issues at different times of year.

4.0 Results

Brent geese and wader survey overview

- 4.1 No Brent Geese or Waders were recorded on the site (H41) during any of the surveys that took place. None of the site users recorded any waders or Brent geese using the site in 2011/2012 or at any stage in the past.
- 4.2 Brent Geese and waders were not recorded on the area of open space (H42) during the surveys and no one interviewed recorded Brent geese or waders using the open space, in the 2011/2012 season or at any stage in the past.
- 4.3 Brent geese were recorded on H40F during the surveys. Approximately 250 Brent Geese were recorded grazing on H40F on the 6th January 2012 with only 9 being recorded there later in the year on the 13th March 2012. The householder in the most southerly house of Beech Grove had recorded Brent geese in H40F over several years and described how the geese 'generally arrive in January after the farmer has taken the cows out of the field'.
- 4.4 Brent Geese were recorded in large numbers (up to approximately 1000) on H67. The first date they were recorded was on the 30th November 2011, when 40 were noted. Maximum numbers of approximately 1000 were recorded on the 13th December 2011. On the 6th January 2012, 250 Brent Geese were recorded on H67 and the adjacent lake, within the caravan park. 50 Brent Geese were recorded on the lake adjacent to H67 on the 20th January 2012 and 350 were recorded on H67 on the 30th January 2012.
- 4.5 Other waders recorded on the sites surveyed, included 4 Oystercatcher and 2 Lapwing on H67 on the 20th January 2012.
- 4.6 Disturbance events recorded while surveyors were present included:
- Dog walkers with dogs off lead on the coastal path adjacent to H67 – geese took flight from the mudflats to the lake;
 - A moped driving along the footpath, immediately to the east of H41 – although the geese were not actually recorded roosting or foraging in the field, it appeared as if they had been there and had become disturbed by the noise from the moped;
 - The unloading of gravel at H67 resulted in the geese moving away from the lorry; and
 - The arrival of caravans at H67 resulted in geese moving to alternative areas on site to forage.

4.7 Table 2 gives a summary of the results of the Brent geese and wader survey of the surveyed sites.

Table 2: Results of Brent Geese and Wader surveys of site and neighbouring sites identified in Brent Geese and Wader strategy

Observer	Site	Date	High Tide Time	Time on Site	Species	Count	Use	Disturbance	Comments/Weather
D.McCloskey	H41	14.10.11	11:59	11:29	/	/	/	/	Approximately 1000 BG in Estuary opposite H39
D.McCloskey, M.Brown & A.Thornton	H41, H40F, H42	18.10.11	15:29	14:59	/	/	/	/	Approximately 1000 BG in Estuary opposite H39
M.Brown	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	01.11.11	15:11	14:41	/	/	/	/	Approximately 1000 BG in Estuary opposite H39 and H95
M.Brown & A.Thornton	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	30.11.11	14:38	14:08	BG (HG67 only)	40	Grazing	Dog-walkers on coastal path	Approximately 1000 BG in Estuary opposite H39, H95 and H96
A.Thornton	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	13.12.11	12:39	12:09	BG (HG67 only)	1000	Grazing	/	No BG in Estuary Approximately 20 gulls on H41.
A.Thornton	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	06.01.12	09:02	08:32	BG on H40F and H67	250 on H40F; 250 on H67 and adjacent lake	Grazing	/	Approximately 250 BG on H40F and Estuary opposite H67. Strong winds.
M.Brown	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	20.01.12	08:27	07:57	BG on lake adjacent to H67. OC and LW on H67	50 BG, 4 OC and 2 LW	Sheltering	/	Approximately 500 BG on Estuary opposite H36, H67 and H96. Strong winds.
A.Thornton	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	30.01.12	15:36	15:06	BG on H67	350	Grazing	School children leaving H42 and moped on path near H40F	Approximately 50-60 BG feeding on Estuary opposite H39 and H95. Approximately 20 BG flew over H40F disturbed by moped

A Thornton	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	13.02. 12	14:59	14:29	BG – none on land	120	Resting on water	Pile of gravel on H67	Approximately 20 BG resting on the water on the Estuary opposite H67, approximately 30 on estuary opposite H39 and approximately 70 along estuary between H39 and H95
A Thornton	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	27.02. 12	14:26	14:16	BG – none on land	55	Feeding on water	Caravans on H67	Approximately 10 on estuary opposite H67, approximately 15 on estuary opposite H39 and approximately 30 on estuary between H39 and H95.
A Thornton	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	13.03. 12	14:46	14:26	BG on H40F. BG on estuary and mudbank adjacent H95	9 on H40F, 50 – 60 on estuary and mudbank adjacent H95	Grazing on H40F, feeding and resting on estuary and mudbank.		Weather overcast and misty. Other species included redshank and little egret on mudbank. Green woodpecker and sparrowhawk recorded on northern development field.
A Thornton	H36 H40F H41 H42 H67	26.03. 12	14.26	14.15	BG on estuary opposite H95	9 total	All feeding on estuary opposite H95		Sunny and warm. No other wading birds recorded

Data search

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) data searches

- 4.8 The current use map (**Appendix B**) from the Solent waders and Brent Goose Strategy shows H41 (the site) H40F and H42 as having 'Uncertain' potential for Waders. The future use map (**Appendix C**) does not include any of the fields surveyed as suitable for Brent geese or waders. Natural England were contacted as per the advice given in the Natural England Standing Advice for Brent Geese and subsequently HBIC was contacted. Further discussions with CHC resulted in a further data search regarding inland Brent geese and wader records.
- 4.9 No Brent geese records or wader records were returned for the site (H41) or the adjacent H42. CHC recorded 19 Brent geese on H40F on the 14th January 2012.
- 4.10 In 2002 there was a record for Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) at SZ7299. Adjacent 1km grid squares (as shown in the HBIC data search) have a range of wader records including:
- Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) – SZ7199, SZ7399, SZ7399, SU7300, SZ7198, SZ7398;
 - Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) – SZ7299, SU7300, SZ7198, SZ7299, SZ7298, SZ7398;
 - Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) – SU7300, SZ7399, SZ7198, SZ7398;
 - Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) – SZ7198;

- Little Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) – SU70;
- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius biaticula*) – SU7300, SZ7198, SZ7398;
- Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) – SU7300, SZ7399;
- Bar-Tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapproria*) – SU7200, SU7300, SZ7399, SZ7198, SZ7298;
- Black-Tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) – SU7300, SZ7399, SZ7398;
- Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) – SU7200, SU7300, SZ7399, SZ7198;
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) – SU7200, SU7300, SZ7198, SZ7199, SZ7398 SZ7399;
- European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) – SU7100, SU7200, SU7300, SZ7399;
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – SU7300, SZ7198, SZ7399;
- Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – SU7300, SZ7398, SZ7399;
- Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) – SU7300;
- Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) – SU7200, SU7300, SZ7398, SZ7399; and
- Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) – SU7100, SU7300, SZ7198, SZ7298, SZ7399.

- 4.11 The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) was accessed for information on Brent geese and waders but all data was supplied in 10km squares and was not considered to be of any further importance to the study.

BTO Low Tide Count Data Summary

- 4.12 **Appendix G** gives a summary of the British Trust for Ornithology data for the Low Tide Counts for the whole of the Chichester harbour site compared to the individual sections (BC051, BC052, BC053) impacted by the proposals over the period 2001 – 2011, for the qualifying features of the SPA.

BTO Core Count Data (High Tide Count)

- 4.13 **Appendix J** gives a summary of the British Trust for Ornithology data for the Core Count data for the autumn and winter 5 year mean peaks of Chichester Harbour (20401) compared to Chichester Harbour west (20432) from 2001 – 2011 for the qualifying features of the SPA.

Constraints

- 4.14 It is possible that Brent Geese or Waders were present on any of the sites surveyed at times surveyors were not present, however, the methodology was suitable to reasonably ensure that an adequate level of survey took place. Site users and neighbours were also questioned and interviewed and details of the surveyors were passed to them in case they wanted to supply additional information on disturbance or bird presence on site.

5.0 Discussion and Analysis

Summary

- 5.1 There will be no loss of Brent Geese or Wader habitat (high water roosting, resting and foraging sites) with the proposals at Goldring Close, Mengham. No Brent Geese or Waders were recorded at the site during any of the surveys that took place. Site users and neighbours have no records, past or present, of Brent Geese or Waders at the site. The site is generally unsuitable for Brent Geese and Waders and there are no historical data search records for the birds at the site.
- 5.2 The proposals will add an additional 131 houses (with an estimate of an additional 248 people living in the houses) to the Mengham area of Hayling Island. Increased housing is likely to lead to increased numbers of people visiting local areas of the coast adjacent to the SPA on a regular basis, and this will likely lead to increased recreational disturbance events on birds, in the absence of mitigation. The most common type of disturbance in the local area is from walkers with dogs off leads.
- 5.3 There are closer, more suitable areas for people living in the proposed new development, to walk their dogs off lead, than the area of SPA nearest to them. The south of Hayling Island is more residential than the north and therefore it is unlikely that the proposals will have a significant impact on the SPA or species associated with it as it has been shown that the area of SPA to the south-east of Hayling Island has one of the lowest visitor pressures, of surveyed areas, across the Solent.
- 5.4 The loss of privately owned horse grazing paddocks will not result in the loss of public open space and will actually contribute a potential dog walking route to the local area as well as linking up areas of Mengham to walkers. The site lies 210m from the SPA, to the east. The SPA is separated from the site, visually by a large mature hedgerow and physically by a large tract of agricultural land. The large tract of agricultural land is within private ownership and is not accessible by the public. The closest, publicly accessible Brent goose or wader high water roosting, resting or foraging site, identified as potentially suitable in the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy, is H67. The site is privately owned as a caravan park, although it is easily accessible from the coast path. The site is located well over 1km away from the development site and between 1.5 and 2km if accessing it by foot. Other areas of publicly accessible SPA are located varying distances away from the site although these are separated by a network of roads and are outside of the remit of this study.
- 5.5 The most significant recreational disturbance event in relation to increased housing in the vicinity of the SPA is walking a dog off lead. There is no alternative to walking a dog at the coast and the coastal experience cannot be replicated in-land, however, as it is a lengthy route to get to the coast, with SPA, compared to the shorter route to access the non-SPA coast (**Appendix L**). From the site, it is more likely that new residents, when deciding to walk their dog off-lead, will use H42 (The Havant Borough Council managed recreational ground), a large area of open space identified as High Quality and High value in the Assessment of Multi-functional Green Spaces in the Havant Open Spaces Plan (2006). The site is suitable for dog walking and walking a dog off the lead. It is a short distance from the development site (less than 30m) and Brent geese and waders have not been recorded at the site during the field surveys or through extensive data checks, making it the most likely regular recreational area for dogs off-lead for potential new residents. Havant Borough Council own and manage the site and there are no constraints with dog walking on the site or letting dogs off the lead. The open space site,

due to its close proximity to the development site, is likely to take the bulk of the regular recreational pressure associated with dog walking away from the nearby SPA. The open space is not overused within Hayling Island - this is shown in the Havant Open Space Plan and PPG17 Assessment (2006) where Hayling Island, without the beaches, has a provision per person of 34sqm for Multi-functional Greenspaces which is higher than the 26sqm per person standard.

- 5.6 There is unlikely to be an in-combination effect in the local area in relation to increased housing across the Solent. There are few car parks that cater for visitors in the area to the east of the site and the residential location does not make the area attractive to visitors like other 'honey-pot' sites. South Hayling Island is regarded as more of a honeypot site and the area caters for tourists and visitors with parking and facilities.
- 5.7 The following discussion and analysis of data will suggest why the areas of SPA nearest to the development site have relatively low usage in relation to the residential location and demonstrate why the development proposal is likely to have a small – negligible impact on the SPA and qualifying features, in the absence of mitigation. It will also outline mitigation and enhancement measures, that when delivered, may give a positive impact and reduce the impacts to the SPA and qualifying features in the local area and beyond. The aim of the mitigation and enhancements is to reduce disturbance to birds and habitats in areas where birds and human activities must co-exist.

In combination effects of proposals

- 5.8 It was agreed with Natural England that the proposals could be assessed in isolation rather than an assessment in combination with other plans and projects. This section of the report summarises the reasons why there is unlikely to be an in-combination effect from the proposals on the local area of the SPA near to the site from other housing developments around the Solent. A summary of the proposals in relation to the housing targets for the Solent areas (South Hampshire and Sussex) was carried out to determine the significance of the housing proposal at the site in relation to the housing targets.
- 5.9 The south-east plan identifies South Hampshire to accommodate 74,000 – 80,000 new homes, with the Sussex coast to deliver 69,300 homes. Havant proposes 6300 new houses while the development proposal being assessed in this report, the land north of Goldring Close, will contribute 131 houses or 0.02% of the Havant target and 0.002% of the South Hampshire target.
- 5.10 The new development is likely to result in an additional 248 people in the local area. This has been calculated using the latest (2011) HCC population forecasts and dividing the number of people on Hayling Island by the number of existing dwellings. The population of Hayling Island according to the latest (2011) HCC population forecasts was 16,774. Hayling is split into two wards (east and west). The Hayling East ward has a population of 8,749 people.
- 5.11 The housing proposal is in a sustainable location with regards the impacts on the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA. The area of SPA to the east of the site in Mengham, Hayling Island is not regarded as one of the 'honeypot' sites on the Solent or even in Hayling Island itself. This is shown in the results of the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project Phase 2 – Results of the Solent household survey (Maps 1-20, Map Annex and Data Tables), which illustrates the large disparity in usage of the south Hayling Island coast (area with no SPA) compared to the SPA coast line, to the south-east of Hayling Island. This would indicate that proportionally, with projected housing increases in areas near to the Solent, there is likely to be increased visitor numbers on

the south Hayling coast compared to the south-east Hayling coast. Swimming and sailing are the two exceptions to this. Swimming is more likely to be carried out during the summer months at high tide while sailing moors are limited by the size of the Mengham Rythe Sailing Club, located on the SPA.

- 5.12 Car parking in the south-east of Hayling Island, in areas near to the SPA, does not facilitate increased visitor numbers associated with an increase in the residential population of the Solent. Map 4 of the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project Phase 2 Results of the Solent household survey Final Report, shows the estimated number of formal carparking spaces in the south of Hayling as 500 – 2800 as opposed to the south-east of Hayling as 0-10. Map 2 in the report supports this with annual numbers of visits made by respondents to the survey as 3090 – 9070 for south Hayling compared to 150-260 for south-east Hayling.
- 5.13 The publicly accessible coastal path, adjacent to the SPA is not well signposted (potentially reducing usage) and is relatively difficult to access, through residential areas and small alleyways. There are no formal car parking areas to park a car to gain access to the footpath that leads to the coastal path, with only street road side parking available. The coastal path here is more likely to be used by local residents to the site only and during the summer by residents of the caravan park (which has a limited capacity).

Review of current literature to determine the impact of the proposals in relation to the Special Protection Area (SPA) and Qualifying Features

- 5.14 The Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP) Phase 2 – On-site visitor survey results from the Solent Region (*Fearnley H. et al, 2010*) conducted visitor surveys in the winter 2009/2010 to assess the level of visitor use at selected sites in the Solent. A location, No.64, covering the coastal path adjacent to the SPA and located to the east of Mengham, was used as a sampling point. It is the closest publicly accessible area of SPA likely to be used by residents of the new proposed development. The report and results are used here to inform site-specific mitigation for the proposals. The site was found to have the lowest number of people observed on it across the whole Solent with 110 people observed over the 21 hour survey period. Dog walking was recorded as the main activity with walking next. Approximately half the site users were recorded as having dogs.
- 5.15 The SDMP on site visitor survey, paragraph 2.34, found that visitors to the coast, who list dog walking as an activity were more localised to the interview locations, with half living within 1.2km – this would indicate that future residents of the proposed development site would be more inclined to visit the beach front along the south of Hayling Island as it is the closest section of coast. In the SDMP Phase 2 visitor survey, it was shown that 78% of visitors to site No.64 got there by foot, indicating the high usage by locals. This was supported by the fact that half of all visitors were found to live within 0.4km of the site – site No.64 had the lowest visitor rate using car. This demonstrates why there is likely to be a low in-combination impact with other developments across the Solent. Figure 3 in the SDMP on site visitor survey also verifies site 64 with the lowest visitor numbers.
- 5.16 The SDMP Phase 2 – Results of bird disturbance field work (*Liley D et al, 2010*) looked at the issue of recreational disturbance to wintering wildfowl at different locations around the Solent, with site No.64 at Mengham chosen as a sampling point. 41% of observations resulted in disturbance, with dog walking on intertidal areas the most common disturbance event recorded, with over half of the intertidal activities found to be dog walking and 27% of disturbance events resulting in major flight due to dogs off-lead.

Oystercatcher and Wigeon were the most commonly disturbed bird species recorded. The field work suggested that of all the sites, site No.64 was the second least well used and that it had a potential disturbance rate of 3.4 potential disturbance events per hour (fourth lowest out of all the sites surveyed). The actual number of disturbance events recorded was 18 (fig.10 pg. 33), therefore the disturbance rate for the section was 0.9hr^{-1} . This is significantly lower than the 2 disturbance events per hour rate that is likely to cause a significant effect on bird condition and mortality, at sites with higher rates of disturbance, as outlined in the Natural England generic plan for recreational activities causing disturbance in European marine sites (2010). An estimate of the numbers of dogs per person in relation to the proposals can be determined by dividing the numbers of dogs in the UK, 8million (Pet Food Manufacturers' Association, 2012), by the total population of the UK, 62,641,000 (World Bank, 2012) to give 0.1 dogs per person. The proposals (248 people) are likely to lead to an additional 25 dogs ($248 \times 0.1 = 25$ dogs). Therefore, in the worst case scenario, if the 25 additional dogs potentially generated by the proposals were all recorded during the 21 hours that visitor surveys were undertaken, they would all have to cause 'actual' disturbance events to increase the actual disturbance rate to above 2 disturbance events per hour on the site.

- 5.17 It has been shown however, that birds respond more readily at less busy sites and there is no significant correlation between people numbers at each site and the number of disturbance events indicating that additional numbers of visitors to a site does not necessarily result in higher levels of disturbance. Dog walking was recognised as a land based recreational activity for the Solent in the Natural England generic plan, with low active management on a few wardened nature reserves. Actions for the Solent in the plan include: any mitigation measures from the Solent Disturbance Project funded by *Community Infrastructure Funds* in areas popular with visitors; byelaws restricting access at important times of year; re-routing coastal paths away from more sensitive areas; fencing; dogs on lead areas; and quiet areas with suggestions of alternative areas. The suggestions are site specific.
- 5.18 Any open space contributions from the development should fund monitoring and wardening in the local area – Chichester Harbour has a 'Friends of Group' that are actively involved in wildlife surveys, monitoring and wardening. They are ideally placed to be actively involved in promoting awareness of Brent geese and waders to site users around Chichester Harbour. Wardening provides face to face education and a way of monitoring and delivering results. The Urban Heath Partnership in south-east Dorset, since it's set-up in 2001 has overseen a 62% reduction in grassland fires in south-east Dorset. Fires, started by people, were one of the largest impacts on the SAC Lowland Heath causing disturbance to wildlife in a similar manner to recreational activities on the Solent. At the same time as the reduction in Dorset grassland fires there was a national increase in grassland fires of 46%. Wardening of the SPA coast near to the site, would be required during the autumn and winter months (especially November – February) as it has been shown from the BTO bird count data over the last ten years that the qualifying features for the SPA (the birds) peak during different months e.g. during 2010/2011 little egret numbers peak during November, teal numbers peak during December, shelduck numbers peak during January and pintail numbers peak during February. Wardening visits should be limited to daylight hours over a range of times on different days to ensure that there is good coverage of the occasions when regular dog walkers will be encountered. A recommendation of, at least, once weekly visits to the public footpath adjacent to the SPA would enable regular users to come into contact with the warden so that the message about disturbance could be communicated. Local dog walking groups, dog wardens and other nature reserve wardens will need to be part of the solution and leaflets designed with this in mind would raise the issue locally.

- 5.19 The SDMP Phase 2 – Results of bird disturbance fieldwork indicates that the extent of disturbance activities and behavior can be managed and although 26% of disturbance events in the area to the east of Mengham result in a response, this can be reduced. It would appear that with the range of bird species present and their distribution in the inter-tidal area, keeping activities on the current coastal path would have the greatest impact on disturbance rate. Interpretation has been shown to be effective in educating site users and there are currently no signs or material educating people on the issues and reasons for staying on the path at more sensitive times of year and on the birds and Special protection Area. With an investment in interpretation on the path, in carefully designated locations at access points, there could be a decrease in disturbance. Havant Borough Council, in the Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Havant Core Strategy and the Appropriate Assessment highlight the need for on-site education
- 5.20 DM8 in the core strategy sets out specific requirements for development to protect and enhance natural features and habitats – this can be achieved 'on site' by designing a site with suitable links to suitable alternative natural green spaces (the open space to the north-west of the site) and telling new residents about these in leaflets available to them on purchase of their new house and in on-site interpretation. Interpretation boards at access points to and from the site will influence visitors, recommending alternative dog walking areas and areas for dog walking off-lead. This should be linked to a management plan for Chichester Harbour and be carried out in conjunction with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, with the aim of creating a plan similar to Poole Harbour Management Plan, where bird sensitive areas are outlined and zoned accordingly.

Review of the bird data over the last ten years from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) in relation to the site.

- 5.21 The site can be found on the two fields to the north of Goldring Close (**Appendix A & K**). The fields are composed primarily of semi-improved grassland, intensively grazed by horses. The most abundant species present are perennial rye grass, annual meadow grass, creeping buttercup, lesser trefoil and white clover. Patches of willow and bramble are present in the southernmost field. Reports by the tenant indicate that some areas of the fields do grow longer during the spring/summer if grazing is not so intensive. The site is surrounded by residential housing to the northern and southern sides with some further housing to the south west. School playing fields are present immediately to the west with a school and further residential housing beyond this. Immediately to the north-west is a large open space. Agricultural fields used for grazing cattle or for cutting hay for silage are present to the eastern side of the site, separated by a public footpath.
- 5.22 The site has been grazed by horses for approximately 15 years. Previously it was relatively unmanaged and scrubbed over and before that it was used for growing potatoes and hay, according to discussions with landowners and local residents. The eastern boundary hedge of the site was planted approximately 15-20 years ago to buffer the protected sites to the east from disturbance.
- 5.23 The data searches revealed no records of Brent geese or waders on the site or on the adjacent open space (H42). There will be no direct impact on Brent geese or waders as a result of the proposal to develop the site for new housing. Brent geese (approximately 250) were recorded on the field to the east of the site, separated by the public footpath, in January 2012 by PV Ecology surveyors and by CHC. The field is privately owned and through discussions with the neighbour, whose house overlooks the field, it was

understood that Brent geese regularly use the site in January when the farmer takes his cows off the field. One possible disturbance event was recorded on the field when a moped was seen driving down the footpath dividing the site from field H42 – a flock of Brent geese was recorded flying over the field but it was unclear if the geese had been roosting at the time.

- 5.24 The housing proposals are unlikely to increase footfall along the public footpath dividing the site from H42 as the main access points to the footpath are at the north and south of the footpath, at locations with limited visibility of field H42. The footpath is also separated from the site by a tall mature hedge that extends along the eastern boundary of the site (**Appendix A**) and this is proposed to be retained. It is unlikely that any potential new residents would leave the new proposed site at the main northern entrance to then turn south along the public footpath, or leave the proposed site at the southern entrance to then travel north along the public footpath. An alternative path, within the site boundary, has been designed into the new proposals, travelling adjacent to the current path, to offer an alternative route, with less disturbance for geese, when present on the neighbouring field. This path creation could allow the length of public footpath with greatest visibility to the geese to be closed at some stage in the future to offer more protection for geese and waders on the field to the east of the site.
- 5.25 The public footpath along the eastern boundary is separated by a fence and hedge from the area where the Brent geese roost and feed and therefore public access is not currently possible. The area the Brent geese roost and feed is estimated to be at least 150m to the east of the footpath and this observation was supported by the householder who said they were usually located to the east of the field, indicating that disturbance was limiting the area of the field that they use. Currently the hedgerow is cut back to maintain the public footpath and allow accessibility for walkers – this could still be achieved by managing the footpath to a greater extent on the western side, allowing the eastern side to thicken up. Although it is outside of the development boundary, a discussion could be had with the local authority over putting a motorcycle barrier in place to make it awkward for motor cycles while at the same time allowing access for people, walkers and bicycles. Havant Borough Council, in the Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Havant Core Strategy, identified the need to use screening to prevent effective disturbance in key areas and the hedgerow management would support this.
- 5.26 There could be a further potential reduction in footfall along the public footpath, to the east of the site, as the development would create an additional route from Beech Grove to Mengham Lane and St Margarets Close that is not accessible through the privately owned paddocks.

Site unsuitability in relation to the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy

- 5.27 Table 3 in the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (Site Factors – significant correlating factors and their effect on the suitability of sites for Waders and Brent Geese) describes the factors required for Brent geese and waders for habitat suitability. With regards Brent Geese, the site could be described as generally unsuitable because:
- It is relatively small compared to most of the fields where Brent Geese are found;
 - The area surrounding the site is relatively built up compared to the rest of the island and there are large populations of buildings within the 50-500m zone;
 - It is divided up into compartments by electric wire at a height of approximately 1.5m, to separate the horses and ponies into individual fields. This would be an obstacle to Brent geese and waders and would inhibit their use of the site;

- The fields are currently well used by people, horses and ponies so there is sufficient disturbance to deter Brent geese from using them;
- The site is also surrounded with thick hedgerows that support foxes (spraints and other evidence found during Phase 1 habitat survey in 2011). No point on the site is further than 50m from a hedgerow. A study on Prediction of field use by Brent geese (McKay et al, 1999) found that pasture fields chosen by geese tended to have lower hedges and have no road or path on the boundary. The site has high hedges and paths surrounding the fields on most sides with a public Right of Way dividing the site in two;
- There are no Public Rights of Way directly from the site to the designated area. The nearest site where Waders have been recorded (according to HBIC – Appendix 5) that is freely accessible to the general public is over 1km to the south, on the coastline. Brent geese have been recorded on a site whose boundary is over 600m to the north east, currently being managed as a golf course. There are no direct routes, publicly accessible, from the site to this area.

5.28 With regards waders , the site could be regarded as generally unsuitable because:

- It is relatively small compared to most fields waders are found;
- It is too square;
- There are buildings within the 50-2500m zone; and
- There are homes within 15 minutes.

5.29 Waders are likely to use the site in small numbers and therefore it is recommended that the ditch is cleared in a section to create an area of open water, with a direct flight path for birds like egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) to potentially use. An ideal location is in the ditch dividing the two fields.

Review of the bird data over the last ten years from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and Chichester Harbour Authority in relation to the areas of SPA likely to be impacted by the proposal.

Low Tide Count Data

5.30 To assess the local importance of a WeBS section, the British Trust for Ornithology recommend that Low Tide Count data mean densities from individual sections are compared with mean densities for the whole site data. Areas with higher than or equal to mean densities for the individual sections compared to the site mean have been assessed as high local importance, however, it must be stated that this does not mean that individual sections are not important for other species, as data collection is only a snapshot of activity over the whole year. Individual sections and the site as a whole are important for the waterbird assemblage which is part of the qualifying feature of the SPA. **Appendix G** compares the two sets of data with results shown in Table 3 below.

5.31 Section BC050 has 13 hectares of inter-tidal and 4 hectares of sub-tidal habitat, section BC051 has 56 hectares of inter-tidal and 2 hectares of sub-tidal habitat and BC053 has 36 hectares of intertidal habitat only. Out of the 70 sections Chichester harbour is divided into, section BC051 has the 10th largest area of inter-tidal habitat. Section BC053 and BC051 have deep channels through them that limit any human or dog movement across to the other side (See **Appendix H** Photos 4 and 5 and **Appendix I**). The size and expanse of these areas and their position next to other large sections indicate that

there is the available space for bird disturbance to have less of an impact at low tide compared to other more sensitive areas of the harbor where birds are displaced over longer distances. A fixed number of visitors is likely to have a smaller impact on birds with access to a large area of habitat than birds contained within a smaller area of habitat. This is due to the lower visitor density.

- 5.32 The Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project Phase 2 - Predicting the impact of human disturbance on overwintering birds in the Solent, compares visitor rates and intertidal habitat size on sections throughout the Solent and assesses whether disturbance from visitors is potentially reducing wader survival. Comparison of the survival rate within Phase 2 showed that daily disturbance rates of over 30 per hectare were predicted to decrease survival. Figure 5.7 shows the area of Chichester harbour closest to the development site (section 64 in the report) has one of the lowest predicted future daily visitor rates per hectare, somewhere in the region of 10. It is noted however that due to the low recorded abundance of invertebrates in Chichester Harbour, birds may have a reduced survival rate at lower visitor densities, however, section 64 has one of the lowest visitor rates across the whole harbour.

Table 3 Summary table to show Low Tide Count (LTC) areas of high local importance for individual species.

Year	Section	Species	Preferred Habitat
2010 -2011	BC050	Redshank	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2010 -2011	BC050	Turnstone	Inter-tidal
2010 -2011	BC051	Little Egret	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2010 -2011	BC051	Dark bellied Brent Goose	All
2010 -2011	BC051	Red breasted merganser	Sub-tidal
2010 -2011	BC051	Ringed plover	Inter-tidal
2010 -2011	BC051	Black tailed godwit	Inter-tidal and non
2010 -2011	BC051	Redshank	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2010 -2011	BC051	Turnstone	Inter-tidal
2010 -2011	BC053	Ringed plover	Inter-tidal
2010 -2011	BC053	Redshank	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC050	Little Egret	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC050	Ringed plover	Inter-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC050	Turnstone	Inter-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC051	Little egret	Inter-tidal and non-tidal

2005 - 2006	BC051	Dark bellied Brent Goose	All
2005 - 2006	BC051	Red breasted merganser	Sub-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC051	Dunlin	Inter-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC051	Black tailed godwit	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC051	Bar tailed godwit	Inter-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC051	Curlew	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC051	Redshank	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC053	Little egret	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC053	Ringed plover	Inter-tidal
2005 - 2006	BC053	Redshank	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2001 - 2002	BC050	Little egret	Inter-tidal and non-tidal
2001 - 2002	BC050	Ringed plover	Inter-tidal
2001 - 2002	BC051	Dark bellied Brent goose	All
2001 - 2002	BC051	Red breasted merganser	Sub-tidal
2001 - 2002	BC051	Ringed plover	Inter-tidal
2001 - 2002	BC051	Dunlin	Inter-tidal
2001 - 2002	BC053	Ringed plover	Inter-tidal
2001 - 2002	BC053	Redshank	Inter-tidal and non-tidal

High Tide Count Data

- 5.33 These counts are made at high tide when birds are easily counted. The section 20432 Chichister Harbour West, South Hayling was compared to 20401 Chichister Harbour (whole site) to get an indication of the relative importance of the site. **Appendix L** shows the comparison of the data. The winter and autumn mean for years 2001-2005 and 2006-2011 were compared against the autumn and winter of the national threshold to further determine importance in relation to the relevant qualifying levels.
- 5.34 The HTC Core Count section 20432 (Chichester Harbour West) to the east of the development site is important as it regularly holds more than the 1% or more of several waterbird species for the autumn and/or winter national and international thresholds. The species include Dark-bellied Brent goose; Common shelduck; Eurasian wigeon;

Eurasian teal; Northern shoveler; Red-breasted merganser; Ringed plover; Grey plover; Sanderling; Dunlin; Bar-tailed godwit; Eurasian curlew; Common redshank; Ruddy turnstone; Little egret; and Black tailed godwit. Northern pintail is the only species from the qualifying features of the SPA not recorded on the section.

Accessibility of public footpath and SPA to the east of Mengham

- 5.35 The development site is located within 210m of the nearest point of the SPA, however, it is approximately 1.8-2km from the nearest point where it is possible to access the SPA inter-tidal area (**Appendix H, Photo 3**). The closest section that can be accessed is very muddy and only accessible over large rocks. Mengham Rytthe sailing club is located at the north-east end of the public footpath (**Appendix H, Photo 1**) where there is currently regular levels of disturbance at high and low tide. Dog walkers encountered during the site visits and discussions with members of the sailing club indicated that the mudflats were too muddy for taking a dog out on, although a review of Hayling Island internet sites on dog walking show that this is not always the case. Access onto the SPA from the path is generally difficult due to steep concrete slopes (**Appendix H, Photo 2**) and muddy, wet areas adjacent to the path (**Appendix H, Photo 4**). Deep channels are present (**Appendix 5**) that limit access across to the other side of the channel for people and dogs generally, and therefore these provide a degree of protection in the form of a barrier to disturbance, limiting the distance between people and birds.
- 5.36 The coastal path is not well signposted (potentially reducing usage) and is relatively difficult to access, through residential areas and small alleyways. Signage on site educating people about the SPA, its features and importance is non-existent and the signage present (**Appendix H, Photos 6, 7 & 8**) warns of tidal water and dog fouling and gives advice to sailors and harbor users. The shortest 'round route' dog walk from the site, via the public footpath along the SPA, is at least 4.5km, almost twice the median dog walking route shown in the SDMP Phase 2 on-site visitor survey results (Table 13, page 46). This route would be mostly spent walking through residential areas and along streets with little or no open space to let a dog off-lead. A much shorter and typically more desirable route of just over 1km to the seafront from the proposed development, with a potential round route of approximately 2.5km, would take a dog walker to the more well used route of the sea front along the south of Hayling Island. Dogs are let off-lead here with less of an ecological impact in terms of qualifying features of SPA's. This route would be considered more in line with the median dog walking route and therefore more likely to occur with a future resident of the proposed development site. The south of Hayling has been shown to have a car park capacity of approximately 500 – 2800 compared to south-east Hayling (area to the east of the development site) which has 0-10 formal car park spaces per section. Sections with greater formal car parking generally have higher numbers of annual visits as shown in the SDMP Phase 2 – Results of Solent household survey. This was supported by the annual number of visits and predicted visitor numbers.
- 5.37 The development site is located next to a large area of open space that has no constraints over dogs off-leads. It is considered more likely that any future residents would use it for recreational activities with dogs, on a daily basis and use the longer walk to the coast on a more irregular basis.
- 5.38 The footpath along the sea wall is in good condition and is reasonably well maintained and dry under foot. It is possible to access the SPA at several points along the 2km walk, however, accessibility is generally limited by the fact that there is a 2m height difference between the top of the SPA and the base of the sea wall, with steep sloping

concrete sides. At low tide there is an area of sediment, measuring approximately 8m wide, where walking is more practical and feasible, beyond which is more muddy sediment. Beyond the muddy section are the channels, persistent even at low tide. There is no interpretation about the importance of the site and no signs regarding dogs on leads. It is highly likely that the path is used primarily by locals, especially during the winter months as it is only accessible via residential areas with limited street parking. The exception to this is the camp site and mobile home site that are more likely to be used by visitors in the summer months when there are less disturbance issues in the local area with regards the SPA qualifying features.

- 5.39 One finding of the study which is outside of the direct scope of any mitigation or enhancements linked to the proposals is the Brent geese on the Fisheries Creek Campsite, Hayling Island. The birds, when roosting and feeding here come into close contact with people (less than 100m) on the public coastal footpath. The site is suitable for grazing geese and large numbers are found there with few barriers in the way. The issue can only be dealt with through education or alternatively through different fencing on site. However, it is understood that views from the camp site are part of the attraction and preventing these would have an impact on the site economically.

6.0 Impact Assessment in Absence of Mitigation

Direct impacts on Brent geese and waders in absence of mitigation

- 6.1 During construction on site there is likely to be increased noise, with activities such as pile driving, power drills and machinery giving increased levels of background noise. In the absence of mitigation such activities are unlikely to have much of an impact as the activities are likely to be in the 100-200m distance range from areas where Brent geese are known to roost and feed. The geese will be separated visually from the construction activities by the mature hedge, which will also provide a degree of sound proofing. The geese are usually known to use the field in late winter, with the PV Ecology survey recording them in January and anecdotal evidence recording them in January.
- 6.2 Such activities could be scheduled to avoid the times of year when Brent geese and waders are known to use the field adjacent to the site. As long as high noise activities are scheduled to the period when Brent geese are not present on H40F then the direct impact of noise disturbance associated with the construction phase of the development will be low – negligible.
- 6.3 Monitoring of the construction activity around this time (winter) would allow the effect of disturbance to be monitored and advice given to reschedule work if possible to less sensitive times.

Indirect impacts on SPA and qualifying features in relation to recreational disturbance in absence of mitigation

- 6.4 The indirect impact of the development, in isolation, on the protected sites and qualifying features in the absence of mitigation is likely to be low as the increased visitor pressure on the SPA from the development is unlikely to cause a significant effect on bird condition and mortality or populations. Future residents, when visiting the coast, are more likely to visit the closest area of coastline to the development and the closest area

is the southern beach front of Hayling Island. The future daily visitor rates per hectare on the SPA are likely to remain below 30 with the expected increase in the local population.

- 6.5 With mitigation and enhancements in place there could be a net positive benefit and reduced impact with the proposals.

7.0 Mitigation and Enhancements

Measures to mitigate against the effects of the proposed development

On-site design and interpretation

- 7.1 The design of the site will incorporate a circular dog walking route (See **Appendix H**). This will lead to the open space to the north west of the site (H42). It will incorporate footpaths, hedges and open space within the development to provide areas for dog walkers. This will include interpretation boards to locate the best dog walking areas, off lead areas and reasons why there are restrictions in place. The dog walking route will create 'attractive scenery' by linking the sites natural features into the route – these include the tree avenue dividing the southern field, new paths through wildlife areas within the eastern boundary and paths through the hedgerow at different locations to give a variety of different tracks.
- 7.2 Signage and interpretation will be located at main entrances and exits to the site. These will educate locals and new residents about the protected species and habitats located nearby and advise on suitable activities and times to carry out specific activities. These will be in place prior to first occupation.
- 7.3 New residents will be issued with leaflets showing suitable areas nearby for dog walking, walking, boating etc. These will be issued to all new householders in an 'introductory pack'. Because houses will be subsequently sold and tenants will change, leaflets will be made available on subsequent sale of properties and in an easily accessible local venue.
- 7.4 The ditch will be cleared, in the hedge between the northern and southern fields and managed to create an area of running water, potentially suitable for waders. Trees should be managed to create an open flight path for birds to the water.

Off-site mitigation along public coastal footpath to the east of Mengham

- 7.5 Introducing Bye-laws on coastal areas to restrict dog walking at certain times of year or to prevent or restrict dogs off leads in certain sensitive areas. This already exists on other sensitive sites (**Appendix F**). A way forward with Havant Borough Council needs to be agreed to secure long term dog controls in key areas of the coastal path along the coastal footpath to the east of Mengham. This should be in place prior to the first resident of the development taking occupation.
- 7.6 There are currently no interpretation boards, educating users to the SPA and qualifying features, along the footpath on the boundary of the SPA on the eastern coastal path. Positive interpretation has been shown to work on nature reserves and country parks across the country. Carefully located interpretation boards, at the northern and southern access points to the path, would highlight the importance of keeping dogs on leads and

keeping people and dogs to the footpath away from the SPA inter-tidal area. These will be in place prior to the first resident moving into the new development.

Noise disturbance during construction, and monitoring

- 7.7 During construction work on site, activities causing high decibel noise like piling will be restricted at certain times of year at high tide to lessen disturbance to Brent geese. Restrictions on high level noise activities would be in place during the winter period. A suitably trained ecologist would assist in monitoring bird presence to identify key times when Brent geese or other waders are present so that their response to noise could be monitored and advice issued at this sensitive time of year.

Footpath enhancements and eastern site boundary protection

- 7.8 The hedgerow along the eastern boundary of the site will be maintained as a buffer between the adjacent field and SPA. This will be planted up and managed to restrict access and reduce any visual or noise impacts from the proposals.
- 7.9 A new public footpath will be created within the eastern boundary of the development, running parallel to the current public footpath, as shown in the site design. This will offer an alternative to the current footpath and in effect reduce footfall and disturbance to geese and waders in the adjacent field with recorded usage.

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Appendices

Appendix A – The Site



Map No. 36



Future Use Analysis: Potentially Suitable Sites for Waders and Brent Geese

Appendix D – Letter from Havant Borough Council Regarding Brent Geese and Wader Surveys



Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Mr J Higgins
Pro Vision
Grosvenor Court
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Amplefield
Winchester
SO51 9BD

Enquiries to: Robyn Lyons
Direct line: 02392 446533
Email: robyn.lyons@havant.gov.uk
My reference: BGW/UE16(HI)
Your reference:
Date: 18th October 2011

Dear Mr Higgins

HAVANT BOROUGH ALLOCATIONS PLAN DPD RE: SOLENT WADERS AND BRENT GOOSE STRATEGY

We are writing to you as part of the Havant Borough Development Delivery (Allocations) Plan DPD process and specifically in relation to the findings of the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (November 2010)

In relation to the findings of this strategy we are writing to landowners and agents of promoted sites, which are either affected or potentially affected, by the presence or potential presence of Solent Waders and/or Brent Geese. This letter is intended for information purposes only, so that you can be aware of the status of your site within this strategy and consider whether you wish to undertake any further survey work to address this potential issue.

The strategy findings demonstrate that Site UE16(HI) (Land north of Goldring Close / south of Beech Grove) is considered 'uncertain' in terms of its importance for waders. Sites classified as 'uncertain' within the strategy were highlighted as requiring further survey work to inform their assessment.

The Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy can be viewed on the Solent Forum website (http://www.solentforum.org/forum/sub_groups/Nature_Conservation_Group/Waders%20and%20Brent%20Goose%20Strategy/)

Having regard to the approximate timetable below for the Draft Development Delivery (Allocations) Plan DPD, it is clear that now would be the appropriate time to undertake any additional survey work that you may consider necessary. As such survey work is seasonal, the next couple of months will essentially form the last opportunity to provide any further detail on this issue ahead of the public consultation on the Draft Plan in early – mid Summer 2012.

Any supporting information provided to the Council will be reviewed and considered in conjunction with the findings of the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy. The findings will then be assessed, in addition to other evidence based studies and background information pertaining to all other issues, and used in the determination of sites to be included as proposed allocations within the Draft Plan.

**Cleaner, Safer,
More Prosperous**

Likely Timescales for the Draft Development Delivery (Allocations) Plan DPD

DPD Production Stage	Likely timescale
Informal Consultation	December 2011 – January 2012
Draft Plan (Regulation 25) to Public Consultation	Early – Mid Summer 2012
Pre-Submission Consultation	Spring 2013
Submission of DPD to SoS	Late Summer 2013
Examination	Likely to take place between late Winter 2013 and Spring 2014
Adoption	Early Summer 2014

As outlined above, it must be re-iterated that this letter is being provided for information purposes only and is not intended as a specific request for additional information. It is however being raised as a possible issue with regard to the potential allocation of your site, to enable you to take the action which you feel to be the most appropriate.

Should you have any queries in relation to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me on the telephone number above

Yours sincerely



Mrs Robyn Lyons
Senior Policy Planner

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Appendix E: Dog Control Order

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Dog Control Order (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc.) Regulations 2006

The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Fishbourne Channel) (Chichester District Council) (No. 2) Order 2011

The Chichester District Council (in this Order called "the Authority") hereby makes the following Order on 28th October 2011.

1. This Order comes into force on the 28th day of November 2011.
2. This Order applies to the land specified in the Schedule.
3. In this Order "an authorised officer of the Authority" means an employee of the Authority who is authorised in writing by the Authority for the purpose of giving directions under this Order.

Offence

4. (1) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if at any time, on any land to which this Order applies, he does not comply with a direction given him by an authorised officer of the Authority to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than 8 metres in length, unless –
 - a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- (2) For the purposes of this article –
 - a) a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;
 - b) an authorised officer of the Authority may only give a direction under this Order to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person on any land to which this Order applies or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird.

Penalty

5. A person who is guilty of an offence under article 4 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Revocation

6. This Order revokes and replaces The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Fishbourne Channel) (Chichester District Council) Order 2011 made on 1st September 2011.

THE COMMON SEAL of the
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHICHESTER
was hereunto affixed in the presence of -

N. S. Sealey

Authorised Signatory

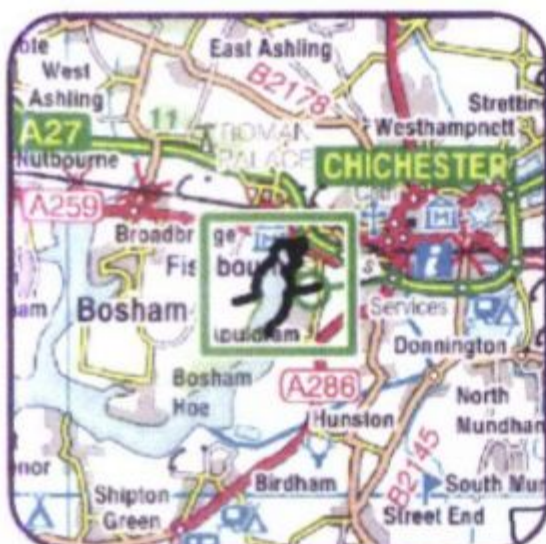


927/204

Schedule

This order applies to land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access within the following description:

The entire width of the available public footpaths at Fishbourne Harbour, the extent of the harbour being shown edged in black on the plan reference 'CDC – Fishbourne Channel Dogs (No. 2) Order, 2011', attached to this Order.



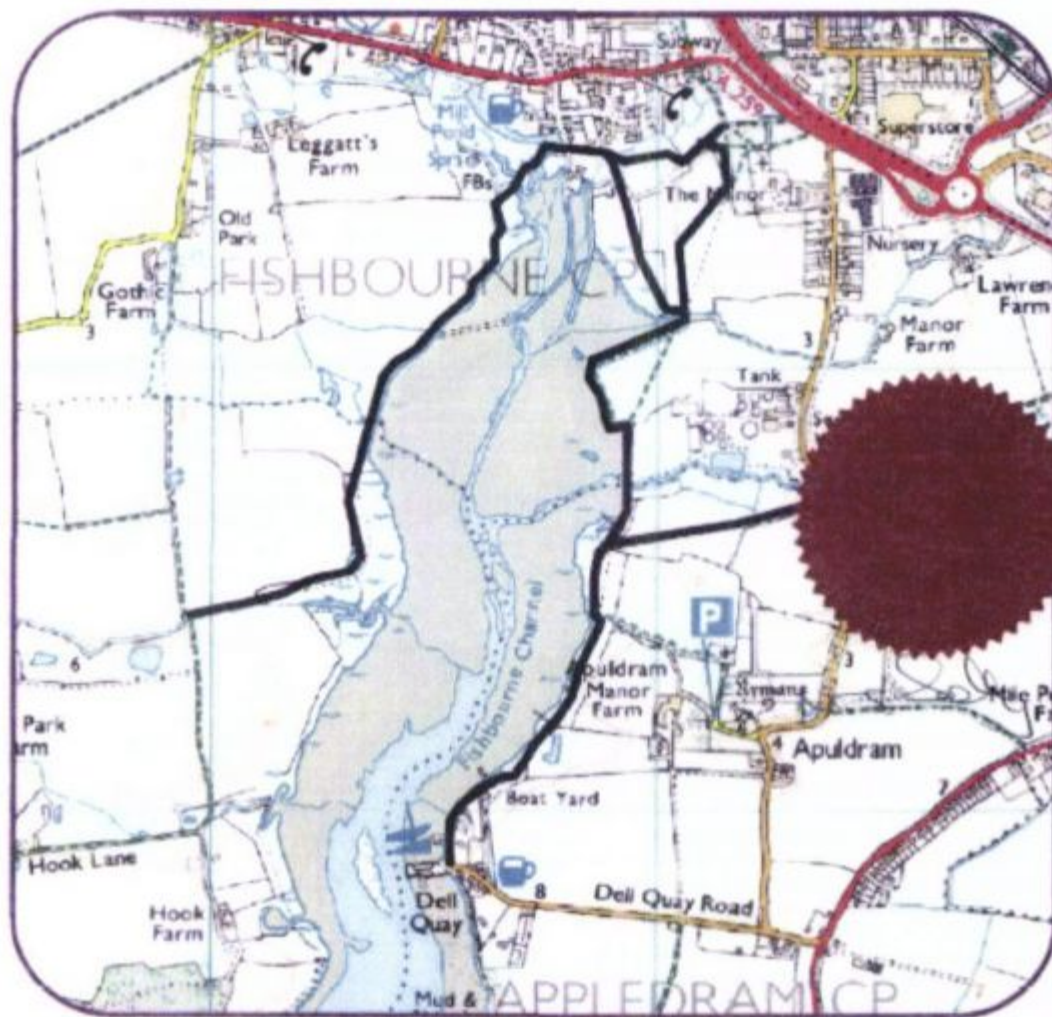
Dogs on Leads by Direction (Fishbourne Channel) Chichester District Council (No.2) Order 2011



Scale: 1:12,000



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Appendix F: Dog Walking Route

The site plan illustrates a residential development with various green spaces and paths. Key features include:

- Interpretation board with advice on dog walking without lead in open space:** Located near the top left of the site.
- Dog walking routes in green areas on site, along paths and towards open spaces:** Indicated by red lines throughout the green areas.
- Path to reduce footfall along eastern boundary path, outside of development:** A path running along the eastern boundary.
- Interpretation board with advice on alternative open spaces and sensitivity of SPA:** Located near the bottom left of the site.

The plan also shows surrounding roads (Hawthorne Grove, 5.0m), parking areas, and various landscaping elements like trees and shrubs. A legend at the bottom right identifies symbols for trees, shrubs, and other landscape features.



Appendix G: Summary of the British Trust for Ornithology data for the Low Tide Counts from the for sections BC051, BC052, BC053 compared to the whole of the Chichester harbour site over the period 2001 – 2011, for the qualifying features of the SPA.

2010 – 2011

Section	Species	Table 3 Mean Density, Section (Birds per Hectare)	Table 4 Mean Density, Site (Birds per Hectare)	Preferred Habitat
BC050	Egret	0.08	0.02	Inter and non-tidal
BC050	Dark bellied Brent goose	5.59	2.15	All
BC050	Ringed plover	0.63	0.03	Inter
BC050	Grey plover	0.10	0.18	Inter
BC050	Sanderling	0.17	0.04	Inter
BC050	Dunlin	0.77	6.61	Inter
BC050	Bar tailed godwit	0.15	0.40	Inter
BC050	Curlew	0.10	0.18	Inter and non-tidal
BC050	Redshank	0.25	0.23	Inter and non-tidal
BC050	Turnstone	0.04	0.03	Inter
BC051	Egret	0.02	0.02	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Dark bellied Brent Goose	3.02	2.15	All
BC051	Shelduck	0.13	0.23	All
BC051	Wigeon	0.00	0.54	All
BC051	Teal	0.02	0.22	All
BC051	Red breasted merganser	2.75	0.23	Sub-tidal
BC051	Ringed plover	0.04	0.03	Inter
BC051	Grey plover	0.05	0.18	Inter
BC051	Dunlin	5.36	6.61	Inter
BC051	Black tailed godwit	0.43	0.14	Inter and non-tidal

BC051	Curlew	0.09	0.18	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Redshank	0.25	0.23	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Turnstone	0.04	0.03	Inter
BC053	Egret	0.01	0.02	Inter and non-tidal
BC053	Dark bellied Brent Goose	1.63	2.15	All
BC053	Shelduck	0.01	0.23	All
BC053	Teal	0.09	0.22	All
BC053	Ringed plover	0.07	0.03	Inter
BC053	Grey plover	0.07	0.18	Inter
BC053	Dunlin	1.32	6.61	Inter
BC053	Curlew	0.08	0.18	Inter and non-tidal
BC053	Redshank	0.74	0.23	Inter and non-tidal
BC053	Turnstone	0.02	0.03	Inter

2005 – 2006

Section	Species	Table 3 Mean Density, Section (Birds per Hectare)	Table 4 Mean Density, Site (Birds per Hectare)	Preferred Habitat
BC050	Egret	0.02	0.02	Inter and non-tidal
BC050	Dark bellied Brent goose	0.06	1.24	All
BC050	Red breasted merganser	0.19	0.20	Sub-tidal
BC050	Ringed plover	0.31	0.03	Inter
BC050	Grey plover	0.06	0.24	Inter
BC050	Dunlin	1.42	4.29	Inter
BC050	Bar tailed godwit	0.02	0.14	Inter
BC050	Curlew	0.02	0.2	Inter and non-tidal

BC050	Redshank	0.21	0.26	Inter and non-tidal
BC050	Turnstone	0.04	0.03	Inter
BC051	Egret	0.03	0.02	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Dark bellied Brent Goose	1.69	1.24	All
BC051	Shelduck	0.03	0.13	All
BC051	Teal	0.01	0.18	All
BC051	Red breasted merganser	0.75	0.20	Sub-tidal
BC051	Ringed plover	0.20	0.03	Inter
BC051	Grey plover	0.13	0.24	Inter
BC051	Dunlin	8.11	4.29	Inter
BC051	Black tailed godwit	0.29	0.17	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Bar tailed godwit	0.01	0.14	Inter
BC051	Curlew	0.31	0.20	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Redshank	0.44	0.26	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Turnstone	0.02	0.03	Inter
BC053	Egret	0.03	0.02	Inter and non-tidal
BC053	Dark bellied Brent Goose	0.03	1.24	All
BC053	Teal	0.10	0.18	All
BC053	Red breasted merganser	(0.03)	0.2	Sub-tidal
BC053	Ringed plover	0.03	0.03	Inter
BC053	Grey plover	0.06	0.24	Inter
BC053	Dunlin	0.20	4.29	Inter
BC053	Black tailed godwit	0.06	0.17	Inter and non-tidal
BC053	Curlew	0.08	0.2	Inter and non-tidal
BC053	Redshank	0.44	0.26	Inter and non-

				tidal
BC053	Turnstone	0.01	0.03	Inter

2001 – 2002

Section	Species	Table 3 Mean Density, Section (Birds per Hectare)	Table 4 Mean Density, Site (Birds per Hectare)	Preferred Habitat
BC050	Egret	0.02	0.02	Inter and non-tidal
BC050	Dark bellied Brent goose	0.57	1.17	All
BC050	Ringed plover	0.71	0.03	Inter
BC050	Grey plover	0.10	0.20	Inter
BC050	Dunlin	1.6	6.23	Inter
BC050	Curlew	0.04	0.19	Inter and non-tidal
BC050	Redshank	0.17	0.28	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Egret	0.01	0.02	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Dark bellied Brent Goose	1.99	1.17	All
BC051	Shelduck	0.22	0.23	All
BC051	Red breasted merganser	1.00	0.14	Sub-tidal
BC051	Ringed plover	0.14	0.03	Inter
BC051	Grey plover	0.10	0.20	Inter
BC051	Dunlin	13.30	6.23	Inter
BC051	Bar tailed godwit	0.31	0.19	Inter
BC051	Curlew	0.05	0.19	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Redshank	0.15	0.28	Inter and non-tidal
BC051	Turnstone	0.00	0.01	Inter
BC053	Egret	0.01	0.02	Inter and non-tidal

BC053	Dark bellied Brent Goose	0.51	1.17	All
BC053	Shelduck	0.19	0.23	All
BC053	Teal	0.04	0.35	All
BC053	Ringed plover	0.07	0.03	Inter
BC053	Grey plover	0.08	0.20	Inter
BC053	Dunlin	8.26	6.23	Inter
BC053	Black tailed godwit	0.04	0.14	Inter and non- tidal
BC053	Bar tailed godwit	0.03	0.19	Inter
BC053	Curlew	0.06	0.19	Inter and non- tidal
BC053	Redshank	0.84	0.28	Inter and non- tidal

APPENDIX H: Photographs



Photo 1: First visible section of SPA from public footpath at northern end



Photo 2: Access limited to SPA by steep banks along public footpath



Photo 3: SPA accessible from public footpath near north-easterly section



Photo 4 and 5: Public footpath access from St Herman's Road and channel limiting human access across section BC051



Photo 6, 7, 8: Signage and interpretation along public footpath

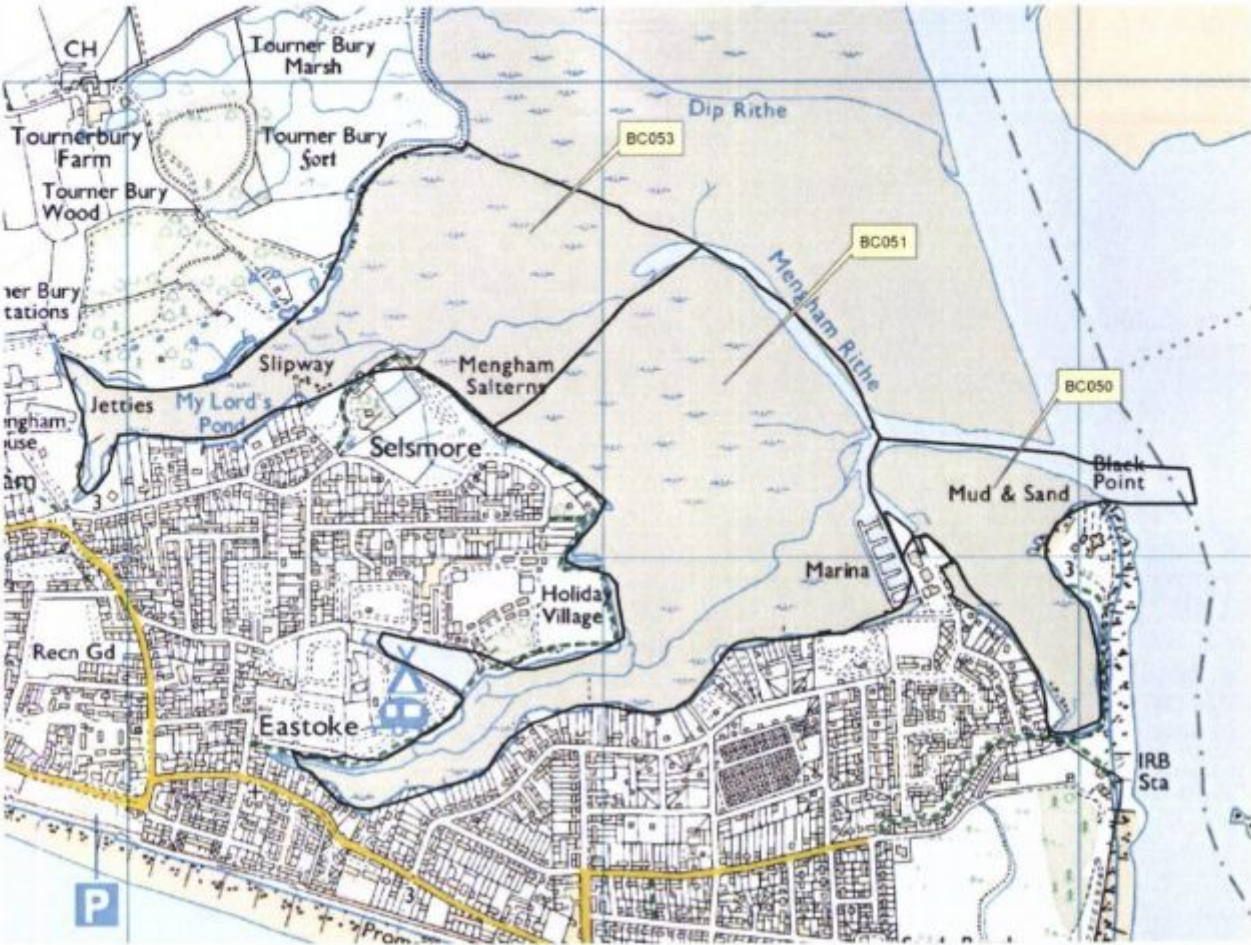


Photo 9: Brent geese grazing on caravan site



Photo 10: Brent geese grazing on H40F (Current Use Map Appendix B)

APPENDIX I: Low Tide Count Sections



APPENDIX J: Core Count, High Tide Count (HTC) data comparison2001 – 2006

Species	Chichester Harbour (HTC 20401)		Chichester Harbour West (20432)		Autumn National Threshold %	Winter National Threshold %
	Autumn 5 year mean of peaks	Winter 5 year mean of peaks	Autumn 5 year mean of peaks	Winter 5 year mean of peaks		
Dark bellied Brent goose	1098	7914	351	989	39	109
Shelduck	79	866	0	53	0	9
Wigeon	1236	1952	86	64	2	1
Teal	601	1790	144	161	7	8
Pintail	58	232				
Shoveler	1	10	0	5	0	3
Red breasted merganser	10	195	1	18	1	21
Little egret	195	131	21	8	47	18
Ringed plover	341	237	33	73	10	21
Grey plover	1489	1966	32	114	7	27
Sanderling	84	136	8	80	5	50
Dunlin	3043	13463	59	1228	2	35
Black tailed godwit	793	707	1	26	0	6
Bar tailed godwit	367	951	28	26	7	7
Curlew	1704	1549	19	42	1	3
Redshank	1881	2030	158	146	13	12
Turnstone	154	210	10	14	2	3

2006 – 2011

Species	Chichester Harbour (HTC 20401)		Chichester Harbour West (20432)		Autumn National Threshold %	Winter National Threshold %
	Autumn 5 year mean of peaks	Winter 5 year mean of peaks	Autumn 5 year mean of peaks	Winter 5 year mean of peaks		
Dark bellied Brent goose	2400	10107	832	1044	91	115
Shelduck	89	643	0	44	0	7
Wigeon	2069	2526	27	290	1	7
Teal	546	1324	46	148	2	7
Pintail	86	187				
Shoveler	3	22	0	10	0	6
Red breasted merganser	10	210	1	23	1	27
Little egret	228	111	7	14	16	31
Ringed plover	184	281	6	219	2	64
Grey plover	871	1487	19	115	4	27
Sanderling	104	222	13	112	8	70
Dunlin	3948	18669	372	3821	11	109
Black tailed godwit	508	726	7	25	2	6
Bar tailed godwit	283	911	0	13	0	3
Curlew	1634	1559	33	175	2	13
Redshank	2061	1728	56	114	5	10
Turnstone	154	298	15	58	3	12

Appendix K: Satellite Image of the Site in relation to Hayling Island

The site has a redline boundary around it



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