

Havant Borough Local Plan

Habitats Regulations Assessment

June 2020



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Habitats Regulations Assessment

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APPENDIX 1 – LOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL SITES WITHIN 10KM OF HAVANT BOROUGH

Executive Summary

Havant Borough Council has produced the Havant Borough Local Plan, which sets out the Council's vision for the spatial development of the Borough. The Local Plan sets out what the Council considers the final adopted Local Plan should say, based on the discussions to date and the available evidence base.

Havant Borough Council has undertaken a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Local Plan in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (the 'Habitats Regulations'). This HRA provides an analysis of the policies and proposals within the Local Plan and seeks to establish whether or not these will result in any 'likely significant effect'¹ on the ecological integrity of European-designated nature conservation sites in and around Havant Borough.

Each of the policies and proposals in the Local Plan (hereafter 'the Local Plan') has been assessed to determine whether there could be a likely significant effect on an International site if it went ahead. It is recognised that none of the policies or proposals within the Local Plan is necessary for the management of any International site.

This HRA considers the potential for likely significant effect on the following 17 International sites:

Table 1: European designated sites included within the HRA screening assessment		
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Ramsar site
Solent Maritime	Chichester & Langstone Harbours	Chichester & Langstone Harbours
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons	Portsmouth Harbour	Portsmouth Harbour
South Wight Maritime	Solent & Dorset Coast	
Butser Hill	Pagham Harbour	Pagham Harbour
Kingley Vale	The New Forest	The New Forest
The New Forest	Solent & Southampton Water	Solent & Southampton Water

Findings

In accordance with the screening requirements of the HRA process, and therefore in the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Local Plan could lead to likely significant effects alone and/or in combination with other plans or projects on International sites, due to the effects of habitat loss, recreational disturbance, air quality, coastal squeeze and water resources. These potential impact sources have been taken forward to the next stage of HRA and have been subject to appropriate assessment to determine whether, once mitigation measures are put in place, there is a residual impact on International site integrity.

Outcome of HRA Stage 1 - Screening

- A total of 55 policies and proposals within the Local Plan are considered to have the potential to result in likely significant effect on an International site either alone or in combination.

¹ Any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of the plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which a site was designated

- Eight policies and proposals are considered to have potential to result in either direct habitat loss impacts or functional habitat loss impacts to Solent Maritime SAC, Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar or Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA.
- 47 policies and proposals are considered to have potential for recreational disturbance impacts to Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar or Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar.
- 55 policies and proposals are considered to have the potential for in-combination impacts related to increases in atmospheric pollution on Solent Maritime SAC.
- One policy is considered to have potential for increasing the potential impacts of coastal squeeze on Solent Maritime SAC and Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar.
- 46 policies and proposals are considered to have potential to result in in-combination impacts relating to nutrient neutrality on Solent Maritime SAC, Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar, Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA or Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar.

Table 2: Summary of Plans or Policies with potential to result in Likely Significant Effect	
Designated Site	Policy or Proposal with potential to result in Likely Significant Effect
Solent Maritime SAC	All
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	D1, D2, KP1-KP9, C3-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H40, H42-H44, H46, H47
Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA	D1, D2, KP1-KP9, C2-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H40, H42-H44, H46, H47
Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar	D1, D2, KP1-KP9, C2-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H40, H42-H44, H46, H47
Portsmouth Harbour SPA	D1, D2, KP1-KP9, C2-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H40, H42-H44, H46, H47
Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar	D1, D2, KP1-KP9, C2-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H40, H42-H44, H46, H47
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	D1, D2, KP1-KP9, C2-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H40, H42-H44, H46, H47
Solent & Southampton Water SPA	D1, D2, KP1-KP9, C3-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H40, H42-H44, H46, H47
Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar	D1, D2, KP1-KP9, C3-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H40, H42-H44, H46, H47

Outcome of HRA Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment and the Integrity Test

Following the screening exercise, and after the inclusion of mitigation measures embedded within the Local Plan policies, it is concluded that through a combination of strategic mitigation and proposal-specific mitigation, impacts to International site integrity can be avoided in all instances.

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 This report has been prepared for Havant Borough Council (HBC) and forms a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Havant Borough Local Plan. The report forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.
- 1.2 The application of HRA to land use plans is a requirement of Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (the Habitats Regulations), the UK's transposition of European Union Directive 92/43/EEC on the 'Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora' (the Habitats Directive). HRA must be applied to all local planning policy documents in England and Wales and aims to assess the potential effects of a land use plan or policy against the conservation objectives of any International sites designated for their nature conservation importance under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC on the 'conservation of wild birds'). Such sites are known collectively as the Natura 2000 network of International sites.
- 1.3 The Natura 2000 network of International sites provides ecological infrastructure for the protection of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species of exceptional importance within the European Union. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs, designated under the Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs, classified under the Birds Directive). Additionally, UK Government policy (section 118 of The National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2018) and Circular 06/05 (ODPM, 2005)) recommends that Ramsar sites listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (UNESCO, 1971), are treated as if they are fully-designated International sites for the purposes of considering development proposals that may affect them.
- 1.4 Under Regulation 63 of the Conservation Regulations, any HRA must determine whether or not a plan will undermine the published conservation objectives of the International site(s) concerned and as a result adversely affect the ecological integrity of the site(s). Where negative effects are identified, the process should consider alternatives to the proposed actions and explore mitigation opportunities, whilst adhering to the precautionary principle.
- 1.5 The European Commission (2000) describes the precautionary principle as follows:

"If a preliminary scientific evaluation shows that there are reasonable grounds for concern that a particular activity might lead to damaging effects on the environment, or on human, animal or plant health, which would be inconsistent with the protection normally afforded to these within the European Community, the Precautionary Principle is triggered."
- 1.6 Decision-makers then have to determine what action to take. They should take account of the potential consequences of taking no action, the uncertainties inherent in the scientific evaluation, and they should consult interested parties on the possible ways of managing the risk. Measures should be proportionate to the level of risk and to the desired level of

protection. They should be provisional in nature pending the availability of more reliable scientific data.

- 1.7 Action is then undertaken to obtain further information enabling a more objective assessment of the risk. The measures taken to manage the risk should be maintained so long as the scientific information remains inconclusive and the risk unacceptable. The hierarchy of intervention is important: where effects on ecological integrity are identified, plan makers must first consider alternative ways of achieving the plan's objectives that avoids significant effects entirely. Where it is not possible to meet objectives through other means, mitigation measures that allow the plan to proceed by removing or reducing significant effects may be considered. If it is impossible to avoid or mitigate the adverse effect, the plan-makers must demonstrate, under the conditions of Regulation 64 of the Conservation Regulations, that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) to continue with the proposal. This is widely perceived as an undesirable position and should be avoided if at all possible.

Purpose and Structure of this report

- 1.8 This report documents the initial evidence gathering process and provides a screening of all policies within the Local Plan to determine whether they would have a 'likely significant effect' on the International site(s) concerned. It then provides an 'appropriate assessment' to determine whether the plan would have an effect on the integrity of the International site(s) concerned.
- 1.9 The document is structured as follows:
- Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Chapter Two: HRA methodology
 - Chapter Three: International Sites
 - Chapter Four: Impact Pathways
 - Chapter Five: Screening of the Havant Borough Local Plan
 - Chapter Six: Commentary on Effects
 - Chapter Seven: Appropriate Assessment & the Integrity Test
 - Chapter Eight: Summary and Record of the HRA.

Previous HRAs in the Borough

- 1.10 HRA screening was carried out in relation to the Havant Borough Local Plan Core Strategy (HBC, 2007; HBC, 2009) subsequent to which an Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy was carried out in 2010 (HBC, 2010). A full Appropriate Assessment was also carried out for the Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) (HBC, 2013). Most recently, HRA screening was also undertaken for the Havant Borough Housing Statement 2016 (HBC, 2016) and the Draft Local Plan 2036 (HBC, 2017).
- 1.11 Both the Core Strategy and Local Plan (Allocations) are still relevant in relation to their HRA screening and Appropriate Assessment and remain valid up until the time when the new Local Plan is adopted and the policies in the Core Strategy and Allocations Plan are replaced.

- 1.12 The final Havant Borough Local Plan will provide a complete refresh of the adopted Core Strategy and Allocations Plan and therefore, for the purposes of the document, all policies and proposals within the Local Plan have been assessed.

Background to the Havant Borough Local Plan

- 1.13 The existing Adopted Local Plan is made up of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations). These were adopted by the Council in 2011 and 2014 respectively. Together with the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan these form the development plan for the Borough. This means that they are the starting point in determining planning applications as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that development proposals should be “*determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise*”.
- 1.14 It is proposed to produce a single Local Plan that will replace the Core Strategy and Allocations plans. This will be the Havant Borough Local Plan. Once this is adopted, the development plan for the Borough will consist of:
- The Havant Borough Local Plan
 - The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013)
 - Any adopted Neighbourhood Plans
- 1.15 The Local Plan sets out what the Council considers the Local Plan should say, based on the discussions to date as part of the 2016 Local Plan Housing Statement, the Draft Local Plan and the available evidence base.
- 1.16 Section 2 of the Local Plan sets out an aspirational, yet realistic, vision for the Borough. This is then followed by a series of strategic priorities which flesh out the vision into achievable goals and an overall strategy for the delivery of development.
- 1.17 The plan then describes the key projects which will deliver significant, comprehensive development and are crucial to achieving the vision.
- 1.18 A series of policies then follows which, collectively, will achieve the vision around the themes of infrastructure, the environment, housing and commercial development. Infrastructure and environment are purposefully earlier in the plan as these policies will apply to the majority of development schemes which will come forward. As a result, they should be considered first in reading the plan as a whole.
- 1.19 There are then a series of development allocations which set out specific developments which will collectively deliver the development that the Borough needs. These are split out into five areas of the Borough:
- Emsworth
 - Havant & Bedhampton
 - Hayling Island
 - Leigh Park
 - Waterlooville
- 1.20 Policies within the Local Plan relating to ecology and nature conservation have been developed in conjunction with the Council’s ecologist as well as in consultation with Natural England.

2. Methodology

Introduction

- 2.1 Guidance on HRA has been published in draft form by the Government (CLG, 2006). This draws on advice from a range of experts as well as European Union guidance (European Commission, 2001) regarding methodology for the appropriate assessment of plans and/or policies. More recently, detailed technical advice on applied HRA continues to be published in The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook by David Tyldesley and Associates (DTA Publications, 2015).
- 2.2 The guidance recognises that there is no single statutory method for undertaking HRA but rather that the adopted method must be 'appropriate' to its purpose under the Habitats Directive and Regulations; this concept is one of the reasons why HRA is often referred to as appropriate assessment. The CLG guidance identifies three stages to the HRA process, whereas DTA recognises four. The two systems are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: The HRA Process	
CLG Guidance (2006)	David Tyldesley & Associates (2015)
AA1: likely significant effects (screening)	Stage 1: screening
AA2: appropriate assessment and ascertaining the effect on integrity	Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment and the Integrity Test
AA3: mitigation measures and alternative solutions	Stage 3: Alternative Solutions
	Stage 4: Imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures

- 2.3 It is generally expected that through the iterative HRA process, the potential for likely significant effects on International sites can be avoided or reduced to levels where impacts to site integrity are insignificant. Where alternative solutions or mitigation measures to remove or reduce adverse effects to insignificant levels cannot be achieved, there may be a need to explore imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI). This is discouraged by CLG although is included as Stage 4 by DTA. The three/four stages collectively make up the HRA, while stage AA2/Stage 2 is the point at which appropriate assessment of the plan is carried out if the evidence gathered at AA1/Stage 1 points to a need for such an assessment.
- 2.4 This document fulfils the requirements of AA1/Stage 1 and AA2/Stage 2 in providing a screening statement for the Local Plan and, where effects cannot be screened out, proceeding to appropriate assessment and the integrity test.

- 2.5 It is recognised that HRA may be undertaken at the same time as other assessment processes associated with the preparation of development documents (i.e. Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)) but should be recorded as a distinct procedure with its own legislative requirements.

Methodology

- 2.6 This assessment follows the methodology for Stages 1 and 2 prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates (2015), as described in Table 4.

Table 4: Stages in the HRA Process from DTA (2015)	
HRA Stage	Information required
Stage 1: Screening for Likely Significant Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can plan be exempted, excluded or eliminated? • Gather information about the International site/s • Consider changes that might avoid or reduce effects • Initial screening for likely significant effect, either alone or in combination • Consider additional mitigation measures and re-screen plan
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment and the Integrity Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree the scope and methodology of AA • Undertake AA • Apply the integrity test, considering conditions or restrictions as additional mitigation where required • Embed further mitigation into plan • Consult statutory body (and others as necessary) • Is it possible to ascertain no adverse effect on site integrity?
Stage 3: Alternative Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify underlying need for the plan • Identify whether alternative solutions exist that would achieve the objectives of the plan and have no, or a lesser, effect on the International site/s • Are they financially, legally and technically feasible?
Stage 4: IROPI and Compensatory Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the risk and harm to the site overridden by imperative reasons of public interest (taking account of 'priority' features where appropriate)? • Identify and prepare for delivery of necessary compensatory measures to protect overall coherence of Natura 2000 network • Notify Government

- 2.7 As stated above, draft screening stages were prepared for the Core Strategy and Allocations plans, the 2016 Housing Statement and the 2017 Draft Local Plan. These documents were subject to review by statutory and third-party consultees and changes made to policies where required.

Limitations and uncertainty

- 2.8 It is important to note the role of uncertainty in the HRA process. There are many factors which either alone or in combination may place caveats on the level of certainty that is able to be applied to the assessment and the degree to which conclusive statements on likely significant effect can be made. This is particularly the case when dealing with populations of wild organisms or other aspects of dynamic ecological systems.

Scientific

- 2.9 Scientific uncertainty arises owing to uncertainty about the predicted effects of one or more aspect of a plan on the interest features of an International site. Examples may be a lack of scientific knowledge of, or inadequate data concerning, a particular ecological feature e.g. bird numbers or distribution, habitat distribution or condition, or broad-scale environmental variables e.g. climate change. It may also occur where the assessor is unable to satisfactorily predict and estimate the nature, timing, scale or spatial extent of changes proposed by the plan. This last point is particularly relevant to higher-level plans where site-specific details are generally lacking.
- 2.10 In accordance with the Habitats Directive, wherever scientific uncertainty is encountered a precautionary approach should be adopted. If in doubt, further assessment should be undertaken, and the worst outcome assumed based on the best available evidence.

Regulatory

- 2.11 Some local planning documents will include references to proposals that are planned and implemented through other planning and regulatory regimes e.g. previous Local Plans, housing allocations. These will be included because they have important implications for spatial planning, but they are not proposals specific to the plan in question. Their potential effects will be/have been assessed through other procedures.
- 2.12 The LPA may not be able to assess the effects of these proposals and it may be inappropriate for them to do so, resulting in unnecessary duplication. That said, the possible effects of such proposals, in combination with the plan in question may be relevant and where necessary, should be considered.

Planning Hierarchy

- 2.13 Higher level strategic plans such as the Local Plan will contain general and strategic provisions and therefore their effects are by definition more uncertain than for lower tier, site-specific proposals. The protective regime of the Habitats Directive is intended to operate at differing levels and in some circumstances assessment at a lower tier in the planning hierarchy (e.g. site-specific HRA) will be more effective in assessing the potential effects of a proposal on a particular site and protecting its integrity: at the strategic level consideration of potential effects is understandably generic but can set broad parameters to guide lower tier assessments, ensuring that future detailed plans are captured through the HRA process.
- 2.14 It is only appropriate to consider deferring detailed assessment to the site/project level where the HRA of a higher tier cannot reasonably assess the effects on an International site in a meaningful way. A lower tier plan/project can identify more precisely the nature, scale, timing

or location of development, and thus its potential effects. Therefore, HRA of policies or proposals at a lower level (e.g. a site-specific SPD, specific site proposal) will be able to change the proposal if an adverse effect on site integrity cannot be ruled out, because the lower tier plan is free to change the nature, scale, timing or location of the proposal in order to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of any International site. Additionally, the HRA of the plan or project at the lower tier is required as a matter of law and policy.

2.15 It is however seen as relevant and important for the HRA of higher tier plans to indicate what further assessment may be necessary in a lower tier plan and how the requirements may be adjusted, in the event that the HRA of the lower tier plan shows that adverse effects on an International site could not be ruled out.

2.16 Because, for the reasons detailed above, higher tier plans may be limited by uncertainties about the true effects on International sites resulting from site-specific proposals, it is important to adopt a precautionary approach. If adverse effects on International sites could occur as a result of the amount or location of development to be provided for within the higher tier plan, it is necessary to make every effort – given acknowledged limitations and constraints where fully justified - to adapt the higher tier plan to avoid such effects in any case. This may include changes to higher tier plan policy wording to ensure that restrictions are placed on certain policies i.e. ensuring that implementation of a certain policy would occur only after appropriate avoidance/mitigating measures are in place.

Implementation

2.17 As detailed above, in many situations the effects arising from a plan depend on how that plan is implemented. To ensure compliance with the Regulations, it may be appropriate to impose a caveat in relevant policies, or introduce a free-standing policy, which states that any development project that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of an International site will not be in accordance with the plan.

2.18 This would help to enable stakeholders to reasonably conclude, on the basis of objective information, that even where there are different ways of implementing a plan, and even applying the precautionary principle, no element of the plan that could adversely affect the integrity of an International site could be seen as being supported by the plan.

2.19 It is however not sufficient for the HRA to conclude no significant effects, merely because the plan contains a policy protecting internationally-designated sites. Any policy introduced to remove uncertainty must be targeted specifically to deal with the issue that is causing the uncertainty. In assessing the effects on International sites, the HRA should assess (where known) the overall scale, location, timing and nature of new development. It should assess whether delivery of that development in the timescale of the plan, and the implementation of all its policies and proposals, would be likely to have a significant effect on an International site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

2.20 For some widescale potential impacts such as those resulting from air quality or water resource management issues, effects are not confined within the boundaries of a single local planning authority, and the effects may be caused in part, or mostly, by impacts within another authority's area. The effects of such cumulative impacts can only reasonably be addressed across authority boundaries. Due to the differing timescales for local plan

implementation between authorities, it is necessary for authorities to commit to joint working to address such widescale potential issues.

Precautionary nature of the 'likely significant effects' test

2.21 The decision-making process under the Habitats Directive is underpinned by the precautionary principle, whereby the LPA, as Competent Authority, acts to avoid potential harm in the face of scientific uncertainty. If it is not possible in a 'likely significant effect' test to rule out a significant effect on an International site on the basis of available evidence, then it should be assumed the significant effect identified is likely to occur as a result of the plan and needs to be dealt with at the next stage of HRA. This precautionary approach should be taken at all stages of the assessment where faced with uncertainty.

Cumulative Effects

2.22 It is a requirement of the Regulations that the potential cumulative effects of the subject plan and any other relevant plans or projects on International sites are assessed: this is referred to as the 'in-combination effect' and each proposal or policy within the Local Plan should be screened for its potential to result in 'likely significant effect' on each International site either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

2.23 For the purposes of this assessment the following plans and projects have been considered when assessing the potential for cumulative impacts.

- Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029.
- East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (adopted 2014)
- East Hampshire District Local Plan (Part 2): Housing and Employment Allocations
- Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036
- Fareham Borough Welborne Plan (adopted 2015)
- Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011 to 2029 (adopted 2015)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Gosport Borough Local Plan
- Hampshire Local Transport Plan (2011-2031)
- HRA for the Fareham Local Plan 2036: Screening Report for the Draft Plan September 2017
- Joint Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (adopted 2013) (includes Portsmouth, Southampton, New Forest National Park and South Downs National Park).
- North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (2010)
- Portsmouth City Local Plan 2014-2034
- Portsmouth City Council Habitats Regulation Assessment - Screening Report 2017
- Portsmouth Water Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019
- South Downs Local Plan Consultation September 2017
- South Downs National Park Authority Local Plan (September 2017) Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Strategic development at Tipner and Horsea Island, Portsmouth
- Sub Regional Transport Model for South Hampshire (2010)
- The Portsmouth Plan (adopted 2012)
- Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 - Joint Core Strategy (adopted 2013)

- Winchester District Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Site Allocations (adopted 2013)

Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

- 2.24 An intrinsic factor in the assessment of ecological impacts is the inclusion of mitigation measures, or measures to avoid or reduce an identified impact and the HRA process should of course be guided by this principle. The ‘mitigation hierarchy’ of ‘avoid-mitigate-compensate’ is a common thread running through good ecological practice.
- 2.25 A clear distinction must be made between mitigation measures and compensatory measures. The former are designed to cancel or lessen identified impacts, whereas the latter are designed to offset residual negative impacts.
- 2.26 The Local Plan contains distinct policies whose purpose is explicitly to ensure that ecological impacts are avoided, mitigated or compensated as appropriate. Some measures operate at a strategic level (e.g. mitigating recreational disturbance) whereas others will be most effective at the site level (e.g. requirement for full ecological assessment and mitigation strategy at planning application stage).
- 2.27 The longstanding protocol of applying so-called integrated mitigation measures (as detailed in the ‘Dilly Lane’ ruling: *R on the application of Hart DC v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2008]) at HRA screening stage has recently been reversed. The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruling *People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (Case C-323/17) significantly changes how the competent authority is able to treat mitigating measures at the HRA screening stage.
- 2.28 The Sweetman ruling states that ‘Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site’.
- 2.29 Whereas previously it was correct to take into account mitigating measures at the screening stage and, often, conclude that such measures effectively removed the potential for likely significant effect such that the potential effects could be ‘screened out’ from further assessment, the *People over Wind* ruling reverses this. Mitigating measures should not now be taken into account in screening and therefore HRA should, in nearly all cases where mitigating measures are proposed, proceed automatically to the second stage, appropriate assessment and the integrity test. This has recently been confirmed by the Chief Planning Officer of Her Majesty’s Government (MHCL, January 2019).

3. International sites

Scope of the study

- 3.1 Each International site has its own intrinsic qualities (geological, hydrological and ecological) that enable the site to support the flora and fauna that it does. An important aspect of this is that the ecological integrity of each site can be vulnerable to change from natural and human induced activities in the surrounding environment. For example, sites can be affected by land use plans in a number of different ways, including the direct land-take of new development, the type of use the land will be put to (for example, a noise emitting use), the pollution a development generates and the resources it uses (during both construction and operation).
- 3.2 One intrinsic quality of any International site is its ecological functionality at the landscape level; in other words, how the site (and the flora and fauna which depend upon it) interacts with the zone of influence of its immediate surroundings, as well as the wider area e.g. an estuary would be influenced by activities occurring within the wider river catchment. Best practice guidance on HRA suggests that all International sites within the area of coverage of a plan, together with all those within a 10km buffer zone should be considered in the first instance as potential receptors for negative effects (in common with the HRA for the Core Strategy and Allocations Plan the 10km buffer is applied to the Borough boundary). In addition to these, other International sites further than 10km from the area of coverage of a plan may also be affected due to their specific environmental sensitivities and the activities proposed within the plan. This is particularly the case where there is potential for developments resulting from the plan to generate water-borne pollutants, where there are particularly high demands for water resources, where a specific recreational resource has a catchment area of greater than 10km, or where a plan would result in increased airborne pollutants affecting areas beyond the plan's boundary.
- 3.3 Table 5 lists seventeen International sites considered within the scope of this assessment. Appendix 1 shows the locations of Havant Borough and the International sites located within a 10km buffer zone. Figures 1-5 show the locations of these sites in more detail. The sites are those included within the appropriate assessment undertaken for the 2010 Core Strategy with the exception of the Solent & Dorset Coast proposed Special Protection Area (SPA) which is a recently-designated site.

Table 5: International sites in the vicinity of Havant Borough		
Name	Location	Type
Solent & Isle of Wight lagoons	Within 10km buffer zone	SAC
Solent Maritime	Within 10km buffer zone	SAC
South Wight Maritime	Within 10km buffer zone	SAC
The New Forest	c. 20km to the west (straight line)	SAC
Butser Hill	Within 10km buffer zone	SAC
Kingley Vale	Within 10km buffer zone	SAC

Table 5: International sites in the vicinity of Havant Borough		
Chichester & Langstone Harbours	Within 10km buffer zone	SPA
Portsmouth Harbour	Within 10km buffer zone	SPA
Solent & Southampton Water	Within 10km buffer zone	SPA
The New Forest	c. 20km to the west (straight line)	SPA
Solent and Dorset Coast	Within 10km buffer zone	SPA
Pagham Harbour	c. 15km to the east (straight line)	SPA
Chichester & Langstone Harbours	Within 10km buffer zone	Ramsar
Portsmouth Harbour	Within 10km buffer zone	Ramsar
Solent & Southampton Water	Within 10km buffer zone	Ramsar
The New Forest	c. 20km to the west (straight line)	Ramsar
Pagham Harbour	c. 15km to the east (straight line)	Ramsar

Figures 1-5: International sites within 10km of the study area



Figure 1 Location of Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar and South Wight Maritime SAC

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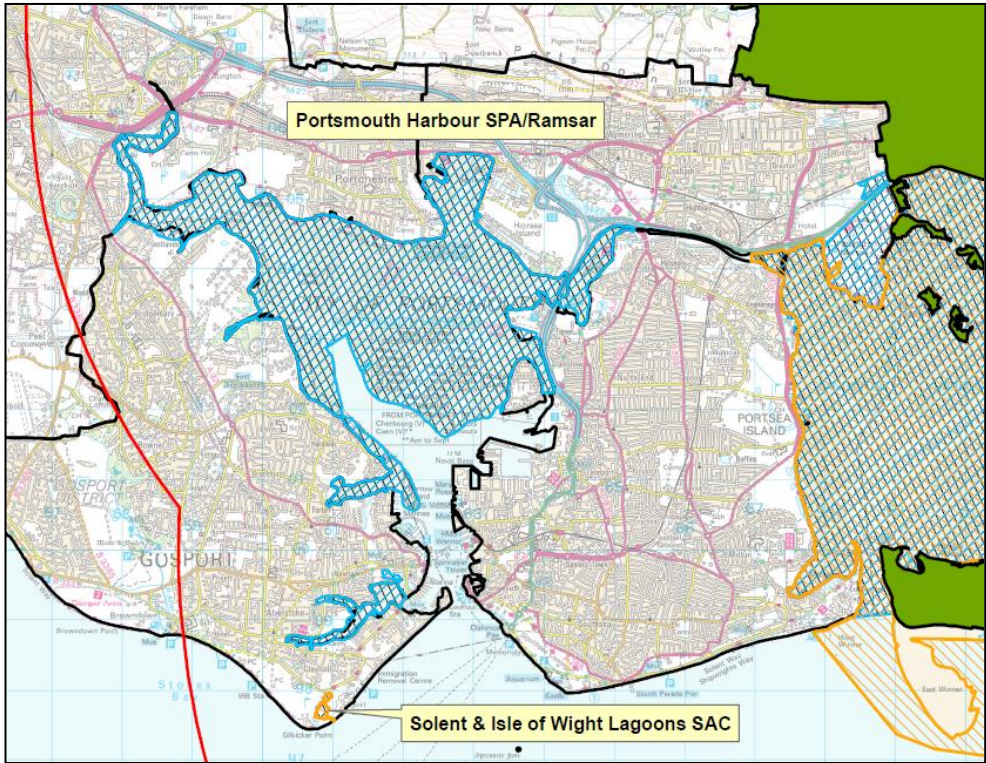


Figure 2 Location of Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar

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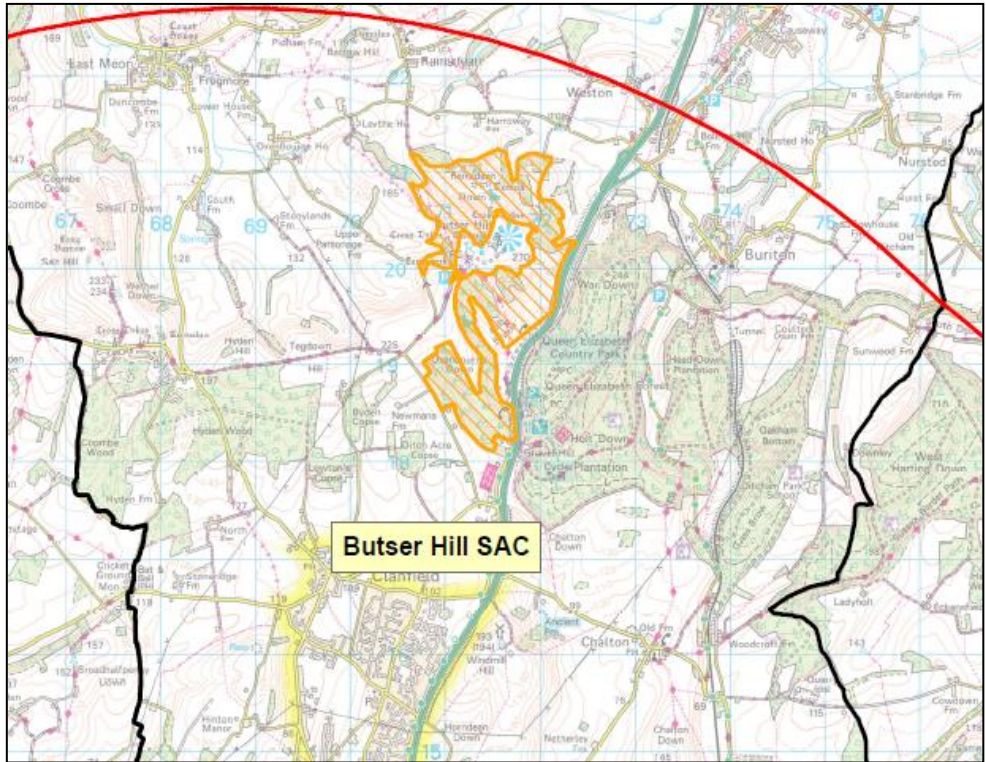


Figure 3 Location of Butser Hill SAC

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Qualifying features

- 3.4 The qualifying features of each International site (that is, the reasons for which the site is designated) are listed in Table 6.

Conservation Objectives

- 3.5 Natural England is in the process of setting out detailed conservation objectives for all SACs and SPAs². Some sites in the selected area have been completed, and progress towards these objectives can be taken as an indicator of 'favourable conservation status' at a site (i.e. the cited qualifying features (species and habitats) are in a suitable conservation status at the national, biogeographical or European level).
- 3.6 Ramsar sites do not have agreed conservation objectives, but in most instances overlap with SPA site boundaries and for the purposes of this assessment the conservation objectives for SPAs are applied to Ramsar sites. However, it should be noted that Ramsar qualifying features often include a range of habitats and non-bird species common to SAC designations, as well as bird species and assemblages and their supporting habitats, which are common to SPAs.
- 3.7 The conservation objectives for International sites are broadly similar for SPAs and SACs and their purpose is to:
- Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds/Habitats Directive, by maintaining or restoring;*
- *The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species*
 - *The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features*
 - *The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely*
 - *The population of each of the qualifying features, and,*
 - *The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.*
- 3.8 In addition to these broad conservation objectives, Natural England has published Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives (SACO) for some International sites, providing a list of attributes for each qualifying feature which '*if safeguarded will enable achievement of the Conservation Objectives*'. The SACO information also contains target thresholds for 'maintaining' or 'restoring' each attribute. It is important to note that '*the targets given for each attribute do not represent thresholds to assess the significance of any given impact in Habitats Regulation Assessments*'. It follows that it is not necessary for the HRA of a plan to ensure that these attribute targets are exceeded e.g. it would be unreasonable to require a particular plan to ensure that a certain population level of a species was maintained or restored, when the range of factors acting on that population may include some outside the possible influence of a land-use plan.
- 3.9 The attributes listed within the SACO information are broadly similar for each of the qualifying features e.g. they relate to maintaining current population levels/extent and distribution of

² Improvement programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS)

habitat, reducing disturbance, maintaining concentrations of air pollutants below current thresholds etc.

- 3.10 Natural England has also published a series of Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) for International sites. Each plan provides a '*high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the site(s) and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features*'.
- 3.11 Some SIPs include an aggregate of several sites. For example, the Solent SIP covers Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA, Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Solent Maritime SAC. SIPs have also been produced for Butser Hill SAC, Kingley Vale SAC, The New Forest SPA and SAC and Pagham Harbour SPA.
- 3.12 Together, the conservation objectives and their supplementary advice provide a baseline for assessing the potential effects of the policies within the Local Plan.

Conservation Status

- 3.13 For the purposes of HRA, the assessment must investigate the current conservation status of the individual qualifying features of any given International site, with 'favourable conservation status' being the ultimate benchmark against which the plan is assessed. In other words, favourable conservation status of a qualifying feature is maintained (i.e. is not demonstrably reduced, irrespective of its baseline condition) if its conservation objectives are not undermined by the plan. If favourable conservation status is maintained, then it follows that a site's overall integrity would not be impacted.
- 3.14 Conservation status is defined as '*the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species*'.
- 3.15 The conservation status of a habitat is considered favourable when '*its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable*'.
- 3.16 The conservation status of a species is considered favourable when '*population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and; there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its population on a long-term basis*' (JNCC, 2018).
- 3.17 In the UK, assessing favourable conservation status is carried out in broad accordance with European Union guidance and is based upon a system of 'Common Standards Monitoring' which combines site-level monitoring of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and International sites.
- 3.18 Natural England is currently undertaking condition assessments of marine features within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). To date, condition assessments have been carried out only for marine habitat features of a number of SACs: in other words, only selected habitats within some SACs have been assessed and no assessments of SPAs have been conducted.
- 3.19 For the qualifying species of SPAs, assessments of status must therefore be based upon the latest data on populations where available. Natural England's own site information for SPAs recognise that there are gaps in the data for some qualifying species.

- 3.20 The most recent reporting on the condition of UK habitats (terrestrial and marine) listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive and Annexes II, IV and V of the Directive was published in 2019³. The fourth UK Habitats Directive Report details the results of monitoring for the period 2013 to 2018. The report details the condition of each habitat in terms of its range, area, structure and function whilst for each species details of range, population, habitat and its future prospects are provided.
- 3.21 For UK SPAs, the 11th Article 12 report was published in October 2019⁴ and details population size and trend (short and long term); breeding distribution and trend (short and long term); species action plans; and details of pressures, threats, conservation measures and population size inside the UK SPA network
- 3.22 International sites are often underlain by one or more SSSIs and it is therefore logical to undertake condition assessments of habitats and species concurrently, as the condition of individual SSSI compartments allows an assessment of the current conservation status of the overlying International site. The Common Standards Monitoring is therefore an essential component of the HRA process.
- 3.23 It follows that the HRA process can be assisted by using SSSI compartment condition assessments to help determine the overall conservation status of an International site or part thereof. SSSI compartments in England are assessed on a rolling programme by Natural England: depending on the date of the most-recent surveys these condition assessments provide the most up-to-date information on site condition.
- 3.24 In some instances, site-specific surveys are carried out by statutory nature conservation bodies, by the local planning authority, by a non-governmental organisation or by a commercial consultant. Where available these surveys can provide valuable evidence to inform the HRA process, providing detailed information on the distribution and condition of habitats or species relevant to the International site which can be used to determine condition status.
- 3.25 In addition, data held by local Biological Records Centres can be invaluable in determining the presence and distribution of International site qualifying features. Map-based data showing the location of Priority Habitats is readily available and these are often analogous to e.g. SAC qualifying habitats. It should be noted that for most International sites there is not a comprehensive, highly-detailed map of vegetation communities and therefore a degree of uncertainty may remain when assessing the presence, extent or distribution of a particular qualifying habitat in the context of a specific site proposal within a plan.

Site Integrity

- 3.26 Site integrity is defined as '*the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified*' (JNCC, 2002). It therefore follows that for site integrity to be unaffected, there should be no impacts to a site's qualifying features resulting in harm to the ecological structure and functioning of the site, its supporting processes and/or adversely affecting the site's ability to meet conservation objectives.

³ JNCC (2019) Fourth Article 17 UK Habitats Directive Report (2019): The UK Approach to assessing Conservation Status for the 2019 Article 17 reporting under the EU Habitats Directive 2019. Accessed <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/6420776d-2a25-4575-8b6f-1922a6a13806>

⁴ JNCC (2019) Article 12 Birds Directive Report 2019. Accessed <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-12-report-2019/>

Table 6: Qualifying Features of International sites		
Site Name	Type	Qualifying Features
Solent and Isle of Wight lagoons	SAC	Coastal lagoons
Solent Maritime	SAC	<p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</p> <p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</p> <p>Coastal lagoons</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves</p> <p><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p><i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>); Cord-grass swards</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram</p> <p>Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></p>
South Wight Maritime	SAC	<p>Reefs</p> <p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</p> <p>Submerged or partially-submerged sea cliffs</p>
The New Forest	SAC	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sandy plains</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>; Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels</p> <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath</p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p>Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></p> <p>Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich spring water-fed fens</p>

Table 6: Qualifying Features of International sites		
Site Name	Type	Qualifying Features
		<p>Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrub layer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>); Beech forests on acid soils</p> <p><i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests; Beech forests on neutral to rich soils</p> <p>Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>Bog woodland</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion</i>)</p> <p>Alder woodland on floodplains</p> <p>Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></p> <p>Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i></p> <p>Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></p>
Butser Hill	SAC	<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p> <p>Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone</p> <p><i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles; Yew-dominated woodland</p>
Kingley Vale	SAC	<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p> <p>Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone</p> <p><i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles; Yew-dominated woodland</p>
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	SPA	<p>Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></p> <p>Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Eurasian wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Non-breeding)</p> <p>Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> (Non-breeding)</p>

Table 6: Qualifying Features of International sites		
Site Name	Type	Qualifying Features
		Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (Non-breeding) Ruddy turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Non-breeding) Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Breeding) Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Breeding) Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Breeding)
Portsmouth Harbour	SPA	Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Dark-bellied brent goose Dunlin Red-breasted merganser
Solent and Southampton Water	SPA	Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (Breeding) Sandwich tern Common tern Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougalli</i> (Breeding) Little tern Dark-bellied brent goose Eurasian teal Ringed plover Black-tailed godwit
The New Forest	SPA	European honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i> (Breeding) Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (Non-breeding) Eurasian hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i> (Breeding) European nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> (Breeding) Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i> (Breeding) Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i> (Breeding) Wood warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> (Breeding)
Solent and Dorset Coast	SPA	Common tern (breeding) Sandwich tern (breeding) Little tern (breeding)
Pagham Harbour	SPA	Dark-bellied brent goose (non-breeding) Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> (non-breeding)

Table 6: Qualifying Features of International sites		
Site Name	Type	Qualifying Features
		Common tern (breeding) Little tern (breeding)
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Ramsar	Ringed plover Black-tailed godwit Common redshank Dark-bellied brent goose Common shelduck Grey plover Dunlin Little tern
Portsmouth Harbour	Ramsar	Dark-bellied brent goose
Solent and Southampton Water	Ramsar	Dark-bellied brent goose Eurasian teal Ringed plover Black-tailed godwit
The New Forest	Ramsar	Valley mires Rare wetland plants and animals, especially invertebrates
Pagham Harbour	Ramsar	Dark-bellied brent goose Black-tailed godwit

4. Impact Pathways

Background

- 4.1 This section summarises the range of potential pathways which may lead to impacts on International sites and/or their supporting habitat as a result of the Local Plan. Impacts in this context can be defined as mechanisms or factors resulting in identifiable changes affecting the qualifying features of a designated site such that its conservation objectives are undermined.
- 4.2 The identified pathways may result in various impacts to the qualifying features of a site. These impacts may be physical, biological, chemical, hydrological or anthropological. In addition, they can exhibit differing characteristics in terms of their timing, duration, frequency or permanence and the effect on the site in question will be related to the characteristics of that site e.g. its sensitivity, vulnerability.
- 4.3 Impact pathways may operate over considerable geographical distances, especially in relation to air quality and the water environment and where qualifying features are highly mobile e.g. birds, fish. The proximity of an impact source to the site in question will clearly influence the likelihood of impacts (e.g. construction noise is unlikely to operate beyond the immediate vicinity), although there are some potential impacts for which proximity to the site is not a primary factor.
- 4.4 These pathways have been used to assess the potential consequences of the policies and proposals within the Local Plan on the International sites taken forward for assessment. Further detailed comment on selected key pathways is provided in Chapter 6 below.
- 4.5 The range of potential impacts can be subdivided into those operating at a site-specific scale and those operating over a larger, strategic scale. Some pathways operate at both levels.
- 4.6 Construction-related impacts are used here to describe any activities during construction, remediation or decommissioning at a site. These are distinct from the operational phase impacts which are a result of the specified post-construction land-use at a particular site.

Site-specific Impact pathways

Habitat Loss

- 4.7 This refers to the direct physical or functional loss of habitat either within an International site or habitat outside an International site but supporting its qualifying features (e.g. habitat supporting key bird species). Loss in this context refers both to direct physical loss (land take) and functional loss resulting from e.g. construction-phase or operational-phase activities such as noise and visual disturbance.
- 4.8 Direct land take can occur within designated sites and result in direct impacts to SAC qualifying habitat features or land within a SPA/Ramsar. For example, works to repair or enhance coastal defences, to redevelop/encourage marine recreation or commercial facilities, or to increase recreational visitors may result in habitat loss or damage e.g. through trampling or construction as an indirect but predictable result of a policy or proposal.
- 4.9 For local plans to facilitate land take within designated sites is exceptional and therefore large-scale impacts to site integrity resulting from this are extremely rare. Where minor (in extent or duration) losses are likely as a result of a policy or proposal then that loss will need

to be viewed within the context of whole-site integrity. There may be circumstances where a seemingly trivial loss may have more profound impacts e.g. the loss of an important bird roosting/nesting site or a particularly notable vegetation community, or where small impacts to a larger dynamic system may have unintended consequences. Conversely, a small loss may not reasonably result in impacts to whole-site integrity.

- 4.10 Functional loss can occur without direct physical impacts (e.g. through the effects of the proximity of adjacent built development rendering a site unattractive to bird species) but the effect is analogous. This impact pathway is most relevant to non-designated habitat supporting SPA/Ramsar bird species which utilise this habitat for roosting, resting or feeding: the land is functionally-linked to the International site. The impact will result in total or partial loss of habitat and/or the permanent displacement of birds. Functional loss can result from the following pathways:

Construction Noise

- 4.11 Noise generated during construction activities can result in changes in the presence and/or distribution of key qualifying features such as birds, with permanent or temporary displacement of birds from a site or area. This displacement can result in birds expending additional time and energy in finding undisturbed habitat and can ultimately affect their ability to survive and reproduce.
- 4.12 Common construction activities likely to result in novel disturbance events include excessive vehicle revving, reversing alarms, certain power tools and loud, percussive noises (e.g. via concrete breaking, piling). Research (e.g. Cutts *et al.* (2008); Wright *et al.* (2010)) has shown that noise levels approaching 70 decibels (dB) result in the most profound responses from bird species (i.e. site abandonment), whereas general background construction noise below c.55dB is unlikely to result in disturbance. It appears that irregular yet frequent loud noise exceeding 70dB is the most likely to result in effects, and that impacts can be observed for distances up to 300m in some species.
- 4.13 Birds' reactions to novel noise disturbance can vary from site abandonment to temporary displacement and are likely to be species-specific, with some species more or less tolerant than others. Similarly, there are likely to be differences in tolerance at different geographic locations.
- 4.14 Construction noise may be exacerbated by the density and/or quanta of built development and its location: noise disturbance from a high-density large housing development would be more likely to be disruptive than a low-density small-scale development, and development in a rural location would be likely to be more disruptive than in an urban one.

Construction Activity

- 4.15 In addition to noise, various construction activities can have impacts on mobile qualifying features such as birds within designated sites and their supporting habitat. Novel incidents such as increased human presence, vehicles or plant such as cranes could result in the displacement of bird species from a site with the same potential effects as for construction noise.
- 4.16 Research into the potential disturbance from construction activities specifically is sparse, although Cutts *et al.* (2009) and evidence collected for the Solent Disturbance Mitigation Project (SDMP) (Stillman *et al.* (2012)) does provide evidence that human-induced disturbance (although not construction-related) can occur from 0-300m depending on

species. It can be assumed that any potential impacts from construction-phase activities will be more profound with increasing proximity to the source of disturbance.

- 4.17 As with construction noise, the location, quanta and density of planned development may exacerbate issues of disturbance.

Construction-phase Pollution

- 4.18 Construction activities can result in the mobilisation of airborne and waterborne contaminants, either through novel introductions (e.g. a spillage, fumes/smoke, litter) or through the disturbance of existing contaminant sources.
- 4.19 Contamination events can have profound impacts on designated sites and/or their supporting habitat e.g. pollution of aquatic habitats, damage to terrestrial vegetation, harm to wildlife) and can operate at the site-scale and over broader geographic areas.

Obstruction of Flight- and Sight-lines

- 4.20 The presence of novel construction-related artefacts such as buildings, fencing, hoarding or vegetation screening can result in incidental impacts to both designated sites and their supporting habitat. Many bird species favour open habitats in which to rest and feed and therefore the presence of novel obstructions could result in the displacement of bird species, with similar effects as for construction noise and activity.
- 4.21 Again, research is sparse although research carried out in relation to the Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy (Solent Waders and Brent Goose Project Steering Group, 2010) highlights that the most-favoured sites used by dark-bellied brent geese are generally several hundred metres from obvious obstructions such as buildings.
- 4.22 Within the Solent coastal plain there are a large number of supporting habitat sites used by high numbers of SPA/Ramsar bird species which are situated within densely-developed urban areas (e.g. Gosport, Portsmouth). These birds appear to be accustomed to foraging and resting within very close proximity to buildings and human activity and therefore the potential impacts of flight- and sight-line obstructions should be viewed in a local context.

Operational Activity

- 4.23 Once a development site is operational there may be a range of novel activities which may result in impacts to designated sites and their supporting habitat. These impacts may include additional recreational pressure resulting in damage to SAC habitat, or the displacement of bird species as a result of increased human presence or activity.
- 4.24 Housing developments inevitably result in increased human presence in an area and its surrounds. Depending on the accessibility of the wider area (e.g. presence of public rights of way, car parking) an increase in human presence in previously-undisturbed areas could result in displacement of bird species and/or damage to sensitive vegetation/soils (through trampling). This effect could be felt at considerable distance from the development site depending on the permeability of the landscape and the presence/location/type of suitable public greenspace. The effect would also be influenced by the location, density and quanta of development.
- 4.25 Increased human presence is often accompanied by an increase in dogs. Research carried out by Stillman *et al* (2012) showed the impacts of dog walking to birds in the Solent was likely to be reduced where dog walking was eliminated entirely and reduced somewhat where off-lead dog walking was replaced by on-lead dog walking. Again, the effects of

increased dog walking will be to a large part dependent upon landscape permeability and the presence/location/type of suitable public greenspace.

Larger-scale Impact pathways

Recreational Disturbance

- 4.26 Development can increase the recreational use of the coast and associated habitats, which in turn has the potential to cause detrimental impacts on important bird assemblages as well as damage and disturbance to habitats. The impacts of increased recreational disturbance can be felt across a wide geographical area, particularly within a key coastal area such as the wider Solent which is such an attractive destination for visitors. These effects can impact both designated sites and their supporting habitat.
- 4.27 The impacts of recreational disturbance are analogous to impacts from direct habitat loss as recreation can cause important habitat to be unavailable for use (the habitat is functionally lost, either permanently or for a defined period). Birds can be displaced by human recreational activities (terrestrial and water-based) and use valuable resources in finding suitable areas in which to rest and feed undisturbed.
- 4.28 It is important to note that recreational impacts can be felt both as a result of individual development sites and/or as a cumulative consequence of multiple developments in combination, even over a large geographical area. Within the wider Solent the issue of recreational disturbance is addressed in a strategic manner in recognition of the fact that any net increase in residential dwellings within an agreed catchment contributes towards a cumulative impact.
- 4.29 The Solent planning authorities have developed the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) and adopted a definitive strategy in December 2017. The potential impacts from recreational disturbance must be viewed in combination with other pressures.

Coastal Squeeze

- 4.30 Coastal squeeze is a term used to describe the inability for coastal habitats such as mudflats or saltmarsh to respond to sea level rises by naturally 'migrating' inland due to the presence of artificial barriers such as sea defences: over time these liminal habitats are lost. This effect is particularly relevant to many areas across the wider Solent, where the viability of much residential and commercial development and infrastructure is dependent on the protection afforded by coastal defences.
- 4.31 Predictions for future sea level rises require a strategic-level approach to managing coastal defences, with various options considered ranging from 'hold the line' to 'managed retreat'.
- 4.32 New residential and commercial development can exacerbate problems associated with coastal squeeze by providing impetus to maintain or enhance hard sea defences, and thereby removing the possibility of ameliorating coastal squeeze through managed retreat and with the potential to directly impact designated sites and their supporting habitat.
- 4.33 The loss of natural intertidal habitats through the process of coastal squeeze may result in increased frequency of bird species using non-designated land, with further potential for conflicts between nature conservation and other land use objectives.

Air Quality

- 4.34 The impacts of increased atmospheric pollution can be profound and operate across broad geographical areas. Within the Local Plan area, impacts can arise/be exacerbated through increases/changes in the distribution of vehicular movements (to and from residential and commercial development) and/or the location of significant point-source emissions (e.g. new factories).
- 4.35 The most significant consequences of increased atmospheric pollution are eutrophication and acidification through the contact of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) with vegetation, soils and water. These anthropogenic sources operate at a much faster level than the normally slow cycling of 'natural' nitrogen in the environment. Nitrogen oxides can react with airborne water to form nitric acids which then result in impacts to vegetation through contact. Atmospheric pollution can also result in the deposition of NO_x in soils and water, affecting vegetation therein.
- 4.36 The presence of airborne pollutants is often described in terms of critical levels and critical loads. Levels refer to the concentration of atmospheric pollutants above which harmful effects are considered likely. Load refers to the deposition rate of nutrients below which effects are considered unlikely to occur.
- 4.37 Increased NO_x deposition can affect vegetation in several ways. Some vegetation types (e.g. bryophytes, ericaceous shrubs) can be directly impacted through contact, affecting photosynthesis, water transportation and growth.
- 4.38 Deposition of NO_x can also influence vegetation composition, with increased soil and water nitrogen levels causing eutrophication and favouring coarser plant species over more sensitive species of conservation concern.
- 4.39 The effects of atmospheric pollution are most often felt within SACs designated for their sensitive vegetation communities.
- 4.40 Within most assessments of air quality impacts, it has been assumed that distance is a key factor, with impacts most evident within c.200m of the source of pollution (i.e. a road). Clearly, any effects will be dependent not only on the proximity to the source of pollution, but also on the characteristics of the habitats present and the overall background levels and loads.
- 4.41 The cumulative impacts of air quality will need to be viewed in light of a recent court judgement *Wealden District Council v. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority [2017]* which has clarified the need for all strategic planning documents to account for the in-combination impacts of air quality on internationally-designated sites and not just those within 200m of potential pollution sources.
- 4.42 Vehicle emissions are estimated to have produced around two-thirds of all UK NO_x emissions in 2015 (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, 2017). The general trend over recent decades has been for atmospheric NO_x emission to decline due to a stricter regulatory system and emission-reduction technologies and projections are that UK atmospheric NO_x levels will continue to fall in this and subsequent decades (Wagner *et al.*, 2009; Misra *et al.* 2012). However, there are a number of factors which present uncertainties within any projection of future NO_x levels.

- 4.43 There is now evidence (IAQM, 2016) that NO_x emissions from road transport have not declined as expected since about 2011, in spite of regulatory frameworks and technological developments. Diesel vehicles, the primary source of NO_x, remain popular and sales have increased. In addition, it is now known that some emission-reduction products result in increases in the proportion of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) within NO_x exhaust emissions (IAQM, 2016).
- 4.44 Havant Borough Council, in association with other PufSH authorities, commissioned a full assessment of air quality issues across the PfSH area as a result of proposed development.
- 4.45 The PUSH Air Quality study (Ricardo, 2018) assesses baseline and future traffic-related pollution within the context of the proposed levels of growth on International sites within and beyond the study area. This takes into account strategic development locations and associated transport infrastructure which may have implications for air quality and apportions impacts to each local authority accordingly.
- 4.46 The study also considers potential mitigation measures or interventions required to mitigate the effects on air quality and evaluate their effectiveness in avoiding or reducing significant effects. This could be on an area-wide basis as a result of e.g. forecasts in modal shift; a rise in the use of electric and ultra-low emission cars; improving standards for cars/lorries/buses; and phasing out of older vehicles. In addition, there is an assessment of opportunities to avoid or reduce impacts through site-specific measures as part of development such as building design or landscaping and/or planning obligations to provide improved habitats within International sites.
- 4.47 Further to this, more detailed analysis has been undertaken at the local level to assess the potential impact of the specific proposals in the Havant Borough Local Plan (Ricardo, 2019).

Water Resources

- 4.48 The issue of water resources covers water quality in its broadest sense, encompassing water abstraction and supply as well as waste-water treatment and conveyancing and the effect of these on the wider water environment.
- 4.49 Impacts associated with water resources can include increased abstraction, pollution and changes in the composition and distribution of terrestrial and aquatic (freshwater and marine) ecological communities.
- 4.50 The potential impacts arising from water resources necessarily operate over broad geographic areas (catchments) and are best addressed in a strategic manner. Any strategic-level assessments should investigate the carrying capacity of the water environment and water resource infrastructure and their ability to accommodate the level and distribution of growth identified.
- 4.51 PfSH commissioned an Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS) to provide an update to the previous 2008 version. This investigates how water resources, water quality and the environment can be protected and improved across the PfSH area within the context of projected development. The IWMS takes a strategic approach to assess the constraints and requirements that will arise from the potential growth within the PfSH area on the water environment. This includes a focus on ensuring that potential solutions can be identified to facilitate the envisaged level and broad distribution of growth, without adverse effects on the water environment and, where possible, enhancing it.

- 4.52 The study establishes a baseline level of information relating to the water environment and specifically address: the availability of water resources; existing wastewater infrastructure and infrastructure capacity; the environmental capacity (chemical and biological limits) of receiving waters (including watercourses and transitional and coastal water bodies); water quality; and ground water (including ground water quality).

Nutrient Neutrality

- 4.53 New development sites produce a source of nutrient input to the Solent marine environment via waste water and surface run-off. The area of Emsworth is served by the Thornham Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW) which discharges into Chichester Harbour. The remainder of the Havant Borough is served by the Budds Farm WwTWs near Langstone Harbour, although discharges directly into the Solent through a long shore outfall..
- 4.54 Natural England have issued advice⁵ to Local Planning Authorities in the Solent region on the issue of nutrient enrichment affecting important marine habitats. NE advice is that there is a direct causal link between the presence of nitrogen, and to a lesser extent phosphorous, in surface and ground waters entering the Solent and human activities such as agriculture and development. Nutrient-enriched waters entering the Solent are causing blooms of marine algae which smother intertidal habitats, displace marine vegetation and reduce dissolved oxygen. These factors result in impacts to the International sites and their qualifying habitats and species.
- 4.55 Natural England's advice arose from a recent judgement⁶ of the European Court of Justice which refined the definition of plans and projects which should be subject to HRA to include significantly more operations which have an impact on water quality, most notably runoff from agriculture.
- 4.56 As a result, it can only be concluded that new development within the Borough could increase nutrient inputs to the Solent above consented levels. The resulting nutrient enrichment would result in a likely significant effect on the Solent International sites.

⁵ <https://www.havant.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/SolentNutrientAdviceV2June2019.pdf>

⁶ Cooperatie Mobilisation for the Environment UA and College van gedeputeerde staten van NoordBrabant (Case C293/17 and C294/17)

5. Screening of the Havant Borough Local Plan

Background

- 5.1 This section considers the options presented within the Local Plan in order to achieve its stated purpose and, acknowledging that the plan is not necessary to International site management, states whether or not they are likely to have adverse effects on an International site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The screening exercise identifies those policies or proposals which may result in a 'likely significant effect' on an International site and which are therefore taken forward for further assessment. Any policies or proposals considered not to have an effect are 'screened out' of any further assessment.

Consideration of effects

- 5.2 All relevant policies and proposals being presented within the Local Plan have been screened for likely significant effects on the International sites in question. The potential impact pathways considered are those described in Chapter 4 above. In accordance with the *People over Wind* ruling, mitigating measures are not taken into account at this stage.
- 5.3 As with any strategic planning document there are a number of very broad policies which may either negatively or positively impact International sites in a generic manner or have no conceivable effect, as well as policies for specific sites for which impacts are more readily predictable.
- 5.4 The Local Plan contains sections of introductory or administrative text as well as broad statements on 'vision' (Chapters 1 and parts of Chapter 2). For the purposes of this screening assessment these are excluded (screened out) from the assessment as there is no conceivable effect that could result from them. The remaining policies and proposals are taken forward for screening.
- 5.5 The remaining policies and proposals within the Local Plan can be sorted into one of twelve screening categories, which are listed below in Table 7. These categories help to screen which, if any, elements of the Local Plan would be likely to have an effect on any qualifying feature of an International site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, directly or indirectly.
- 5.6 Any policies or proposals falling within categories A - H are deemed not to have an effect on an International site and can be screened out from further assessment. Those falling within categories I and L will certainly require further assessment as significant effects are likely either alone or in-combination. For policies or proposals falling into category J there may still be potential for in-combination effects whereas for category K there is no potential for impacts alone or in combination.
- 5.7 Table 8 illustrates the results of the HRA screening process (the Screening Matrix) for the policies and proposals detailed in the Local Plan, where the letter in each of the coloured cells corresponds to a category listed in Table 7. For each policy or proposal its potential for likely significant effect on each of the 16 designated sites is displayed as having no adverse effect (green shading) or the potential for an effect alone and/or in-combination (orange shading).

Table 7: HRA Screening categories (from The HRA Handbook, DTA Publications, 2015)

- A. General statements of policy/general aspirations
- B. Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals
- C. Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan
- D. Environmental protection/site safeguarding policies
- E. Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect International sites from adverse effects
- F. Policies or proposals that cannot lead to development or other change
- G. Policies or proposals that could not have any conceivable adverse effect on a site
- H. Policies or proposals the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects)
- I. Policies or proposals with a likely significant effect on a site alone
- J. Policies or proposals not likely to have a significant effect alone
- K. Policies or proposals not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination
- L. Policies or proposals likely to have a significant effect in combination

	Proposal will have no adverse effect on an International site.
	Proposal could have a potential effect on an International site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

- 5.8 A total of sixteen International sites have been included in the screening matrix: South Wight Maritime SAC has been excluded entirely as it is situated at a considerable distance from Havant Borough and it is considered that there is no reasonable likelihood of any effect.
- 5.9 Of the sixteen International sites taken forward for screening, for nine - Solent Maritime SAC, Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar, Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar and Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA - there is considered to be a widespread potential for likely significant effect alone and/or in combination.
- 5.10 The potential for likely significant effects stems primarily from these sites' proximity to possible future built development and the potential for impacts from habitat loss (direct or functional), nutrient enrichment (via airborne or waterborne pathways) and/or recreational disturbance.

- 5.11 Parts of the Solent Maritime SAC lie in close proximity to the M27/A27 corridor and therefore potentially within zones of increased atmospheric pollution arising from any increases or changes in vehicle movements. Any policy resulting in an increase in vehicular movements would contribute alone and in combination.
- 5.12 The newly-created Solent & Dorset Coast potential SPA is in close proximity to some housing sites and key sites. As this is essentially a marine designation for the protection of bird feeding areas it is policies and proposals which have a realistic prospect of resulting in impacts offshore (e.g. through the promotion of watersports, leading to disturbance or via changes to water quality, leading to impacts to foraging resources) that have been highlighted.
- 5.13 For the remaining seven International sites – Butser Hill SAC, New Forest SAC, Kingley Vale SAC, New Forest SPA and Ramsar and Pagham Harbour SPA and Ramsar – likely significant effects are considered to be unlikely due primarily to the distance between them and any potential impact pathways arising from the Local Plan. The initial screening exercise therefore assumes no impacts arising from individual proposals or policies and proposals alone or in combination.
- 5.14 Table 8 provides an initial high-level screening of each policy and proposal. For those policies and proposals with a potential likely significant effect, whilst Table 9 summarises the potential impact pathways and the International sites considered to be at risk of likely significant effect.
- 5.15 Following this, Chapter 6 discusses the range of potential impact pathways in greater detail, examining the mechanisms through which impacts may occur as a result on the Local Plan policies.

Table 8: Havant Borough Local Plan HRA Screening Matrix

Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
D1 – Delivery of Sustainable Development	I/L	G	G	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	I/L	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	G
D2 – Regeneration	I/L	G	G	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	I/L	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	G
KP1 - Havant Town Centre	I/L	G	G	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	I/L	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	G
KP2 – Waterlooville Town Centre	I/L	G	G	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	I/L	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	G
KP3 – Hayling Island	I/L	G	G	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	I/L	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	G
KP4 - Leigh Park District Centre	I/L	G	G	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	I/L	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	G
KP5 - Southleigh	I/L	G	G	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	I/L	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	G
KP6 – Langstone Technology Park	I/L	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G

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	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
KP7 – Dunsbury Park	I/L	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
KP8 – Havant & South Downs Colleges	I/L	G	G	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	I/L	G	I/L	I/L	I/L	G	G
KP9 – Havant Thicket Reservoir	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K
IN1 - Effective provision of Infrastructure	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
IN2 - Improving Transport Infrastructure	L	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
IN3 - Transport & Parking	L	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
IN4 – Accesses onto Classified Roads	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G

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Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
IN5 - Future Management and Management Plans	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
E1 – High Quality Design	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B
E2 - Health and Wellbeing	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B
E3 – Landscape & Settlement Boundaries	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E4 – Development on the Coast	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E5 - Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E
E6 – Best & Most Versatile	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

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	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
Agricultural Land																
E7 – Hermitage Stream	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E
E8 – Protection of Existing Open Space	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E9 – Provision of Public Open Space in New Development	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E10 - New and Extended Cemeteries	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
E11 - Sports and Recreation	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B
E12 - Efficient Use of Resources and Low Carbon	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B	A/B

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Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
Design																
E13 – Historic Environment & Heritage Assets	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E14 – The Local Ecological Network	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E
E15 – Protected Species	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E
E16 - Recreation Impact on the Solent European Sites	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E
EX1 - Water Quality impact on the Solent European Sites	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E

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	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
E17 – Solent Wader and Brent Goose (SWBG) Feeding and Roosting Sites	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E
E18 – Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E19 - Managing Flood Risk in New Development	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E20 – Drainage Infrastructure in New Development	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E21 – Aquifer Source Protection Zones	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E22 – Amenity	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

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	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
and Pollution																
E23 – Air Quality	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
E24 - Contamination	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
H1 – High Quality New Homes	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
H2 – Affordable Housing	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
H3 – Housing Density	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K
H4 – Housing Mix	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K
H5 – Retirement & Specialist Housing	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
H6 – Residential	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

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	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
Annexes																
H7 – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
C1 - Protection of Existing Employment Sites	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
C2 – Tourism	I/L	G	G	G	G	I/L	L	G	G	L	G	I/L	L	G	G	G
C3 - Cowplain District Centre	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
C4 - Emsworth District Centre	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
C5 - Mengham District Centre	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
C6 - Local Centres, Local Shops and Services	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G

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Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
C7 - Protection of Existing Community Facilities and Shops	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
C8 - Food, Drink and Entertainment Uses	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
EXX – Warblington Farm	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
H8 - Land North of Long Copse Lane	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H10 - Land West of Coldharbour Farm	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H11 - North Street Gas	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G

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Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
Site																
H12 - Former Victoria Cottage Hospital	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H13 - Land at Fowley Cottage	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
HX - Land rear of 15-27 Horndean Road	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
C9 – Interbridges West	L	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
E25 - Broadmarsh Brent Goose and Wader Refuge	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E	D/E
H14 - Forty	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G

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Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
Acres																
H15 - Land East of Castle Avenue	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H17 - Portsmouth Water Headquarters	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H18 – Camp Field, Bartons Road	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H19 – Havant Garden Centre	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H20 - Land south of Lower Road	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H22 - Littlepark House	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H23 - Southleigh	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G

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Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
Park House																
H24 - Land at Palk Road	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H25- Helmsley House	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H26 – 9 East Street	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
C10 – Brockhampton West	I/L	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
H27 – Rook Farm	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H28 - Fathoms Reach	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H29 – Land North of Sinah Lane	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H31 - Manor	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G

Table 8: Havant Borough Local Plan HRA Screening Matrix

Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
Nurseries																
H32 - Pullingers, Elm Grove	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H33 - Rear of 13-21 Mengham Road	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H34 - Cabbagefield Row	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H35 - The Former Colt Site	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H36 - Former SSE Offices, Bartons Road	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H37 – Land at Dunsbury Way	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H38 – Land at	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G

Table 8: Havant Borough Local Plan HRA Screening Matrix

Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
Riders Lane																
H39 - Strouden Court	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
C11 – Land at Hulbert Road	I/L	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
H40 - Campdown	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H42 - Blue Star	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H43 – Goodwillies Timber Yard	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H44 - Padnell Grange	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
H46 - Land at Waterloooville Golf Club	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G

Table 8: Havant Borough Local Plan HRA Screening Matrix

Policy or Proposal	Designated Site															
	SM SAC	NF SAC	BH SAC	KV SAC	SIOWL SAC	CLH SPA	Port H SPA	SSW SPA	NF SPA	SDC SPA	Pag H SPA	CLH Ramsar	Port H Ramsar	SSW Ramsar	NF Ramsar	Pag H Ramsar
H47 – Land North of Highbank Avenue	I/L	G	G	G	L	I/L	I/L	L	G	L	G	I/L	I/L	L	G	G
C12 - Former BAE Systems Park	I/L	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
D1 – Delivery of Sustainable Development	General policy detailing commitment to deliver residential and commercial development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
D2 – Regeneration	General policy detailing commitment to regenerate key areas across the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
KP1 - Havant Town Centre	Town centre regeneration with residential housing element of up to 750 dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts

Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
KP2 – Waterlooville Town Centre	Town centre regeneration with residential housing element of up to 600 dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
KP3 – Hayling Island	Seafront regeneration, comprising commercial, leisure and housing elements of up to 195 dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Coastal squeeze • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
KP4 - Leigh Park District Centre	Regeneration with residential housing element of up to 75 dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
KP5 - Southleigh	c. 2100 new dwellings, community infrastructure, road improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
KP6 – Langstone Technology Park	Commercial development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality
KP7 – Dunsbury Park	Large new commercial development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality
KP8 – Havant & South Downs Colleges	Educational redevelopment with residential element of up to 115 dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
IN2 - Improving Transport Infrastructure	General policy relating to Borough-wide strategic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
	transport infrastructure			
IN3 - Transport & Parking	General policy relating to Borough-wide parking and transport provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality
C2 – Tourism	Broad policy commitment to enhance tourism opportunities across Borough, notably at coast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA • Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources
C3 – Cowplain District Centre	Regeneration with residential housing element (unspecified).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
C4 - Emsworth District Centre	Regeneration with residential housing element (unspecified).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
C5 - Mengham District Centre	Regeneration with residential housing element (unspecified).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H8 - Land North of Long Copse Lane	Residential development of up to 260 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H10 - Land West of Coldharbour Farm	Residential development of up to 53 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
H11 - North Street Gas Site	c. 15 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H12 - Former Victoria Cottage Hospital	Residential development of up to 15 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H13 - Land at Fowley Cottage	Residential development of up to 7 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts

Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
HX - Land rear of 15-27 Horndean Road	Residential development of up to 16 dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
C9 – Interbridges West	Commercial redevelopment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality
H14 - Forty Acres	Residential development of up to 320 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA • Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar • Solent & Southampton Water SPA • Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality
H15 - Land East of Castle Avenue	Residential development of up to 260 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA • Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar • Portsmouth Harbour SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/Ramsar Birds • SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational disturbance • Air Quality • Water Resources • Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
H17 - Portsmouth Water Headquarters	Residential development of up to 120 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H18 – Camp Field, Bartons Road	Residential development of up to 90 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H19 – Havant Garden Centre	Residential development of up to 50 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
H20 - Land south of Lower Road	Residential development of up to 50 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H22 - Littlepark House	Residential development of up to 45 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H23 - Southleigh Park House	Residential development of up to 35 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
H24 - Land at Palk Road	Residential development of up to 20 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H25- Helmsley House	Residential development of up to 15 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H26 – 9 East Street	Residential development of up to 11 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
C10 – Brockhampton West	Commercial development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality
H27 – Rook Farm	Residential development of up to 375 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H28 - Fathoms Reach	Residential development of up to 55 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H29 – Land North of Sinah Lane	Residential development of up to 195 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
H31 - Manor Nurseries	Residential development of up to 15 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H32 - Pullingers, Elm Grove	Mixed development including up to 15 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H33 - Rear of 13-21 Mengham Road	Residential development of up to 7 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
H34 - Cabbagefield Row	Residential development of up to 115 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H35 - The Former Colt Site	Mixed development including up to 90 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H36 - Former SSE Offices, Bartons Road	Residential development of up to 90 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
H37 – Land at Dunsbury Way	Residential development of up to 70 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H38 – Land at Riders Lane	Mixed development including up to 65 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H39 - Strouden Court	Mixed development including up to 40 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
C11 – Land at Hulbert Road	Commercial redevelopment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality
H40 - Campdown	Mixed development including up to 560 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H42 - Blue Star	Residential development of up to 90 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H43 – Goodwillies Timber Yard	Residential development of up to 95 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
H44 - Padnell Grange	Residential development of up to 85 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H46 - Land at Waterlooville Golf Club	Residential development of up to 40 new dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality
H47 – Land North of Highbank Avenue	Residential development of up to 20 dwellings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar Portsmouth Harbour SPA Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Solent & Southampton Water SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds SAC Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational disturbance Air Quality Water Resources Nutrient Neutrality

Table 9: Havant Borough Local Plan Summary of Potential Impacts				
Policy or Proposal	Consequences	Designated Sites affected	Qualifying Feature affected	Impact Pathways
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA 		
C12 - Former BAE Systems Park	Commercial development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solent Maritime SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPA/Ramsar Birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality

6. Commentary on Effects

- 6.1 The purpose of the HRA initial screening stage in the preceding chapter is to identify any proposals with *potential* to lead to a likely significant effect at an International site. This section provides commentary on the range of potential impacts identified through screening. For some impacts (e.g. direct/indirect habitat loss) the effects are discussed in more detail (as impacts are more predictable), whereas for others (e.g. air quality, water resources) the potential effects are viewed at a broader scale.
- 6.2 There are at present no firm proposals for the precise location or type of development at any of the sites presented in the Local Plan, although broad parameters for housing or commercial space quanta are given. The discussion of potential impacts is therefore necessarily generic in nature. However, in line with best practice in HRA, it is still possible to address potential impacts in a meaningful way e.g. whilst the exact location, mix or density of housing at a site is unknown, the broad effects of housing at the site can be reasonably predicted.

Habitat Loss

- 6.3 As noted above, the majority of the policies and sites within the Local Plan would result in no direct habitat loss within the boundaries of any International site. There may be locations where, for example, sea defence works may require time-limited operations at the boundaries of an International site or where development may result in impacts such as trampling to protected vegetation (e.g. within the Solent Maritime SAC) and any such proposal would require an appropriate level of assessment to be provided in advance of works as well as suitable mitigation measures.
- 6.4 The only policy with identifiable potential to result in direct habitat loss within an International site is Policy KP3 Hayling Island, where the Northney Marina element (redevelopment of the marina facilities) may necessitate works to sea defences within Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar and Solent Maritime SAC and works may result in incidental impacts to intertidal/marine habitats.
- 6.5 Examination of the existing coastal defences surrounding Northney Marina (using aerial mapping, and Natural England and HBIC habitat datasets) reveals that the sea wall and immediate intertidal areas support three qualifying habitats of the Solent Maritime SAC: 'Annual Vegetation of Drift Lines', 'Atlantic salt meadows' and 'Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide'. The habitat mapping resolution in this location does not allow the extent of each habitat within the potential area of impact (i.e. part of the existing defences) to be quantified. In addition, as the Local Plan contains no detailed site-specific proposals for sea defence works at Northney Marina (if they are indeed ultimately necessary), and it is not therefore possible to state with any degree of certainty the extent or magnitude of impacts.
- 6.6 It is possible for impacts to International sites to occur through impacts to land outside their boundaries, or to result in functional loss due to time-limited or seasonal activities within their boundaries. Impacts to non-designated supporting habitat could occur either through direct habitat loss or through other impacts resulting in the functional loss of habitat. For bird

species in particular, their mobility presents difficulties in determining the extent of land necessary for the maintenance of populations at a favourable conservation status. Havant Borough, in common with other local authority areas in the wider Solent, contains areas of land outside designated sites which support SPA/Ramsar bird species seasonally. To include these areas within the permanent boundaries of the designated sites would place unreasonable constraints on activities which would otherwise be necessary e.g. land-use planning, agriculture, development, recreation. However, under the Habitats and Birds Directives such land is viewed as analogous to the designated site and therefore impacts need to be considered in the same light.

- 6.7 Certain activities facilitated by a plan, such as watersports, could result in functional habitat loss due to disturbance. Although disturbance impacts on the two SPAs within the borough is discussed in further detail below, the Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA is unusual in that it is designated solely for foraging tern species. Terns forage over open water and therefore it is only through water-based activities that disturbance could potentially occur.
- 6.8 A total of **nine** policies and proposals within the Local Plan are identified where impacts can be reasonably predicted (i.e. policy identifies a specific site with estimated quanta, density or type of development) that could result in either direct habitat loss or functional habitat loss. These sites are each situated within or in close proximity to SPA supporting habitat. A further two broader policies which may, when implemented, lead to impacts to supporting habitat for Chichester & Langstone Harbours and Portsmouth Harbour SPAs have also been included. Table 10 provides a summary of the potential impacts arising from these eleven policies and proposals on Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar and Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar.

Table 10: Policies and Proposals with potential to result in direct or functional habitat loss impacts to SPA/Ramsar supporting habitat		
Policy or Proposal	SWBGS Site	Details
KP3 Hayling Island	Northney Marina: H60B, H60J, H63, H64, H76, H77, H92 West Beach: H30 Eastoke: H105, C19	Northney Marina within close proximity to a number of Primary and Secondary Support Areas. Potential for construction and operational phase impacts. West Beach area sits within H30 Secondary Support Area. Proposals to develop new visitor facilities could result in direct habitat loss and construction and operational phase impacts. Eastoke area in close proximity to H105 Secondary Support Area and C19 Primary Support Area. Proposals to develop new visitor facilities could result in direct habitat loss and construction and operational phase impacts.
H3 Housing Density	Various	Broad policy setting out parameters for density of housing within developments. Could influence proximity of built development to supporting habitat and could influence magnitude of construction and operational impacts.
H4 Housing Mix	Various	Broad policy setting out parameters for mix of housing within developments. Could influence proximity of built development to supporting

		habitat and could influence magnitude of construction and operational impacts.
H14 Forty Acres	H04B, H04C	Direct loss within H04B Low Use site and H04C Secondary Support Area although parts of both sites would be retained if development avoids flood zones 2/3 and the gas pipeline route as set out in the allocation policy. Potential for construction and operational phase impacts.
H20 Land at Lower Road	H05A	Direct loss within H05A Low Use site.
H27 Rook Farm	H46B	Direct loss of H46B, a Core site that has supported over 1000 brent geese and regularly supports several hundred.
H28 Fathoms Reach	H45	Immediately adjacent to Site H46B, a Core site supporting very large numbers of brent geese. Potential for construction and operational phase impacts to H46B.
H29 Land North of Sinah Lane	H34C, H34D, H34E	Direct habitat loss within H34C Primary Support Area, although bulk of site retained. Potential for construction and operational phase impacts to adjacent H34D Low Use site and H34E Secondary Support Area.
H30 Land north of Tournbury Lane	H40A	Direct loss of part of H40A Secondary Support Area. Potential for construction and operational phase impacts to remainder of H40A.
H31 Manor Nurseries	H49H	Immediately adjacent to H49H Primary Support Area. Potential for construction and operational phase impacts.
H40 Campdown	H02A, H02B, H106, H113, H125.	Direct loss of H02A Primary Support Area, H125 Secondary Support Area and H113 Low Use site. Potential for construction and operational phase impacts to H02B Low Use site and H106 Secondary Support Area.

- 6.9 Each of the policies and proposals listed above would, if implemented, result in the loss of SPA supporting habitat, either through direct habitat loss or functional habitat loss. Impacts to supporting habitat will result in the displacement of qualifying species and therefore would be highly likely to undermine the conservation objectives of the SPAs.
- 6.10 For the Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA, Policy KP3 Hayling Island could result in functional loss from disturbance caused by increases in the frequency, duration or distribution of water-based activities. Although the Local Plan contains no firm proposals or recommendations for new water-based activities, the West Beach element of KP3 suggests that there is an '*opportunity to provide high quality facilities for a range of users including water sports*'. Any new water sports facilities here, or elsewhere along the Hayling seafront, could potentially result in increases in the number and distribution of water-based sports activities. This could potentially deter tern species from feeding offshore.

Recreational Disturbance

- 6.11 Development can increase the recreational use of the coast, which has the potential to cause detrimental impacts on important bird assemblages as well as damage and disturbance to habitats. With respect to birds, this is essentially analogous to impacts from habitat loss as recreation can cause important habitat to be unavailable for use by birds (the habitat is effectively lost, either permanently or for a defined period, such that negative effects are caused). Birds can be disturbed by human recreational activities and use valuable resources in finding suitable areas in which to rest and feed undisturbed.
- 6.12 The intertidal mudflats and associated estuarine habitats of Chichester & Langstone Harbours and Portsmouth Harbour contain the primary feeding resource for the key bird species, although for some species (e.g. dark-bellied brent geese, some waders) terrestrial grasslands (including within developed areas) and arable farmland are important feeding/resting areas.
- 6.13 For the purposes of this HRA it is concluded that any net increase in residential development within 5.6km of the two SPAs as a result of the Local Plan would lead to a likely significant effect from recreational disturbance, in combination with other development taking place within the wider Solent area. The background evidence on which the 5.6km zone is based is presented within the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy.
- 6.14 Of the Local Plan policies containing a new housing element, only two - Policy H41 Woodcroft Farm and C3 Cowplain District Centre – lie outside the 5.6km zone. The remaining 53 policies with a housing element are therefore considered to result in an in-combination likely significant effect: this includes the broader policies H3 and H4 which although not containing a specified amount of development, nevertheless facilitate housing development within the 5.6km zone.

Air quality

- 6.15 Of the policies and proposals within the Local Plan, it is considered that a total of 62 (D1, D2, KP1-KP9, IN2, IN3, H3, H4, H8-H47, C2-C5, C9-C11) have potential to contribute towards a cumulative increase in atmospheric pollution by facilitating changes/increases in the location and frequency of vehicular movements.
- 6.16 The effects of air quality (primarily the deposition of nitrogenous materials) is most obvious on sensitive vegetation communities e.g. calcareous grasslands or heathland and therefore most concern has been focussed on impacts to those sites nearest main roads, such as Butser Hill SAC. It is reasonable to assume that any increase in vehicles within the Borough may result in increased traffic movements on the strategic road network, in this case the A3(M) corridor and A27.
- 6.17 The A3(M) is the main north-south route from the Borough and passes within a few tens of metres of Butser Hill SAC. The characteristic calcareous grassland habitats of the SAC are considered to be particularly sensitive to nitrogen deposition, acid deposition and ground-level ozone all of which could result in changes to soil chemistry and vegetation cover.

- 6.18 The A27 is the main east-west route through the Borough and passes within close proximity to parts of the Solent Maritime SAC, Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar and Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA. As with Butser Hill SAC, these sites support habitats which are sensitive to the effects of increased nitrogen deposition, acid deposition and ground-level ozone.
- 6.19 The assessment of air quality issues is complex and must take account of existing and future patterns of road use (itself a result of population rise and rise in car use from existing population), road type, vehicle type, fuel efficiency, weather and climate. In addition, until detailed designs for specific sites come forward the likely transport network requirements for serving new developments is unknown.
- 6.20 For the purposes of this HRA it is necessary to assume under the precautionary principal that there will be an increase in air quality issues within the Borough and therefore a significant effect is considered possible until further information is made available. A detailed analysis of potential air quality issues is provided within the separate Air Quality report Issue 3 (Ricardo, 2019) and summarised in Table 11.

Table 11: Summary of Screening of Potential Air Quality Issues	
International site	Summary of Potential Air Quality Issues
Butser Hill SAC	Potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition and Ammonia. Acid deposition and NOx screened out.
Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar	Potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition, Ammonia, Acid deposition and NOx.
Kingley Vale SAC	No potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition, Ammonia, Acid deposition and NOx.
Pagham Harbour SPA/Ramsar	No potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition, Ammonia, Acid deposition and NOx.
Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar	Potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition, Ammonia and NOx. Acid deposition screened out.
Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA	Potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition, Ammonia, Acid deposition and NOx.
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	No potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition, Ammonia, Acid deposition and NOx.
Solent Maritime SAC	Potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition, Ammonia, Acid deposition and NOx.
Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar	No potential for 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects from Nitrogen deposition, Ammonia, Acid deposition and NOx.

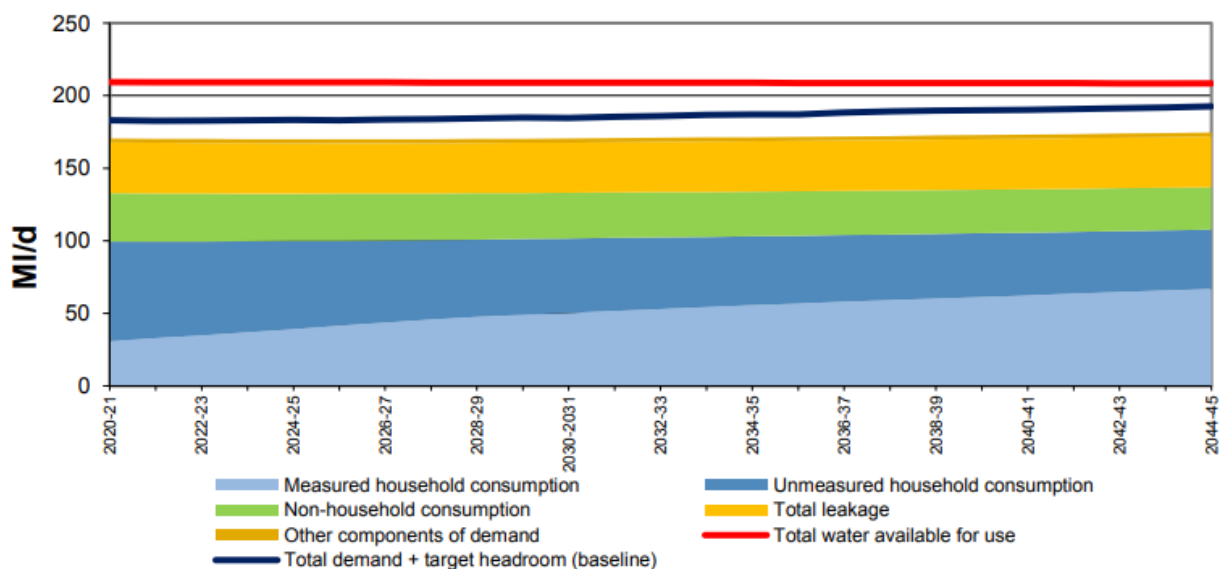
Coastal squeeze

- 6.21 Havant Borough has c.48km of coastal fringe, the vast majority of which is hard engineered to protect dwellings, industry and other infrastructure. Coastal protection has been set out in the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan which itself has been subject to HRA.
- 6.22 The Northney Marina element of Policy KP3 Hayling Island is the only policy which would potentially result in physical works to coastal defences, which in this location are within the Solent Maritime SAC and Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar.

- 6.23 No firm details for potential sea defence works at Northney Marina are available. It is therefore not possible to make any assumptions with respect to the extent to which (if at all) there will be any material change to the location or dimensions of future coastal defences. Therefore, it is assumed that, in accordance with the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, a 'hold-the-line' policy will persist, and no substantive changes will occur.

Water Resources

- 6.24 There will be an overall net increase in housing across the Borough as a result of the Local Plan. Residential uses are the primary driver for increasing water consumption and waste water production. Both mechanisms can lead to negative environmental effects on sensitive ecosystems.
- 6.25 Increased water abstraction could result in impacts to freshwater inputs to Chichester & Langstone Harbours and Portsmouth Harbour, affecting those two SPAs/Ramsar sites as well as Solent Maritime SAC and Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA. The groundwaters and springs used to provide water supplies in turn feed into various watercourses entering the harbours. Inputs of freshwater are important to coastal/marine habitats in maintaining salinity gradients and water circulation, as well as driving variations in vegetation communities such as saltmarsh. The composition and distribution of habitats in turn affects the availability of resources for bird species. It is considered that all Local Plan policies leading to or facilitating new housing and commercial development could potentially result in increased demand for water abstraction.
- 6.26 Within Havant Borough, all water resources are managed by Portsmouth Water. Water is abstracted from groundwater sources and springs at locations within the borough.
- 6.27 Portsmouth Water's Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019 (Portsmouth Water, 2017) states that there is currently a surplus of supply covering the entire Local Plan period and up to 2044, taking into account the projected growth in demand (arising in part from new development) and factors such as climate change (Figure 6). This demonstrates that, with the best-available evidence, there is no expected water supply deficit across and beyond the Local Plan period and therefore no impacts arising from water abstraction are expected.
- 6.28 Portsmouth Water, in maintaining a supply surplus, is able to operate a bulk supply relationship with Southern Water, providing water supplies to meet demand in other parts of the county and beyond. In recognition of the increasing demand elsewhere, Portsmouth Water is seeking to increase its capacity within Havant borough and its ability to continue to provide bulk supplies. The most effective method of achieving this is to construct a new winter storage reservoir at Havant Thicket.



**Figure 6: Portsmouth Water Baseline Supply/Demand Balance (Dry Year Annual Average)
Exc. Additional Bulk Supplies**

Nutrient Neutrality

6.29 Water quality can be significantly affected by increased levels of new residential and commercial development. Increases in both can place stress on existing drainage infrastructure and waste water treatment facilities. Increasing the flow of waste water to existing treatment facilities could result in increasing the nutrient load in effluent discharges (e.g. at outfalls) thereby decreasing water quality. Impacts to water quality can lead to negative effects on International sites such as increased eutrophication (nutrient enrichment) and algal blooms leading to oxygen depletion affecting aquatic organisms, as well as smothering of marine vegetation and muds.

6.30 All new housing and commercial development within the borough will require connections to existing drainage infrastructure. Within Havant borough, the bulk of existing drainage infrastructure enters the waste water treatment works (WwTW) at Budds Farm, with some capacity dealt with at Thornham WwTW. According to the PUSH Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS) (PUSH, 2018) *'the growth areas in the Havant Council area are predicted to drain to the Budds Farm Havant WwTW. The water quality assessments indicated that there are no significant constraints to prevent future housing growth in the Council's area, although the WwTW will potentially require capacity upgrades by 2036 and there is a risk of increased sewer network overflows, so improvements might be required. The catchment has nitrate problems and catchment level nitrate measures are required now. To address the uncertainty relating to catchment measures, it is recommended that Local Plans acknowledge the gaps in the evidence base and recognise it will be necessary to respond to emerging evidence to determine whether housing development in later stages of the plan period would require mitigation'*.

6.31 The capacity of the WwTW at Thornham has been assessed as part of the Chichester District Water Quality Assessment (Chichester District Council, August 2018), taking into

account planned development within the parts of Havant borough served by this facility. This study concludes that there is sufficient capacity at present but recommends a requirement for catchment-scale measures to address nitrate pollution, and that upgrades are likely required by 2025.

- 6.32 Conversely, the Environment Agency (EA) have issued a technical note regarding the issue of nitrates in the Solent (Environment Agency, 2019). The EA has confirmed that no further upgrade of the Solent WwTWs is required. The technical note states that that *'no further investment is needed to treat wastewater to a tighter nitrogen limit for any of the treatment works in the Solent area'* and *'Where new development can be accommodated within the current water discharge activity permit limits of individual Wastewater Treatment Works, i.e. that there is capacity to take the extra wastewater flows from new development whilst still treating effluent to the same standard, then we consider the development would be acceptable'*.
- 6.33 In light of recent Natural England advice to the Solent planning authorities, it is concluded that any new housing within the borough has the potential to result in a likely significant effect on International sites as a result of increased nutrient inputs. NE have advised that the in-combination effects of increased nutrients have the potential to impact the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar, Solent & Dorset Coast SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar and Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar. Natural England have advised that all new development will need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality if impacts to these International sites is to be avoided.
- 6.34 A report has been commissioned to investigate the issue of nutrient neutrality. This work looks specifically at source-pathway-receptor elements and assessing the significance of any potential effects on the International sites. In addition, due to the situation with respect to WwTW capacity is therefore somewhat unclear at present and an assessment is being carried out on the capacity of WwTWs and will form an addendum to the 2018 PUSH Integrated Water Management Study.
- 6.35 Current assessment concludes that the WwTW at Budd's Farm does not exceed capacity within the Local Plan timeframe. This is based on calculations of a housing occupancy rate of 2.5 persons/household. This is in line with current Natural England calculations. The forthcoming IWMS addendum will provide further clarity on this issue.
- 6.36 In terms of potential impacts to individual International sites, ongoing assessment by Havant Borough Council has identified the a number of impact pathways. For the purposes of this assessment it is assumed that there is sufficient exchange for cumulative impacts to occur between international sites.

Conclusions of Screening

- 6.37 A total of 55 policies and proposals within the Local Plan are considered to have the potential to result in likely significant effect on an International site either alone or in-combination. Details of these are shown in Table 12.
- 6.38 Eight policies and proposals are considered to have potential to result in either direct habitat loss impacts or functional habitat loss impacts to Solent Maritime SAC, Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar or Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA.
- 6.39 47 policies and proposals are considered to have potential for recreational disturbance impacts to Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar or Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar.
- 6.40 55 policies and proposals are considered to have the potential for in-combination impacts related to increases in atmospheric pollution on Solent Maritime SAC.
- 6.41 One policy is considered to have potential for increasing the potential impacts of coastal squeeze on Solent Maritime SAC and Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar.
- 6.42 46 policies and proposals are considered to have potential to result in in-combination impacts relating to water resources/nutrient neutrality on Solent Maritime SAC, Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar, Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA or Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar.

Table 12: Summary of HRA Screening			
Impact Pathway	Policy or Proposal	Total	Designated site(s)
Habitat Loss	KP3, C2, H13, H14, H20, H27, H29, H40	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar • Portsmouth Water SPA/Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA
Recreational disturbance	D1, D2, KP1-KP5, KP8, C2, C4, C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H29, H31-H40, H42-H47	47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar • Portsmouth Water SPA/Ramsar
Air quality	D1, D2, KP1-KP5, KP8, C2-C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H29, H31-H40, H42-H47	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC
Coastal squeeze	KP3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar • Portsmouth Water SPA/Ramsar

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA
Water resources/ Nutrient Neutrality	D1, D2, KP1-KP5, KP8, C4, C5, H8, H10-H15, H17-H20, H22-H29, H31-H40, H42-H47	46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar • Portsmouth Water SPA/Ramsar • Solent & Dorset Coasts SPA • Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar

7. Appropriate Assessment & Integrity Test

- 7.1 Having carried out a screening assessment of the Local Plan, it is the Council's view that without mitigating measures a total of 55 policies and proposals within the Local Plan may lead to likely significant effects, either alone and in-combination with other plans or projects, in relation to seven of the International sites within the scope of the study.
- 7.2 It is concluded that the Local Plan will require appropriate assessment in order to test the plan for its effects on International site integrity. Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive states that a plan may only be agreed '*...after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.*'
- 7.3 Table 13 provides a summary of the mitigation measures considered necessary in order to avoid impacts to site integrity, and the policies within the Local Plan which will ensure the delivery of such measures.
- 7.4 Following this, further details are given of the proposed mitigation measures embedded within the Local Plan and which have been used to undertake the assessment of impacts to site integrity. Table 13 summarises these mitigation measures.

Table 13: Proposed Mitigation Measures			
Impact Pathway	Mitigation Measures	Policy	Impact to Site Integrity?
Habitat Loss	<p>Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy (including the Guidance on Mitigation and Off-setting Requirements) – strategic measures to assess and mitigate impacts to SPA supporting habitat.</p> <p>No development permitted unless impacts assessed and appropriate mitigation strategy, based on accepted mitigation framework, secured.</p> <p>Commitment to establishing permanent SPA bird refuges within the borough.</p>	<p>EX2 Warblington Farm</p> <p>E14 The Local Ecological Network</p> <p>E16 Recreation impact on the Solent European Sites</p> <p>E17 Solent Wader and Brent Goose feeding and roosting sites</p> <p>KP3 Hayling Island</p> <p>E25 Broadmarsh Brent Goose and Wader Refuge</p>	NO

Recreational disturbance	<p>Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy – strategic measures to address impacts to qualifying bird species within SPA boundaries.</p> <p>All new residential development within 5.6km of Solent SPAs subject to agreed financial contribution, secured by Local Planning Authority. Payments fund Solent-wide mitigation measures.</p> <p>All new development with potential to impact Solent SPAs must be accompanied by ecological assessment and, where required, detailed mitigation measures.</p>	<p>EX2 Warblington Farm</p> <p>E14 The Local Ecological Network</p> <p>E16 Recreation impact on the Solent European Sites</p> <p>E17 Solent Wader and Brent Goose feeding and roosting sites</p> <p>E25 Broadmarsh Brent Goose and Wader Refuge</p>	NO
Air quality	<p>Commitment to Joint Working to develop a Nutrient Management Plan with Portsmouth City Council.</p>	<p>E14 The Local Ecological Network</p> <p>E23 Air Quality</p>	NO
Coastal squeeze	<p>Adherence to principles of North Solent Shoreline Management Plan.</p> <p>All development at the coast must be accompanied by an appropriate level of ecological assessment.</p>	<p>E4 Development on the Coast</p> <p>KP3 Hayling Island</p> <p>E14 The Local Ecological Network</p>	NO
Water resources/ Nutrient Neutrality	<p>Adoption of recommendations of PUSH IWMS.</p> <p>Policy requirements for all new development to ensure protection of surface waters and groundwater sources and to ensure appropriate treatment of surface waters and drainage, incorporating SuDS wherever appropriate.</p>	<p>KP9 Havant Thicket Reservoir</p> <p>EX1 Water Quality impact on the Solent European Sites</p> <p>EX2 Warblington Farm</p> <p>E21 Aquifer Source Protection Zones</p> <p>E20 Drainage Infrastructure in New Development</p> <p>IN1 Effective Provision of Infrastructure</p> <p>E1 High Quality Design</p>	NO

Habitat Loss

- 7.5 The screening exercise demonstrated that the only policy with potential to result in direct land take *within* an International site is Policy KP3 Hayling Island, where the Northey Marina element could result in works affecting the Solent Maritime SAC and Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar entailing damage to qualifying habitats and the species dependent on them. Any proposal here could require physical works to existing sea defences which lie within the SAC and SPA/Ramsar. Physical works would be likely to entail damage to SAC habitats on and adjacent to the sea defences, which in turn could damage habitats upon which SPA bird species depend. The extent of potential impacts is not quantifiable at this stage.
- 7.6 The Local Plan contains several policies which ensure that, prior to any development-related works taking place that have the potential to result in impacts (direct or indirect) to the qualifying features of any International site, ecological assessment is carried out and the potential risks to the site are assessed.
- 7.7 Policy KP3 itself contains an explicit requirement for any proposal at Northney Marina to include a site-specific Habitats Regulations Assessment. The policy states:
- *'A project level Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) will need to be carried out and inform any package of avoidance and mitigation measures in line with Policy E17'.*
 - *'Coastal defences are appropriately designed and avoid the use of hard engineering if possible, having regard to the European environmental designations surrounding the site'.*
- 7.8 Policy E14 The Local Ecological Network ensures that development *'which has the potential to have an impact on an international nature conservation designation will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment and, if necessary, an Appropriate Assessment, to determine the potential for likely significant effects. Development that is likely to have an adverse effect, either alone or in combination with another project/plan, on the integrity of an international site will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:*
- a. Necessary avoidance or mitigation is secured such that in combination with other development there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the designated sites;*
or
 - b. There are no alternative sites for the proposal, there are reasons of overriding public benefit/interest and compensatory provision is secured.*
- 7.9 It is concluded that Policy E14 alone would provide sufficient assurance that no development could conceivably take place that would potentially affect an International site without first ensuring that any impacts are understood, and an appropriate level of mitigation is secured, such that impacts to site integrity are avoided. With the addition of the explicit wording in Policy KP3 this is considered to provide secure policy-level protection for International sites within the borough.
- 7.10 Policy E16 Recreation impact on the Solent European Sites also ensures that potential impacts to International sites are assessed and, where impacts are considered likely, avoidance and mitigation measures are secured prior to development occurring.

Impacts to Supporting Habitat

The Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS)

- 7.11 In recognition of the potential conflicts between human activities (particularly built development and recreation) in and around the Solent coastal plain and the distribution and population status of various migratory bird species, the SWBGS was initiated approximately 15 years ago. The purpose of the strategy is '*to inform decisions relating to strategic planning as well as individual development proposals, to ensure that sufficient feeding and roosting resources continue to be available and the integrity of the network of sites is restored and maintained, in order to ensure the survival of these coastal bird populations*' (SWBGS, 2010). The SWBGS has been instrumental in raising awareness of and providing a consistent approach towards the consideration of SPA/Ramsar supporting habitat throughout the wider Solent area.
- 7.12 The SWBGS provides a framework for identifying sites lying outside the physical boundaries of SPA/Ramsar sites but which are, or may be, used by bird species associated with the International sites. Such sites are termed Functionally Linked Land⁷. These sites serve a function to the species (e.g. by providing feeding or resting opportunities) and are considered to be functionally linked to the designated site(s) due to their potential for providing an important role in maintaining populations of the species at a favourable conservation status. SPA/Ramsar species may spend a significant proportion of their time feeding or resting within such non-designated areas.
- 7.13 Under the current SWBGS system, each SWBGS site should be subject to sufficient survey effort (counting birds) to enable its importance to be determined with the ultimate aim of identifying a coherent network of sites across the wider Solent area, comprising important sites plus others which provide secondary/additional habitat.
- 7.14 The SWBGS has recently undergone a phase of comprehensive revision with the aim of reducing uncertainty over the status of birds on numerous sites and providing a robust steer on which sites are most valuable to maintaining a coherent network across the Solent and the level of evidence necessary for assessing impacts.
- 7.15 The new phase of the SWBGS has, during the period 2016-2018, focussed on identifying the key network of sites across the eastern Solent through a series of surveys investigating site use and bird movements. This has provided new data on the condition and use of individual sites as well as analysis of the functional links between sites. Analysis of survey data has allowed a new site classification methodology to be developed with a strong emphasis on protecting key network sites.
- 7.16 This new classification methodology is reflected in Policy E17 Solent Wader and Brent Goose Feeding and Roosting Sites. Sites have been grouped into Core Sites, Primary Support Areas, Secondary Support Areas and Low Use and Candidate Sites. The guiding principle of this policy is that any development with the potential to impact a SWBGS site must be accompanied by sufficient evidence to assess that impact and then must provide the

⁷ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6087702630891520>

requisite level of mitigation. This does not necessarily mean that new field data are required before impacts can be assessed, but rather that the new site classification system (which is informed by recent detailed survey effort as well as existing data) is used as the basis on which to inform mitigation measures. These measures could range from a like-for-like replacement habitat to a commuted sum to fund off-site mitigation. It is considered that there are some sites of such importance that adequate mitigation is likely to be unachievable under any circumstances, although the Council (alongside Natural England) will approach proposals on or near such sites on a case-by-case basis.

- 7.17 The SWBGS is the most up-to-date mechanism for assessing the potential impacts on supporting habitat and now includes detailed information on mitigation measures required to avoid, reduce or compensate any impacts arising from development activities. The SWBGS has been adopted and implemented by all Solent planning authorities.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Supporting Habitat

- 7.18 In conjunction with an expert Steering Group comprising Natural England, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIOWWT), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP) and Hampshire County Council (HCC), Havant Brough Council has been involved in the development of a framework of strategic mitigation measures for impacts to SPA/Ramsar supporting habitat. Given the landscape-scale of the issue of terrestrial supporting habitat, a strategic Solent-wide mitigation solution is considered to be the most desirable mechanism for ensuring that functionally-linked land is addressed appropriately through the planning system.
- 7.19 The SWBGS Guidance on Mitigation and Off-setting Requirements (SWBGS Steering Group, October 2018) provides a tiered framework of mitigation requirements, linked to the status of each SWBGS site. For each level of site, specific costed mitigation requirements are provided. It is the view of the Steering Committee that by applying these mitigation requirements, impacts to supporting habitat can be effectively mitigated such that the conservation objectives of the Solent SPAs are not compromised.
- 7.20 Table 14 summarises the mitigation requirements for each level of SWBGS site.

Table 14: Mitigation Requirements for Impacts to SPA Supporting Habitat	
SWBGS Site Status	Summary of Expected Mitigation Requirements
Candidate	Additional surveys required to confirm status. When status resolved, apply appropriate mitigation package.
Low Use	On-site mitigation preferred option. If not feasible, financial contribution secured towards protection/maintenance of wider SWBGS network.
Secondary	On-site mitigation preferred option. If not feasible, financial contribution secured towards protection/maintenance of wider SWBGS network, ideally within similar geographic location.
Primary	Applications addressed on case-by-case basis through Local Plan. On-site mitigation preferred option. If not feasible, alternative land providing same or increased function within similar geographic location. Financial contribution secured for long-term lease and management by appropriate body.
Core	Presumption that impacts are avoided. Applications addressed on case-by-case basis through Local Plan. Mitigation as per Primary plus at least same

	extent and function of replacement land in similar geographic location plus long-term management lease and suitable management by appropriate body.
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- 7.21 Havant Borough Council is fully committed to implementing the SWBGS and associated mitigation framework. Local Plan Policy E17 Solent Wader and Brent Goose Feeding and Roosting Sites reflects this framework and embeds a system of explicit mitigation requirements for any development affecting SPA supporting habitat. In conjunction with Policies E14 The Local Ecological Network and E16 Solent Special Protection Areas, all development proposals in the borough potentially affecting SPA supporting habitat must be accompanied by an appropriate level of ecological assessment, a Habitats Regulations Assessment and a deliverable package of mitigation measures sufficient to address the impacts. Development not meeting these requirements will be refused.
- 7.22 On this basis (i.e. the combination of a borough-wide strategic mitigation mechanism and site-specific requirements for detailed assessment to demonstrate no likely significant effect) it is considered that the Local Plan could not result in impacts to the integrity of Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar or Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar.

Bird Refuges

- 7.23 A developing initiative of the SWBGS is the provision of permanent refuge sites for overwintering birds. These would primarily be inland sites for brent geese but would also provide suitable habitat for some wader species depending on their location.
- 7.24 The provision of permanent refuges throughout the Solent region is seen as a desirable and achievable outcome. As much of the existing supporting habitat lies within agricultural land the location and suitability of supporting habitat is dependent to a large degree on the vagaries of crop rotation practices. This could theoretically mean that in any given year there may be no or a minimal amount of supporting habitat available. The establishment of refuges could ensure that suitable habitat is available on a permanent basis every year, contributing towards the favourable conservation status of qualifying species.
- 7.25 Research is ongoing into the provision of permanent bird refuges. It is apparent from early analysis that sites likely to prove most suitable for refuges are large, close to coastal habitat, contain improved grassland or winter cereals, and are generally free from significant disturbance (this may be facilitated by secure fencing).
- 7.26 The Council has been awarded funding from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to take forward the Bird Refuge initiative and investigate the viability of a permanent refuge on Hayling Island.
- 7.27 Local Plan Policies E25 Broadmarsh Brent Goose and Wader Refuge and EX2 Warblington Farm provide details on the Council's intention to establish permanent bird refuges in these locations. Refuges will be developed, where feasible, in accordance with the requirements of the SWBGS mitigation guidance.
- 7.28 It is considered that through Policies E25 Broadmarsh Brent Goose and Wader Refuge and EX2 Warblington Farm the Council is demonstrating its commitment to a long-term strategic

approach to the protection of supporting habitat across the borough. The establishment of permanent bird refuges will be integral to the future protection of SPA supporting habitat and the maintenance of the qualifying species at favourable conservation status.

Recreational Disturbance

- 7.29 A total of 47 policies or proposals have potential to contribute towards a cumulative increase in recreational disturbance, either directly (by facilitating a certain quanta of residential development) or indirectly (by facilitating changes/increases in the scale, location or type of recreational activity).
- 7.30 As with impacts to SPA supporting habitat, Solent planning authorities have approached the issue of recreational disturbance in a strategic manner.

The Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (SRMS)

- 7.31 Research into the impact of recreation on birds was carried out on a Solent-wide scale under the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP): this research concluded that there is an overall likely significant effect on SPA/Ramsar sites due to recreational disturbance arising from development. The research was taken forward through the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) Interim Strategy 2014. In December 2017 a definitive strategy, the SRMS⁸, was published and adopted by the Solent authorities, including Havant Borough Council.
- 7.32 The SRMS includes detailed mitigation measures to address the identified impacts arising from recreational disturbance. Mitigation measures comprise: a ranger team; communications, marketing and education initiatives; initiatives to encourage responsible dog walking; codes of conduct; new/enhanced strategic greenspaces; site-specific visitor management and bird refuge projects; and monitoring.
- 7.33 The SRMS takes full account of planned development as detailed within the PUSH Spatial Position Statement, which the Havant Borough Local Plan builds on from.
- 7.34 As part of the SRMS, a financial levy is generally provided for each new dwelling situated within 5.6km of the Solent SPAs⁹. This levy then funds the mitigation measures. The SRMS has seen an increase in the amount of financial contribution expected for development sites in order to fund a more comprehensive mitigation package.
- 7.35 The SRMS is fully-supported by Natural England and is considered by them to provide sufficient mitigation to offset the bulk of recreational pressure from new development within the Borough. There may be situations however where on-site mitigation, in addition to the SRMS mitigation, is deemed necessary due to the scale or location of development. It is expected that any increase in dwellings in the Borough over the lifetime of the Local Plan will continue to contribute towards the SRMS and thus any recreational impacts are mitigated. However, the Local Planning Authority will continue to assess whether additional on-site or off-site mitigation measures are needed in addition to SRMS contributions in consultation with Natural England.

⁸ <http://www.birdaware.org/strategy>

⁹ Portsmouth Harbour SPA, Chichester & Langstone Harbour SPA and Solent and Southampton Water SPA.

- 7.36 Havant Borough Council is committed to implementing the SRMS. Local Plan E16 Solent Special Protection Areas explicitly details how the Council expects all new residential development (including conversions, changes of use and permitted development) within 5.6km of the Solent SPAs to provide either financial contributions consistent with the SRMS or to provide a site-specific, developer-funded mitigation package to mitigate the identified impacts such that any likely significant effect on the SPAs is avoided. The Council will produce a Habitats Regulations Assessment setting out why it considers that a likely significant effect is avoided.
- 7.37 Policy E14 The Local Ecological Network details that all new development must determine whether it would have a likely significant effect on an International site and, where an effect is considered likely, must be accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment including mitigation measures sufficient to avoid that effect.
- 7.38 It is concluded that through a combination of Policies E14, E16 and E17 and the Local Plan would embed the requirement for detailed assessment of impacts and a deliverable mitigation package to ensure no likely significant effect. On that basis the Local Plan could not result in impacts to International site integrity through increases in recreational disturbance.

Air Quality

- 7.39 A detailed analysis of the potential effects of air quality issues on International site integrity is provided within the separate Air Quality report Issue 3 (Ricardo, 2019). This analysis builds on the initial screening assessment and includes site-specific assessment of the potential effects of air pollutants on the individual qualifying features of each International site.
- 7.40 This detailed analysis concludes that for all but one qualifying feature of one International site, the predicted 'alone' and 'in-combination' effects will not result in impacts affecting International site integrity.
- 7.41 For Solent Maritime SAC there remains a potential impact to one qualifying habitat – Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks (PVSB) – due to a likely cumulative exceedance of Nitrogen deposition. The effects of increased nitrogen deposition are considered likely to result in changes to vegetation composition resulting from competition from vigorous plant species. Given the relatively restricted distribution of PVSB (essentially a narrow fringe of vegetated coastal shingle habitat) it is considered sensitive to encroachment from coarser vegetation types.
- 7.42 The Air Quality report concludes that *'In order to address the adverse effect of nitrogen deposition identified at Solent Maritime SAC to PVSB, it is advocated that a joint Nitrogen Action Plan is developed with Portsmouth City Council under the Duty to Co-Operate. Due to the fact that PVSB is not routinely inundated this would not need to consider nutrient inputs from water sources. The balance of this Nitrogen Action Plan and the measures and commitments made within it would reflect the relatively minor contribution from Havant compared to other neighbouring authorities'*.

- 7.43 *'Measures contained within the Nitrogen Action Plan could include targeted site management, where this is not currently taking place and would therefore qualify as a legitimate impact mitigation measure. In the case of PVSB this could involve monitoring of the extent of and sensitive corrective management of any rough grassland adjacent to/within the stands of PVSB to prevent its further encroachment. Corrective management could include careful cutting and removal of arisings of rough grasses so as to remove excess nitrogen from the sensitive habitats.'*
- 7.44 *'Whilst the exact details of a joint Nitrogen Action Plan would need to be determined and agreed with partners (neighbouring authorities), the mitigation contained therein should be targeted, effective, deliverable and be committed to by applicable parties so as to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Solent Maritime SAC. It is advocated that the Nitrogen Action Plan is based on other proven examples produced/approved by statutory nature conservation bodies such as Natural England.'*
- 7.45 Policy E14 The Local Ecological Network contains explicit wording addressing Havant Borough Council's commitment to addressing air quality issues in collaboration with neighbouring authorities:
- *'The Council will continue to work collaboratively with its PfSH partners to develop a strategic approach towards water quality and air quality.'*
 - *'As part of this, the Council is committed to developing a shared nutrient action plan for the Farlington area in partnership with Portsmouth City Council.'*
- 7.46 It is considered that the Local Plan contains a robust policy framework for ensuring that development would not result in air quality issues such that likely significant effects would occur to International sites. It is recognised that, through a commitment to joint working, further investigations and site-based monitoring are likely to be required so that impacts continue to be avoided.

Coastal Squeeze

- 7.47 Coastal protection in Havant Borough has been set out in the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan and seeks to promote a sustainable coastal defence scheme for managing coastal erosion and flood risk.
- 7.48 The default protection scenario across the borough is 'hold the line' as demonstrated within the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan and further detailed by the Eastoke Sectoral Strategy Study, the Portchester to Emsworth Strategy and the South Hayling Beach Management Strategy (East Solent Coastal Partnership, 2018). Holding the line will entail an ongoing programme of physical coastal defence improvements whilst maintaining the general 'line' of current defences.
- 7.49 For some locations in the borough such as South Moor, Warblington and Conigar Point, the 'hold the line' strategy will be implemented for the next twenty years. This will allow for the completion of detailed studies on the longer-term management options for these areas and for time to establish compensatory habitat. For these areas a move away from 'hold the line'

towards potential managed retreat options is being considered, but no firm details are available.

- 7.50 Of the policies within the Local Plan, Policy E4 Development on the Coast details how coastal development will be addressed, including new or modified coastal defences. The policy states that all development proposals on the coast must be consistent with the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan and any subsequent coastal strategies.
- 7.51 The Northney Marina element of Policy KP3 Hayling Island is the only site-based policy which could result in physical works to coastal defences, which in this location are within the Solent Maritime SAC and Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar. Policy KP3, in conjunction with E14, requires any development proposal to be accompanied by ecological assessment and mitigation measures sufficient to avoid any identified impacts to International site integrity.
- 7.52 It is considered that through the requirements of Policy E4, as well as the site-level requirement for adequate ecological assessment and mitigation in Policy E14, the Local Plan would not result in impacts to International site integrity arising from coastal squeeze.

Water Resources/Nutrient Neutrality

- 7.53 There will be an overall net increase in housing across the Borough as a result of the Local Plan. Residential uses are the primary driver for increasing water consumption and waste water production. Both mechanisms can lead to negative environmental effects on sensitive ecosystems.
- 7.54 Within Havant Borough, water supply is wholly within the remit of Portsmouth Water. Portsmouth Water's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) demonstrates that the borough's strategic supply demands can be accommodated fully, with a surplus, taking into account existing water abstraction licenses and as supplemented by the proposed Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir.
- 7.55 Policy KP9 Havant Thicket Reservoir, whilst not in itself leading to an identifiable reduction in water abstraction, will nevertheless provide for the development of the storage reservoir during the Local Plan period which, once operational, will provide a key piece of infrastructure required to meet the demand for increased water supply in the South East in the future.
- 7.56 In terms of water quality, work is ongoing to investigate the requirement for new or enhanced water treatment capacity within the borough through the PUSH Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS). In conjunction with Natural England and the Environment Agency, PfSH has identified that additional research is required in order for water quality issues to be addressed within the Local Plan period. Calculations completed by the PfSH group for the Integrated Water Management Strategy, concluded that the capacity of Budds Farm WwTW is sufficient for the Local Plan period based on an occupancy are of 2.5 persons/household: this is consistent with advice from Natural England. An amended IWMS is due to be published in 2020 and the Council is committed to implementing it fully.

- 7.57 The Local Plan contains a specific policy to address the issue of nutrient neutrality. Policy EX1 Water Quality impact on the Solent European Sites provides explicit expectations for all new development:
- 7.58 *'New dwellings and/or net gain in overnight accommodation which would cause a likely significant effect on the designated sites will need to provide a nutrient budget.*
- 7.59 *Planning permission will only then be granted if a mitigation package is provided which will remove the likely significant effect. This mitigation can be provided through either:*
- *A financial contribution towards the Council's strategic mitigation package; or*
 - *A developer provided package of measures associated with the proposed development supported by evidence that it will avoid or mitigate any likely significant effect on the Solent European Sites; or*
 - *A combination of measures in (a) and (b) above.*
- 7.60 *Where these measures cannot be provided development proposals will be refused, unless the applicant can show, subject to meeting the tests of the Habitats Regulations, that there would not be a likely significant effect on the Solent European Sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects'.*
- 7.61 It is considered that Policy EX1 and E12 provides a robust policy framework for ensuring that all new development with potential to result in increased nutrient inputs to the Solent International sites will only be permitted after adequate mitigation has been demonstrated.
- 7.62 The Local Plan has been subject to nutrient budget calculations in line with a methodology provided by Natural England. The calculations conclude that a total of 3500.9 Kg/Total Nitrogen/Yr will require mitigation within the Plan period.
- 7.63 Havant Borough Council proposes to mitigate this nutrient budget through the cessation of intensive agricultural use of a total of 60 hectares at Warblington Farm. The Local Plan nutrient budget also takes into account allocations within the plan which would be nutrient neutral or positive. Warblington Farm can currently provide 1872kg/N/Yr.
- 7.64 Within the Local Plan, Policy E21 Aquifer Source Protection Zones provides detailed requirements for all new development where impacts to groundwaters are considered likely. Development would only be permitted where appropriate investigations have identified the risk to groundwaters and a deliverable mitigation strategy is provided, including where relevant a Sustainable Drainage Scheme (SuDS). Applicants will be expected to take full account of Source Protection Zones and the Environment Agency and Portsmouth Water will be consulted on all developments within sensitive locations.
- 7.65 Alongside Policy E21, Policies IN1 Effective Provision of Infrastructure and E1 High Quality Design require all development to take full account of sensitive features such as surface waters and groundwaters and ensure that development does not result in impacts to such features.
- 7.66 Policy E20 Drainage Infrastructure in New Development provides robust requirements for surface water and sub-surface drainage management within development sites. This policy

ensures that drainage requirements are considered at the design stage and developed and implemented in accordance with recognised standards.

7.67 Policy E14 The Local Ecological Network contains explicit wording addressing Havant Borough Council's commitment to addressing water quality in collaboration with neighbouring authorities:

- *'The Council will continue to work collaboratively with its PfSH partners to develop a strategic approach towards water quality and air quality.'*
- *'As part of this, the Council is committed to developing a shared nutrient action plan for the Farlington area in partnership with Portsmouth City Council.'*

7.68 It is considered that the Local Plan contains a robust policy framework for ensuring that development would not result in water quality issues such that likely significant effects would occur to International sites. It is recognised that once the IWMS study is published in full, policy amendments may be required in order to embed any recommendations within the Local Plan so that, for the entire Plan period, impacts continue to be avoided. Havant Borough Council will continue to work collaboratively with its PfSH partners and Natural England on the issue of water quality.

8. Summary and Record of the HRA

- 8.1 Having carried out a screening assessment of the Local Plan, it is the Council's view that in its current form and in the absence of mitigating measures the plan may lead to likely significant effects, both alone and in-combination with other plans or projects, in relation to some of the International sites within the scope of the study.
- 8.2 The HRA screening exercise has concluded that a total of 55 policies and proposals have the potential to result in a likely significant effect, either alone or in-combination, on European designated sites.
- 8.3 These 55 policies and proposals were taken forward for further assessment to determine whether, after taking into account strategic and proposal-specific mitigation measures embedded within the Local Plan, there are residual impacts to International site integrity.
- 8.4 It is concluded that, through the application of plan-led strategic and proposal-specific mitigation measures, the Local Plan would not result in likely significant effects on the International sites within the Plan's zone of influence and that International site integrity would not be impacted as a result of the Plan.
- 8.5 The Council places a high level of confidence in the strategic-level ecological mitigation measures detailed within this assessment. These have been developed over many years with the cooperation of Natural England, local planning authorities and non-governmental organisations and are based on the best-available scientific knowledge, collected, analysed and interpreted using well-established methods alongside authoritative expert judgement.
- 8.6 Similarly, the Council places a high level of confidence in the proposal-specific safeguards afforded by the Local Plan policies. These will ensure that any development with the potential to impact an International site is not permitted until the impacts are fully assessed and an appropriate mitigation strategy secured.
- 8.7 The Council is fully committed to continued joint working with neighbouring local authority partners in order to address the cumulative impacts of air quality and water resources issues.

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APPENDIX 1 LOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL SITES WITHIN 10KM OF HAVANT BOROUGH