

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:	15/10/2026
HRA completion date:	
Application reference:	APP/25/00071
Application address:	Land Forming part of, Northney Farm, St Peters Road, Hayling Island
Application description:	The excavation of grassland scrapes with related landscaping, boundary treatments and associated works to create enhanced habitat for wetland birds.
Lead Planning Officer:	Jennie Fox
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:	▪ Chichester & Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) ▪ Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar site ▪ Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC) ▪ Solent and Dorset Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) ▪ Solent and Southampton Water SPA ▪ Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar ▪ Portsmouth Harbour SPA ▪ Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar ▪ Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC (Hereafter known as the Solent European Sites)
Is the planning application directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (if yes, Applicant should have provided details)?	No. The application is for the enhancement and creation of overwintering bird habitat.
Are there any other projects or plans that together with the planning application being assessed could affect the site?	Yes. All new development within Havant Borough that is either a) located in proximity to and may affect directly or indirectly the qualifying habitats and species of the Solent

	Marine Sites, b) new residential development within 5.6km of the Solent Marine Sites where recreational disturbance is likely to result, and c) new housing schemes and other proposals which include a net gain in overnight accommodation or development which has a high volume of water use and which are located in river catchments draining to the Solent Marine Sites.
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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.

Solent European Sites

Collectively, the Solent European Sites provide protection for a range of coastal and marine habitats and the species supported by them.

The proposed works are situated outside the Chichester & Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site but are on land identified within the Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) as Site H60D and H60F .

The proposed works would not result in impacts to internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites and the species they support. The proposed works entail a change in grassland management to benefit overwintering birds, the creation of shallow scrapes to enhance habitat for birds, and the installation of fencing to reduce disturbance.

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

No, the proposed works would not result in impacts to the Solent European Sites and the species they support.

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.

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. Consideration of the Ramsar site/s is a matter of government policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Natural England Officer:

Summary of Natural England's comments: