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Habitats Regulations Assessment for the New Community North of Fareham Plan

Screening Statement

March 2013

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List of Tables and Figures

Abbreviations

BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
DPD	Development Plan Document
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HWRC	Household Waste and Recycling Centre
NCNF	New Community North of Fareham
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDMP	Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SRTM	Sub Regional Transport Model
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WRMP	Water Resource Management Plan

Executive Summary

E1 Introduction

E1.1 Subsequent to adoption of Fareham borough's Core Strategy in August 2011, the Council is progressing with the preparation of an Area Action Plan for the New Community North of Fareham (NCNF), and is undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the plan. This HRA report presents a screening assessment of the main masterplanning options that were consulted on during summer 2012, and those arising during the development of the Draft Plan, to determine which should be subject to more detailed assessment during future stages of preparation of the NCNF Plan.

E1.2 HRA is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ('the Habitats Regulations'). The assessment focuses on the likely significant effects of the plan on the nature conservation interests of European-protected areas in and around Fareham borough, and seeks to establish whether or not there will be any adverse effects on the ecological integrity of these European sites as a result of proposals in the plan.

E2 Scope of the Assessment

E2.1 The assessment addresses the following European sites which can be found in and around Fareham borough. The list includes those sites which consultees

- Butser Hill Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- River Itchen (SAC)
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons (SAC)
- Solent Maritime (SAC)
- The New Forest (SAC)
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Portsmouth Harbour (SPA)
- Solent and Southampton Water (SPA)
- The New Forest (SPA)
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours (Ramsar)
- Portsmouth Harbour (Ramsar)
- Solent and Southampton Water (Ramsar)
- The New Forest (Ramsar)

E3 Findings

E3.1 The HRA shows that significant effects are considered a likely or uncertain outcome of one or more of the masterplanning options within each of the following themes:

- Site boundary
- Use of land in Winchester district
- Location of secondary school
- Quantum of housing
- Transport network
- Energy
- Retail floorspace
- Secondary school capacity/catchment
- Employment location
- Balance of public/private open space
- Use of Fareham Common

E3.2 The assessment shows that, of the 13 European sites considered, one (Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC) is not likely to be affected by the NCNF Plan. For three sites there is uncertainty at the present stage as to whether they could be significantly affected (Butser Hill SAC and New Forest SAC/Ramsar). All other sites are considered likely to be significantly affected by the NCNF Plan.

E3.3 The following aspects of the NCNF Plan are considered to be unlikely to significantly affect any European site:

- Number of local and district centres
- Community facilities
- Housing density
- Affordable housing mix
- Quantum of employment floorspace
- Smarter choices
- Water;
- Location of district centre
- Additional Development Principles
- Health
- Affordable housing
- Employment land use split
- Public transport
- Green infrastructure strategy
- Household waste & recycling centre;
- Use of land at Pinks Sawmills
- High Level Development Principles

E3.4 The Council will now undertake a detailed Appropriate Assessment of the NCNF Plan with specific reference to these areas, to determine the ways in which the sites may be adversely affected, and consider suitable avoidance and mitigation measures.

E4 Consultation Arrangements

E4.1 The findings of this report are open to consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency, RSPB, Hampshire Wildlife Trust and New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities. Comments are invited at any time between 29 April and 10 June 2013.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Subsequent to adoption of Fareham borough's Core Strategy in August 2011, the Council is preparing an Area Action Plan for the New Community North of Fareham (NCNF), and is undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the plan. Separate reports present the Sustainability Appraisal. This HRA report presents a screening assessment of the main masterplanning options that were consulted on during summer 2012, and those arising during the development of the Draft Plan, to determine which should be subject to more detailed assessment during future stages of preparation of the NCNF Plan.

1.1.2 HRA is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ('the Habitats Regulations'). The assessment focuses on the likely significant effects of the plan on the nature conservation interests of European-protected areas in and around Fareham borough, and seeks to establish whether or not there will be any adverse effects on the ecological integrity of these European sites as a result of proposals in the plan.

1.2 Purpose and Structure of this Document

1.2.1 This report addresses the early stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment, and follows a Baseline Data Review Report which was consulted on in tandem with the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in July and August 2012. Baseline data collected through that report are not re-presented here. Instead, this report documents the initial assessment stage, known as screening, and states whether or not a full Appropriate Assessment is required for the NCNF Plan. The report shows that there are 13 European sites in and around the borough that require consideration because they could potentially be affected by proposals being considered for inclusion in the New Community North of Fareham Plan.

1.2.2 The outputs of the report include information in relation to:

- The Habitats Regulations Assessment process (**section 1.3**);
- The New Community North of Fareham Plan (**section1.4**);
- The methodology for assessment (**Chapter 2**);
- Information about the European sites (**Chapter 3**);
- The likely significant effects of the plan (**Chapter 4**);
- A commentary on why the plan's potential effects have been considered as significantly negative (**Chapter 5**); and
- A Screening Statement as to the need, or otherwise, for Appropriate Assessment, and consultation arrangements (**Chapter 6**).

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.3.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ('the Habitats Regulations'), the UK's transposition of *European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora* ('the Habitats Directive').

1.3.2 HRA must be applied to any plan or project in England and Wales with the potential to adversely affect the ecological integrity of any sites designated for their nature conservation importance as part of a system known collectively as the Natura 2000 network of European sites.

1.3.3 European sites are designated 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, designated under *European Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds* ('the Birds Directive')). Additionally, the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) and Circular 06/05 (ODPM, 2005) require that Ramsar sites (UNESCO, 1971) are treated as if they are fully designated European sites for the purposes of considering development proposals that may affect them.

1.3.4 Under regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations, the assessment must determine whether or not a plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the European site(s) concerned, in view of the site's conservation objectives. The process is characterised by the precautionary principle. The European Commission (2000a) describes the 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.*
>
> *"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.*
>
> *"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."*

1.4 The New Community North of Fareham Plan

1.4.1 The principle of developing a New Community North of Fareham was established by the Fareham Borough Core Strategy and, before that, the South East Plan. The Core Strategy describes the vision for the New Community and sets the overall development objectives,

including provision for 6,500-7,500 dwellings and up to 90,750m^2 of employment floorspace[1], whilst allowing for flexibility in the NCNF Plan to adjust these objectives where necessary in order to achieve a successful, sustainable development. The NCNF Plan is exploring a number of alternative options, including the number of new homes to be developed, jobs to be provided, a transport strategy, and quantity and layout of green infrastructure.

1.4.2 The Council has stated its intention that the New Community should aim for high standards of sustainability and resilience to climate change, should deliver a substantial number of affordable homes, and should avoid adversely affecting European sites and other important environmental assets in the area. The process is being supported through the preparation of a masterplan for the development. The masterplan and NCNF Plan will establish a deliverable and viable quantum for residential, employment and retail development, setting out detailed objectives for community and infrastructure provisions, and the disposition and phasing of land uses. Figure 1.1 illustrates the broad location of the New Community and the main environmental constraints nearby.

[1] Policy CS13 of the Fareham Core Strategy presents the broad development principles for the SDA.

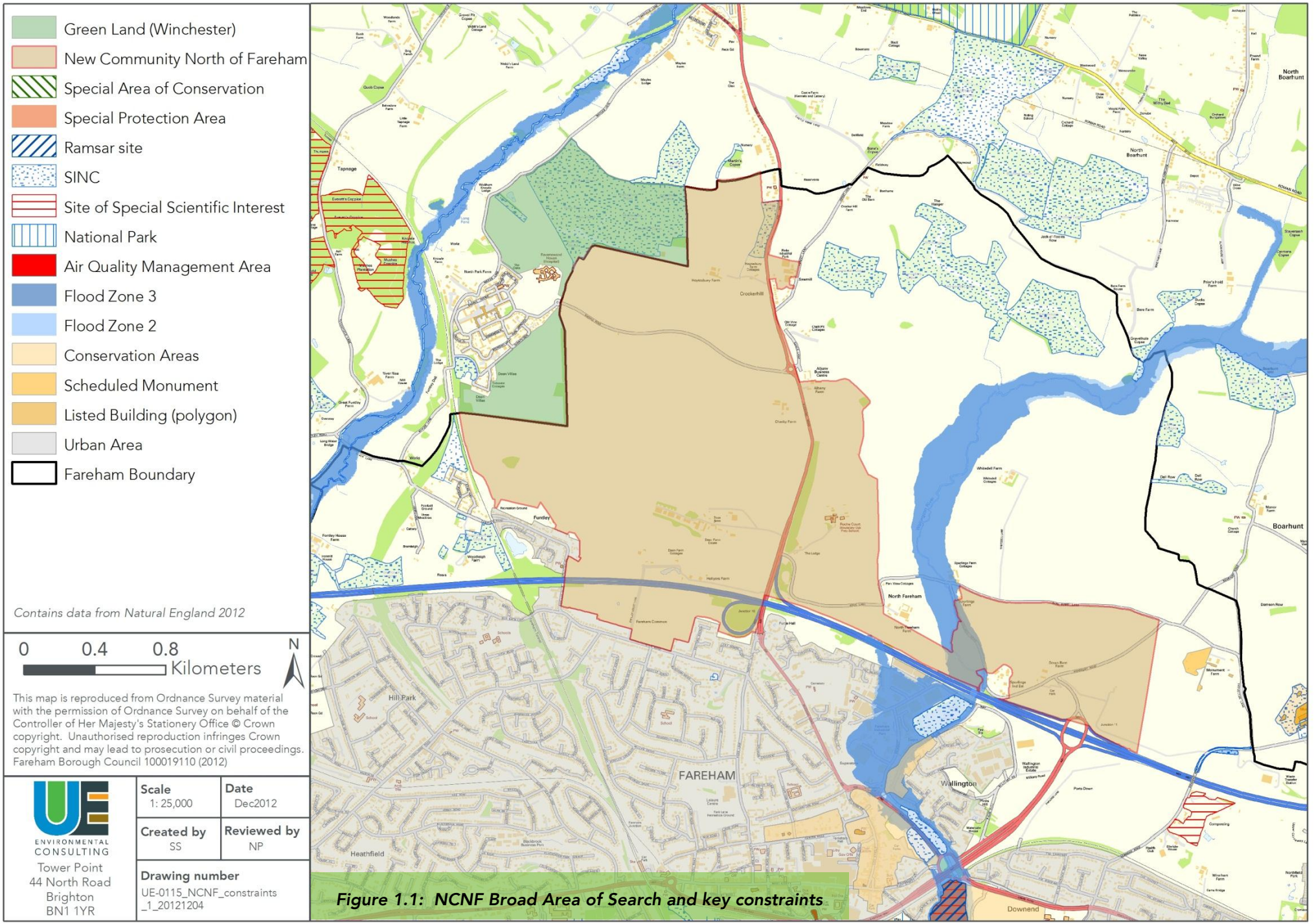

Figure 1.1: NCNF Broad Area of Search and key constraints

2 Methodology

2.1 Guidance and Best Practice

2.1.1 Draft guidance on HRA has been defined by DCLG (2006) with more detailed draft guidance from Natural England (Tyldesley, 2009) and a range of other bodies[2]. The guidance recognises that there is no statutory method for undertaking Habitats Regulations Assessment and that the adopted method must be appropriate to its purpose under the Habitats Directive and Regulations. DCLG guidance identifies three main stages to the HRA process:

- Screening: Analysing draft options for likely significant effects on internationally designated sites;
- Appropriate Assessment: Ascertaining the effects on site integrity; and
- Alternative Solutions: Devising alternatives to the plan options, avoidance or mitigation measures.

2.1.2 An HRA must determine whether or not a plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the European site(s) concerned, in view of the site's conservation objectives. Where adverse effects are anticipated changes must be made to the plan or project. The hierarchy of intervention is important: where significant effects are likely or uncertain, decision-makers must firstly seek to avoid the effect through for example, a change of policy. If this is not possible, mitigation measures should be explored to remove or reduce significant effects.

2.1.3 If neither avoidance, nor subsequent mitigation is possible, alternatives to the plan or project should be considered. Such alternatives should explore ways of achieving the objectives that avoid significant effects entirely. If there are no alternatives suitable for removing an adverse effect, decision-makers must demonstrate that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest to continue with the proposal. This is widely perceived as an undesirable position and should be avoided if at all possible.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The guidance from DCLG and Natural England was written for use in assessing strategic plans. Where individual projects come into play, as will be the case for future phases of development for the New Community, it may prove to be more suitable to use alternative guidance for example Tyldesley (2011), English Nature (1997a&b, 1999 and 2001) and European Commission (2001).

2.2.2 The overall objective of the Appropriate Assessment will be to ascertain whether any part of the plan will lead to an adverse effect on the ecological integrity of nearby European sites and, if so, make recommendations on how such effects can be avoided or mitigated. It will be carried out

[2] For example European Commission (2001) and RSPB (Dodd *et al*, 2007)

in accordance with the draft Natural England guidance (Tyldesley, 2009) as summarised in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Stages in the HRA process drawing on guidance from DCLG and Natural England

DCLG Stage	Natural England (Tyldesley) Steps		
AA1: Likely significant effects	1. Gather the evidence base about international sites.		
	2. Consult Natural England and other stakeholders on the method for HRA and sites to be included.		
	3. Screen elements of the plans for likelihood of significant effects.		
	4. Eliminate likely significant effects by amending the plan / option.		
	5. Consult Natural England and other stakeholders on the findings of the screening stage, and scope of the Appropriate Assessment if required.		
AA2: Appropriate Assessment and ascertaining the effect on integrity	6. Appropriate Assessment of elements of the plan likely to have significant effects on a European site.	8. Assess additions and changes to the plan and prepare draft HRA record.	ITERATIVE
AA3: Mitigation measures and alternative solutions	7. Amend the plan / option or take other action to avoid any adverse effect on integrity of European site(s).	9. Complete the draft Appropriate Assessment and draft HRA record.	
Reporting and recording	10. Submit draft HRA and supporting documents to Natural England.		
	11. Consult Natural England, other stakeholders and the public (if suitable).		
	12. Publish final HRA record and submit with Natural England letter to Inspector for Examination.		
	13. Respond to any representations relating to the HRA and to Inspector's questions.		
	14. Check changes to the plan, complete HRA record and establish any monitoring required.		

2.3 Consideration of Effects

2.3.1 The main masterplanning options that were consulted on during summer 2012 were screened for likely significant effects on the European sites. Such effects can be sorted into one of 17 categories which are listed below in Box 1. These categories are derived from the draft HRA guidance document produced for Natural England (Tyldesley, 2009) and help to determine which, if any, elements of the plan would be likely to have a significant effect on any interest feature of any European site, alone or in combination with other projects and plans, directly or indirectly. The 17 categories fall into four broader sections which can be described as:

Category A	Elements of the plan / options that would have no negative effect on a European site at all
Category B	Elements of the plan / options that could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects
Category C	Elements of the plan / options that could or would be likely to have a significant effect alone and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the it may be adopted
Category D	Elements of the plan / options that would be likely to have a significant effect in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted

2.3.2 Where it is agreed that significant impacts cannot be mitigated, the Appropriate Assessment stage would need to be undertaken to understand the scale and magnitude of potential impacts in view of each site's qualifying features, conservation objectives and vulnerabilities, as well as the mitigation measures that may be available to reduce or remove the effect.

2.4 Appropriate Assessment

2.4.1 The purpose of the Appropriate Assessment (HRA Stage AA2) is to further analyse likely significant effects identified during the screening stage, as well as those effects which were uncertain or not well understood and taken forward for assessment in accordance with the precautionary principle. The assessment should seek to establish whether or not the plan will adversely affect site integrity, which can be described as follows (ODPM, 2005):

> *"The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified."*

2.4.2 The assessment first focuses on the effects generated by the proposals of the plan and considers ways in which they can be avoided altogether. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided by changes to the plan, mitigation measures are introduced to remove or reduce the effects to the level of non-significance. Any residual (non-significant) effects can then be taken forward for further analysis to establish whether they might be expected to become significant in combination with the effects of other plans or projects. The impact assessment considers each of the European sites' conservation objectives in turn and states whether or not the impacts of the plan would prevent the conservation objective from being met. Where one or more objective is impeded, and in accordance with guidance from English Nature (2004; now Natural England), additional factors are considered in order to reach a decision regarding the effects on site integrity. Such factors include:

- Scale of impact;
- Duration of impact & recovery/reversibility;
- Conflicting feature requirements;
- Long term effects and sustainability;
- Dynamic systems;
- Off-site impacts; and
- Uncertainty in cause and effect relationships and a precautionary approach.

Box 1: Screening Assessment Key

Category A: No negative effect	
A1	Options / policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.
A2	Options / policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
A3	Options / policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European Site.
A4	Options / policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
A5	Options / policies that would have no effect because development is implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites.
Category B: No significant effect	
B	Options / policies that could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects.
Category C: Likely significant effect alone	
C1	The option, policy or proposal could directly affect a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto a European site, or adjacent to it.
C2	The option / policy could indirectly affect a European site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or increase disturbance.
C3	Proposals for a magnitude of development that, no matter where it was located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
C4	An option / policy that makes provision for a quantity / type of development but the effects are uncertain because its detailed location is to be selected following consideration of options in a later, more specific plan.
C5	Options / policies for developments or infrastructure projects that could block alternatives for the provision of other development in the future, that may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided.
C6	Options, policies or proposals which are to be implemented in due course - if implemented in one or more particular ways, the proposal could possibly have a significant effect on a European site.
C7	Any other options, policies or proposals that would be vulnerable to failure under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage; to include them in the plan would be regarded by the EC as 'faulty planning'.
C8	Any other proposal that may have an adverse effect on a European site, which might try to pass the tests of HRA at project level by arguing that the plan provides IROPI to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.
Category D: Likely significant effects in combination	
D1	The option, policy or proposal alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other policies within the same plan the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant.
D2	Options, policies or proposals that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are combined with the effects of other plans or projects, the combined effects would be likely to be significant.
D3	Options or proposals that are, or could be, part of a programme or sequence of development delivered over a period, where the implementation of the later stages could have a significant effect on European sites.

2.5 Dealing with Uncertainty

2.5.1 The NCNF Plan, although more detailed than the Core Strategy, remains a strategic planning document. Further details about development proposals will be added through a series of planning applications, each of which will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment and HRA. It is important to acknowledge, therefore, that uncertainties regarding the precise nature of impacts on European sites may persist throughout preparation of the NCNF Plan. By the same token, the HRA will draw mainly on secondary data rather than primary research, and by necessity will be of a less detailed nature than the HRAs for planning applications.

2.5.2 The guidance from Natural England (Tyldesley, 2009) gives helpful advice on a number of ways in which uncertainty can affect an HRA, which are described in Box 2.

Box 2: Dealing with Uncertainty: extracts from Tyldesley (2009)

Scientific Uncertainty

Scientific uncertainty can arise in predicting the effects of one or more aspect of a plan on the interest features of a European site. Scientific uncertainty may be due to a lack of scientific know-how, or of ecological information, or inadequate or out-of-date scientific data. It may also occur where the assessor is unable to satisfactorily predict and estimate the nature, scale or spatial extent of changes proposed by the plan. The Habitats Directive and Regulations state that, wherever scientific uncertainty is encountered, a precautionary approach should be adopted. If in doubt, further assessment should be undertaken and the worst outcome assumed.

Regulatory Uncertainty

Some plans will include references to proposals that are planned and implemented through other planning and regulatory regimes, for example, trunk road or motorway improvements. These will be included because they have important implications for spatial planning, but they are not proposals of the LTA, nor are they proposals brought forward by the plan itself. Their potential effects will be assessed through other procedures. The LTA may not be able to assess the effects of these proposals. Indeed, it may be inappropriate for them to do so, and would also result in unnecessary duplication…

There is a need to focus the Habitats Regulations Assessment on the… proposals directly promoted by the plan, and not all and every proposal for development and change, especially where these are planned and regulated through other statutory procedures which will be subject to an HRA.

Planning Hierarchy Uncertainty

The higher the level of a plan in the hierarchy the more general and strategic will be its provisions and therefore the more uncertain its effects will be. The protective regime of the Directive is intended to operate at differing levels. In some circumstances assessment 'down the line' will be more effective in assessing the potential effects of a proposal on a particular site and protecting its integrity. However, three tests should be applied.

It will be appropriate to consider relying on the Habitats Regulations Assessments of lower tier plans, in order for a LTA to ascertain a higher tier plan would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site, only where:

A] The higher tier plan assessment cannot reasonably assess the effects on a European site in a meaningful way; whereas

B] The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the lower tier plan, which will identify more precisely the nature, scale or location of development, and thus its potential effects, 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 and/or scale and/or location of the proposal in order to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (e.g. it is not constrained by location specific policies in a higher tier plan);

C] The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the plan or project at the lower tier is required as a matter of law or Government policy.

It may be helpful for the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the higher tier plan… to indicate what further assessment may be necessary in the lower tier plan.

Implementation Uncertainty

In order to clarify the approach where there is uncertainty because effects depend on how the plan is implemented, and to ensure compliance with the Regulations, it may be appropriate to impose a caveat in relevant policies, or introduce a free-standing policy, which says that any development project that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site will not be in accordance with the plan…

This would help to enable the assessors 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 can argue that it draws support from the plan, if it could adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

3 European Sites

3.1 Scope of the Assessment

3.1.1 European sites considered within the scope of this assessment include all those falling partially within or close to Fareham borough. Additionally, there may be activities occurring as a result of development within the New Community, which could take place outside of the confines of the borough, possibly affecting European sites further afield.

3.1.2 During preliminary consultation on the Baseline Data Review Report, queries were raised as to whether Emer Bog SAC or Butser Hill SAC should be included within the scope of the HRA. Emer Bog SAC is designated for its transition mire and quaking bog habitat, and its condition is most vulnerable to local changes in water levels and input of agricultural nutrients from neighbouring land[3]; the New Community North of Fareham is unlikely to influence either of these factors. The site is not considered further.

3.1.3 Butser Hill SAC is designated for its semi-natural dry calcareous grasslands (Festuco-Brometalia) with chalk heath and mixed scrub, and yew *Taxus baccata* woodland (a priority feature). Both are vulnerable to input of nutrients from the air, including from road traffic, and the site is located very close to the A3 north of Havant. However, a recent HRA carried out by Winchester City Council and Havant Borough Council in relation to a major development area West of Waterlooville (c.2,550 dwellings) found that the site was unlikely to be significantly affected by increasing traffic flows as a result of development. Given the relative proximity of Butser Hill to Waterlooville (c.12km by road) in comparison to the New Community (c.28km by road) it is uncertain whether the site would be affected. However, the site is included in the scope of this HRA as a precautionary approach.

3.1.4 The scope of the assessment therefore includes the following sites, as depicted by Figure 3.1:

- Butser Hill SAC
- Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC
- The New Forest SAC
- Portsmouth Harbour SPA
- The New Forest SPA
- Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar
- The New Forest Ramsar
- River Itchen SAC
- Solent Maritime SAC
- Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA
- Chichester & Langstone Harbours Ramsar
- Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar

[3] For more information refer to the following hyperlinks:
http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/special/sssi/vam/VAM%201003510.pdf
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/n2kforms/UK0030147.pdf

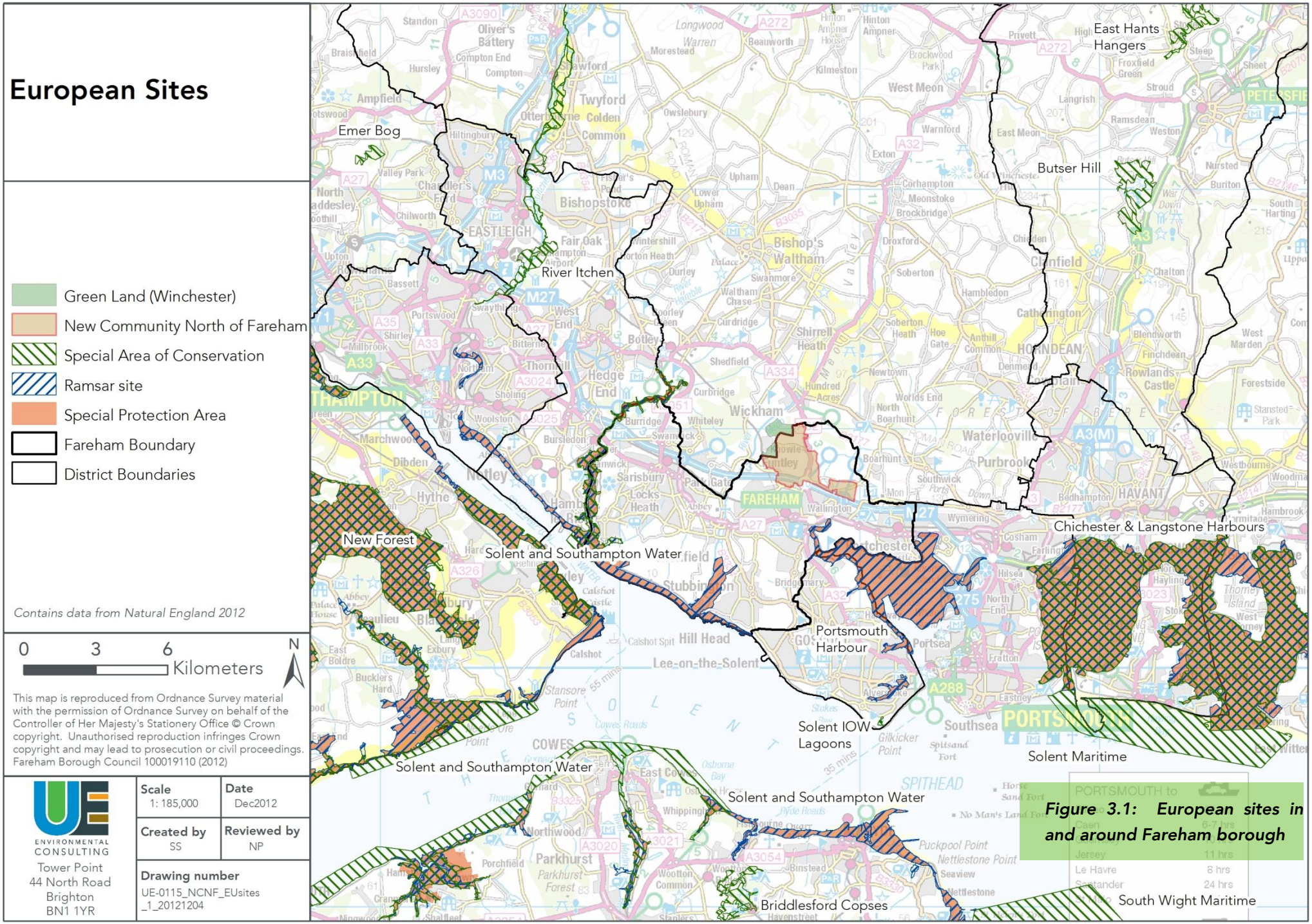

Figure 3.1: European sites in and around Fareham borough

Table 3.1: The qualifying features of European sites close to Fareham borough

Solent & Southampton Water SPA	Solent & Soton Water Ramsar	Chichester & Langstone SPA	Chichester & Langstone Ramsar
<u>Breeding</u> - Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* - Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* - Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* - Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* - Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* <u>Overwintering</u> - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica* - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* - Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* - Teal *Anas crecca* <u>Bird Assemblage</u> - Over winter the area regularly supports 51,361 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998)	<u>Criterion 1</u> - Several outstanding wetland habitat types, including unusual double tidal flow, a major sheltered channel, saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs <u>Criterion 2</u> - Nationally rare species assemblage <u>Criterion 5</u> - Winter assemblage of 51,343 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 02/03) <u>Criterion 6</u> <u>Breeding</u> - Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* - Common Tern *Sterna hiruno* - Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* - Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* <u>Overwintering</u> - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica* - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* - Teal *Anas crecca*	<u>Breeding</u> - Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* - Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* - Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* <u>Overwintering</u> - Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* - Pintail *Anas acuta* - Shoveler *Anas clypeata* - Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* - Wigeon *Anas penelope* - Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* - Sanderling *Calidris alba* - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina* - Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* - Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* - Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* - Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* - Redshank *Tringa totanus* <u>Bird Assemblage</u> - Over winter the area regularly supports 93,230 individual waterfowl (5yr peak mean	<u>Criterion 1</u> - Two outstanding estuarine basins, the site includes intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits and sand dunes <u>Criterion 5</u> - Winter assemblage of 76,480 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99 - 2002/03) <u>Criterion 6</u> <u>Breeding</u> - Little Tern *Sterna albifrons albifrons* <u>Overwintering</u> - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina* - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* - Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* <u>On passage</u> - Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica* - Common Redshank *Tringa totanus totanus*

	On passage - Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*	1998)	
Portsmouth Harbour SPA	**Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar**	**River Itchen SAC**	**Solent Maritime SAC**
Overwintering - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina* - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica* - Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*	Criterion 3 *- Species assemblage of importance to maintaining biogeographic biodiversity* Criterion 6 Overwintering - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*	Annex I Habitat - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation Annex II Species - White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* - Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* - Bullhead *Cottus gobio* - Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* - Otter *Lutra lutra* - Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar.*	Annex I Habitat - Estuaries - *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*) - Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) - Sandbanks - slightly covered by sea water all the time - Mudflats and sandflats not submerged at low tide - Annual vegetation drift lines - Perennial vegetation of stony banks - *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand - Shifting white dunes with *Ammophila arenaria* - Coastal lagoons***** Annex II Species - Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*
The New Forest SPA	**The New Forest Ramsar**	**The New Forest SAC**	**Butser Hill SAC**
Breeding - Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* - Woodlark *Lullula arborea* - Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*	Criterion 1 Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and	Annex I Habitat - Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) - Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing	Annex I Habitat - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calacareous substrates (F*estuco-Brometalia)* - *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles *****

- Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* Overwintering - Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*	undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain Criterion 2 Diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate Criterion 3 The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. The invertebrate fauna of the site is important due to the concentration of rare and scare wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England	waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* - European dry heaths - *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) - Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* - Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*) - *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests - Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains - Bog woodland ***** - Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* ***** - Transition mires and quaking bogs. - Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* - Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* - Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*	**Solent and IoW Lagoons SAC** Annex I Habitat - Coastal lagoons*****

* Denotes priority feature

3.2 Site Accounts

3.2.1 An ecological description of each European site is given in Appendix I.

3.3 Qualifying Features

3.3.1 The qualifying features of each site are listed in Table 3.1 and Appendix I.

3.4 Conservation Objectives for SAC and SPA

3.4.1 The Habitats Directive requires that Member States maintain or where appropriate restore habitats and species populations of European importance to favourable conservation status. European site conservation objectives are referred to in the Habitats Regulations and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They are for use when there is a need to undertake an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation. The conservation objectives are set for each feature (habitat or species) of an SAC/SPA. Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Habitats and Birds Directives. The conservation objectives recently defined by Natural England for the SACs and SPAs included within the scope of this HRA are given in Box 3.

3.5 Conservation Objectives for Ramsar Sites

3.5.1 Ramsar sites do not have agreed conservation objectives, but in most instances overlap with SPA site boundaries. However, it should be noted that Ramsar qualifying features can 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.

3.5.2 Of the Ramsar sites around Fareham, the qualifying Ramsar Convention criteria for the Solent and Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour, and Chichester and Langstone Harbours sites overlap substantially with the features of their equivalent SPAs. No additional conservation objectives are defined to assess these features, and those relating to the equivalent SPAs can be used in the assessment.

3.5.3 Conversely, the Ramsar criteria for the New Forest overlap with the features of its equivalent SAC. No additional conservation objectives are defined to assess these features, and those relating to the SAC can be used in the assessment.

3.6 Condition Status

3.6.1 The conservation status of European sites is not routinely reported by Natural England, but it carries out condition monitoring of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at regular intervals. Although not exactly matching the boundaries of European sites, and being notified for

different purposes, the condition status of a SSSI helps to give an impression of the overall ecological status of the SAC/SPA/Ramsar it coincides with. The latest condition assessments of SSSIs forming part of the European sites within the scope of this assessment are summarised in Appendix I.

3.7 Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity

3.7.1 The Habitats Regulations require that an Appropriate Assessment is made of the implications for each site in view of the site's conservation objectives. To make such an assessment, it is necessary to understand in more detail the features of the sites that contribute to their favourable condition or conservation status. Natural England has published detailed Favourable Condition Tables in which various attributes of the habitat and species populations are defined for assessing site condition. These have been developed from the definition of Favourable Conservation Status provided in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive. Drawing on the Favourable Condition tables, a number of key environmental conditions that support site integrity can be identified; these are summarised in Appendix I.

Box 3: Conservation objectives for SAC and SPA

Special Protection Areas

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified;

Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Special Areas of Conservation

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated;

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

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4 Likely Significant Effects

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter considers the main masterplanning options for the New Community North of Fareham Plan, as consulted on in summer 2012 and options arising during the development of the Draft Plan. Acknowledging that the plan is not necessary to the management of any European site, it states whether or not the proposals are likely to have significant effects on the internationally important interest features of each European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Appendix II illustrates the full results of the HRA screening assessment for the New Community North of Fareham Plan. The assessment shows that, of the 13 European sites considered, one (Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC) is not likely to be affected by the NCNF Plan. For three sites there is uncertainty at the present stage as to whether they could be significantly affected (Butser Hill SAC and New Forest SAC/Ramsar). All other sites are considered likely to be significantly affected by the NCNF Plan.

4.2.2 It is concluded that one or more of the masterplanning options within each of the following themes is likely to significantly affect at least one European site:

- Site boundary
- Use of land in Winchester district
- Location of secondary school
- Quantum of housing
- Transport network
- Energy
- Retail floorspac
- Secondary school capacity/catchment
- Employment location
- Balance of public/private open space
- Use of Fareham Common

4.2.3 The following aspects of the NCNF Plan are considered to be unlikely to significantly affect any European site:

- Number of local and district centres
- Community facilities
- Housing density
- Affordable housing mix
- Quantum of employment floorspace
- Health
- Affordable housing
- Employment land use split
- Public transport
- Green infrastructure strategy

- Smarter choices
- Water;
- Location of district centre
- Additional Development Principles
- Household waste & recycling centre;
- Use of land at Pinks Sawmills
- High Level Development Principles

4.2.4 A commentary on the way in which the effects could arise is given in the next chapter, in relation to the following impact types:

- Atmospheric pollution;
- Water abstraction;
- Loss of habitats.
- Disturbance from recreation;
- Waste water discharge; and

4.3 In Combination Test

4.3.1 Other plans and projects being prepared or implemented in the area may have the potential to cause negative effects on the integrity of European sites. These effects may be exacerbated when experienced in combination with the effects of the plan in question, possibly leading an insignificant effect to become significant. It is therefore important to consider which other plans and projects could generate similar effects as the NCNF Plan at the same European sites, and which may act in-combination.

4.3.2 The plans and projects listed below will be taken forward and considered for likely effects in combination with the NCNF Plan during the Appropriate Assessment stage if required:

- Eastleigh Adopted Local Plan Review 2001-2011
- Eastleigh Draft Local Plan (LDF) 2011-2029
- Winchester saved adopted policies in the Local Plan 2006
- Winchester Local Plan Part 1 - Joint Core Strategy
- Winchester Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Allocations Document.
- Gosport Local Plan Review 2001 to 2016 (Adopted 2006)
- Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011 to 2029
- Portsmouth City Local Plan saved policies (adopted 2006)
- The Portsmouth Plan (adopted 2012)
- Portsmouth AAPs (Somerstown and North Southsea AAP & Southsea Town Centre AAP)
- Portsmouth Site Allocations DPD
- North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (December 2010)
- Hampshire Local Transport Plan (2011-2031)
- Joint Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (adopted 2007) (Includes New Forest National Park and South Downs National Park)

5 Commentary

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The Baseline Data Review Report gathered together the available evidence in relation to the anticipated impacts of the NCNF Plan on the European sites. The following sections discuss each of these in turn, drawing on the information presented in the baseline report.

5.2 Atmospheric Pollution

5.2.1 All of the European sites analysed are experiencing atmospheric pollution concentration levels or deposition loads that exceed at least one critical value for the pollutants of interest (acid deposition, nitrogen deposition or oxides of nitrogen). Proposals within the New Community that increase the flow of traffic on roads within 200m of European sites are the sources of additional impact that is attributable to the NCNF Plan. The baseline report referred to the Sub Regional Transport Model (SRTM) as the key piece of work that would provide additional data in this respect, allowing the contribution of the New Community to be assessed for impacts on site integrity.

5.2.2 Results from SRTM runs to inform masterplanning for the New Community are now available (MVA Consultancy, October 2012). Four separate model runs were prepared which can be summarised as:

- Run1: 2031 baseline without NCNF (includes committed transport schemes [4] and planned strategic development as known at 2010);
- Run2: 2031 baseline plus 'full' NCNF without transport mitigation (as Run1 plus 'full development' option[5]);
- Run3: 2031 baseline plus 'full' NCNF with transport mitigation (as Run2 plus NCNF highway schemes presented in Concept Masterplan Transport Option One[6]); and
- Run4: 2031 baseline plus 'reduced' NCNF with transport mitigation (as Run 1 plus 'reduced development' option[7], plus NCNF highway schemes presented in Concept Masterplan transport Options Two, Three and Four[8]).

5.2.3 Outputs from the model include changes in traffic flow on road links for the AM peak, PM peak and inter-peak periods. The data are presented for the north of Fareham borough only, which limits its value for use in the HRA because changes in traffic under different development

[4] Refer to MVA, 2012, Appendix A.

[5] Including 7,500 dwellings, 90,750sqm employment, 6,000sqm retail, one secondary school and three primary schools.

[6] Link road from A32 to M27 junction 11, improvements to junctions 10 and 11 (but not making junction 10 'all moves'.

[7] Including 6,850 dwellings, 82,850sqm employment, 6,000sqm retail, one secondary school and three primary schools.

[8] No link road from A32 to M27 junction 11, no improvements to junction 11, junction 10 becomes 'all moves'.

scenarios can be compared in the Portsmouth Harbour area only. It is understood that underlying data should be obtainable for road links further afield, but it is unclear whether all relevant links were modelled (i.e. roads passing within 200m of European sites). Data for road links passing, or leading in the direction of, sites included in the assessment are presented in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Data extracts from SRTM (Source: MVA, October 2012)

European Sites	Link	Run	AM*	PM*
Portsmouth Harbour (Town Quay, Fareham area)	A27 Eastern Way Flyover	3	+101	-91
	A27 Eastern Way approach to A32	4	+71	-62
Butser Hill, Chichester & Langstone Hbrs, Solent Maritime, Portsmouth Hbr (east)	M27 (from J11 eastbound)	3	+336	+156
		4	-91	-97
Solent Maritime, Solent & Southampton Water, River Itchen, New Forest	M27 (from J10 westbound)	3	+156	-191
		4	+493	+210

* Changes in traffic flow when compared to run1

5.2.4 As can be seen, the data are inconclusive. Run4 represents a substantial improvement on the baseline for sites to the east of the NCNF, but generates greater flows of traffic heading towards sites in the west. Given the relative distances of Butser Hill, Solent Maritime, Chichester and Langstone Harbours from junction 11, and of Solent and Southampton Water, Solent Maritime, River Itchen and New Forest from junction 10, it may be that modelled traffic flow changes would be unlikely to constitute a significant increase in emissions in any case. For example, the destinations of these journeys may cause the traffic to deviate from a route passing any of the European sites. But it is not currently possible to verify this.

5.2.5 For Portsmouth Harbour, run4 returned more favourable traffic flow forecasts largely due to the conversion of junction 10 to 'all moves', thereby significantly reducing the numbers travelling to junction 11 only to turn back in a westerly direction.

5.2.6 Returning to the masterplanning options for the New Community, the following paragraphs discuss the relative performance of the options within each theme that may lead to a significant increase in traffic flow or otherwise affect pollutant concentration or deposition at European sites (see also Appendix II).

Retail floorspace

5.2.7 The options include the Core Strategy level of provision (9,000sqm), more than the Core Strategy, or less than Core Strategy. The SRTM allowed for a retail allocation of 6,000sqm. It is assumed that providing for Core Strategy levels of retail or above would increase the likelihood of significant effects by attracting more people from outside the New Community to shop at its retail sites. The impact of providing for less than the Core Strategy would depend on its effect on traffic flows, for example, it may result in more people travelling from within the New

Community for shopping. The assessment currently assumes that this is less likely because the NCNF aims for self-containment, together with providing high quality public transport to other main centres such as Fareham and Portsmouth. Given that results from the SRTM runs are inconclusive at present, these issues will need to be explored in greater detail during the Appropriate Assessment.

Location of secondary school

5.2.8 Locating the school near (either north or south of) Roche Court may result in increased traffic on roads close to Portsmouth Harbour, especially if the link road from A32 to junction 11 is provided; locations at Funtley or Knowle would be unlikely to have the same result as there is no obvious access to this part of the road network.

Secondary school capacity and catchment

5.2.9 A school which meets the needs of the New Community only would contribute to the self-containment of trip generators within the town, reducing traffic flows on roads close to Portsmouth Harbour. Providing for more or less capacity could result in additional trips being made from NCNF residents to access schools in Fareham or vice versa.

Quantum of housing

5.2.10 The number and location of new dwellings, coupled with the location of destinations to which new residents will want to travel, will be the single largest driver of increased emissions through road traffic. The SRTM looked at two residential scenarios; run3 is equivalent to a 'High' level of provision (7,500), run4 is comparable with a 'Mid' level of provision (quantified as 6,500 in the options, whereas SRTM run4 assumed 6,850). It cannot currently be concluded that either the 'High' or 'Mid' options will not significantly affect the European sites. The 'Low' level of provision was not tested in the SRTM.

Location of employment

5.2.11 Focusing employment development, which in total will amount to around 80 – 90,000sqm, at junction 11 is likely to result in greater use of roads links close to Portsmouth Harbour. Conversely, locating it largely at Dean Farm would probably attract the majority of journeys to use junction 10 and A32, away from Portsmouth Harbour.

Public transport

5.2.12 None of the options are considered likely to increase emissions, but having the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route penetrate the site is expected to be most successful at helping to reduce the number of car trips made.

Transport network

5.2.13 Of the four masterplanning options for the transport network, option 1 is comparable to SRTM run3 in relation to the SRTM's transport assumptions. Masterplanning options 2, 3 and 4, together with the additional option of converting junction 10 to all moves with the east-facing

slip leaving the M27 just east of Funtley, are all more similar to SRTM run4. However, both masterplanning options 1 and 2 allow for employment development to be focused at junction 11, and can thus be expected to result in greater relative traffic increases on roads close to Portsmouth Harbour. Masterplanning options 3 and 4 can be expected to lead to less severe (but not necessarily insignificant) pollution effects at Portsmouth Harbour.

Energy

5.2.14 There is a risk that energy option 1 (site-wide energy) could further contribute to pollutant concentrations and deposition rates at the European sites, particularly Portsmouth Harbour. This could result from both the chimney plume from the energy centre(s) (although the prevailing wind may make this less likely) and through increased road traffic if the centre(s) are to be supplied biomass fuel by road. It will not be possible to fully explore these risks, which may not necessarily lead to adverse effects at European sites, until future more detailed stages of planning i.e. once the number and location of energy centres, fuel choice and delivery frequency can be determined.

Summary

5.2.15 From an atmospheric pollution perspective, the following would seem to be preferred options:

- Providing a level of retail development that maximises the self-containment of shopping trips within the New Community, and minimises the number of shopping trips made to the New Community by external residents;
- Locating the secondary school near Funtley or Knowle;
- Providing a secondary school which serves the New Community only (or which maximises the self-containment of trips within the New Community, and minimises the number of trips made to the New Community by external residents);
- Low to Mid levels of residential development (5,400 – 6,500);
- Focusing employment development on Dean Farm;
- Ensuring that the BRT route penetrates the New Community;
- Converting junction 10 to 'all moves' and not providing a link road from A32 to junction 11; and
- Potentially, an energy strategy which focuses on individual building generation and/or energy efficiency, but more evidence is needed in this respect.

5.2.16 Further analysis is required through the Appropriate Assessment stage before atmospheric pollution impacts can be resolved.

5.3 Disturbance

5.3.1 Developing a New Community North of Fareham can be expected to increase the local population by up to around 18,000 people (assuming a dwelling occupancy rate of 2.4). Given the high quality and strong attraction of the Solent and New Forest to residents in south

Hampshire, increased visitor patronage of these areas is likely to result. The studies reviewed within the baseline report indicate that uncontrolled increases in visitor numbers would result in more severe effects on the ecological integrity of New Forest SPA, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar, and Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar, via disturbance impacts to breeding, migratory and overwintering birds.

5.3.2 In devising a suitable response to this risk, the onus will be on providing sufficient high quality land for recreation within and adjacent to the New Community so that both new and existing residents of north Fareham have easy and attractive access to semi-natural areas, fulfilling their daily needs for recreational activities such as walking and dog walking. This is unlikely to prevent increases in visitor numbers at either the Solent or New Forest because of their exceptional quality and comparative proximity. As a consequence, measures will also be required to manage growing visitor numbers in these areas.

5.3.3 The final phase of the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project is currently underway, and it is anticipated that this will offer a strategic approach to improved, coordinated site management across the Solent. Where opportunities exist, development of the New Community will need to facilitate and/or implement such solutions. Similarly, additional research is underway to inform recreation management within the New Forest, and it may be necessary for development of the New Community to help implement the resulting action plan. These considerations will be explored in greater detail during the Appropriate Assessment stage.

5.3.4 The following masterplanning options are likely to significantly affect one or more European sites due to disturbance (see also Appendix II):

- Use of land in Winchester District (Knowle Triangle) or Fareham Common: Developing part of the Knowle Triangle or Fareham Common for housing would reduce the overall amount of land available for green infrastructure, which is intended to be the main method of offsetting impacts at European sites.
- Quantum of housing: Intuitively, high levels of housing provision are likely to result in more severe disturbance impacts at Solent sites and the New Forest. Development at the lower or mid levels may be easier to manage successfully in this respect, both due to the lower overall increase in population, and because there will be more land space within which to provide mitigation (alternative recreational sites).
- Housing density: Although the density of housing is not expected to negatively affect European sites, a higher density development would result in more land space within which to provide mitigation.
- Quantum of employment floorspace: Similarly, the level of employment provision is not expected to negatively affect European sites, but a smaller footprint of development would result in more land space within which to provide mitigation.
- Balance of public and private open space: The effect of decreasing the amount of public open space in favour of increased private open space (gardens), whilst uncertain, could reduce the effectiveness of remaining public spaces in helping to mitigate disturbance impacts.

- **Green Infrastructure Strategy:** The outline strategy described within the Concept Masterplan is considered to be a good start to planning this important aspect of the New Community. The emphases on strengthening existing landscape/habitat corridors, enhancing accessibility within the site and into the surrounding countryside, and providing areas for wildlife, informal recreation and dog walking are particularly welcome.

5.3.5 Future stages of masterplanning and preparation of the NCNF Plan will consider in greater detail the relative balance between development quanta and provision of green infrastructure, with reference to continuing studies at the Solent and New Forest. The issue will be taken forward for Appropriate Assessment to assist with this analysis.

5.4 Water Abstraction

5.4.1 As stated in the baseline report, Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP) for both water supply companies in south Hampshire have been prepared, and each demonstrates that sufficient water is available to supply new development while also allowing for sustainability reductions to abstraction licences to be made, to ensure the ecological integrity of European sites is maintained. It is accepted that some doubt remains over the precise solution to ensuring continuity of supply once sustainability reductions on the River Itchen are implemented. However there is a high degree of collaborative working between the main bodies with responsibility (Environment Agency, Natural England, Southern Water and Portsmouth Water) and it seems likely that a workable solution will be agreed.

5.4.2 The residential development quantum will be the main factor leading to increased water abstraction and consumption, but is accounted for in the relevant WRMP. This will be offset to a degree by any of the masterplanning options considered for water supply and consumption; reducing use, rainwater harvesting, grey water recycling or black water recycling.

5.4.3 It is concluded that the NCNF Plan is unlikely to significantly affect any of the European sites through water abstraction.

5.5 Waste Water Discharge

5.5.1 Evidence gathered in the baseline report suggests that sufficient capacity for waste water treatment is likely to exist at Peel Common works, despite the constraints placed on the works in relation to both volume and nitrogen loading. But it is accepted that there is a limit to the headroom available at Peel Common and, while other developments in the sub-region may seek to connect to the works, the available capacity will reduce over time. Options for sewerage connections to Peel Common are still being explored and, at present, it is not certain whether a feasible option exists.

5.5.2 An alternative approach to waste water treatment has been put forward by Albion Water, which has a treatment works at Knowle. The proposal is that sewage could be treated at an enlarged Knowle works, with black water being recycled back into the New Community for use in toilet flushing, etc. Albion Water has stated that the existing sewerage assets, the sewage treatment

works and discharge consent are able to accommodate some additional flows but it is envisaged that major upgrades and/or additional capacity would be required by 2018, and existing adopted 'strategic' sewers and pumping station would require reinforcement. The company emphasises that its water services would include the provision of non-potable water to meet sanitary and irrigation requirements across the site. The feasibility of this option is being explored in greater detail.

5.5.3 The preferred solution for waste water treatment is not yet known, and so cannot be fully assessed at the current time. The issue will be taken forward for further analysis at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

5.6 Supporting Habitats

5.6.1 Whereas the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project seeks to manage impacts to overwintering birds within the SPA/Ramsars in the area, the *Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy* (King, 2010) aims to avoid impacts to SPA species using land outside of the designated sites. It does this by identifying parcels of land which are known to be regularly used by waders and Brent Goose, or which may become regularly used in the future, and encouraging their protection from development and increased recreational use through the planning system. No sites identified within the Strategy as currently or potentially important to waders or Brent Goose fall within the NCNF boundary. However, a group of sites listed as important for Brent Goose in the earlier 2002 Strategy lie at Monument Farm, overlapping with the site boundary north and east of junction 11.

5.6.2 According to the Strategy authors, the Monument Farm sites were included within the scope of the 2010 Strategy, but not visited by any of the volunteer surveyors. Similar sites on a comparable latitude to the east were visited; no Brent Geese were recorded, but not on a sufficient number of visits to be confident of classifying the sites as of "no recorded use". The distance of fields at Monument Farm, and indeed other areas within the NCNF boundary, from mean high water suggests that, if they are used at all by Brent Goose, it would probably only be during extreme winter weather. Additionally, such sites are only attractive to the birds when a food source is available i.e. winter wheat.

5.6.3 A winter bird survey was carried out in 2010/11 (Chris Blandford Associates; CBA, 2011) which included the entire NCNF site, plus a buffer of up to 2km (habitat-dependant). Surveys were carried out between October 2010 and March 2011; weather conditions were generally suitable but some visits had to be re-scheduled due to heavy snow fall. No Brent Goose were recorded, Curlew being the only species observed during the survey which is included on any of the European site citations as a qualifying feature (Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA). Flocks of between seven and 40 individuals were periodically observed in the permanent pasture around North Fareham Farm and Pook Lane between early December and early February. The fields represent some of the least disturbed habitat within the NCNF site due to a general absence of agricultural activities.

5.6.4 The absence of Brent goose, and indeed the overall limited ecological value of the site for wintering birds, is interpreted by CBA (2011, p.8) as being attributable to three main causes:

- "**Distance from SPAs:** it is conceivable that there are more suitable inland foraging areas closer to the SPAs than the Study Area. This would appear to be borne out by the survey maps accompanying the Brent Goose Strategy, which indicate, in general terms, that Brent geese are moving to suitable inland sites which are closer to the SPA than the Study Area;
- "**Habitat suitability:** Brent geese generally favour grasslands for foraging. Whilst the Study Area supports areas of grassland, particularly towards its northern and south eastern boundaries (along the A27 corridor), much of this is considered to be sub-optimal or unsuitable due to: field size, hedgerows, tree lines, woodland and agricultural uses (cattle grazing). Whilst arable crops may provide some foraging potential, it appears that the availability of suitable foraging areas closer to the coast may be a deciding factor;
- "**Disturbance:** it became evident during the survey that much of the Study Area is subject to regular disturbance. The three major forms of disturbance were:
    - General agricultural disturbance associated with crop management including, ploughing, sowing, periodic spraying, cattle movements etc.;
    - Crop protection, particularly in the form of gas cannons, but also including a variety of bird scarers; and
    - Recreational disturbance, such as dog walking and rambling, which was recorded to varying extents during each survey event."

5.6.5 Returning to the masterplanning options for the New Community, the following paragraphs discuss how each of the options within each theme could lead to a significant impact through loss of habitat to development:

- **Site boundary / Employment location:** Concept Masterplan Options One and Two would allocate land for development east of the A32, including a focus for employment development north of junction 11 near Monument Farm. Although Brent Goose has not been recorded using these fields in recent years, they may still form part of the wider network of feeding sites in extreme winters, and could perhaps be used more often by the birds if the habitats were suitably managed. Option Three would allocate land to the east of the A32 between North Fareham Farm and Roche Court, but not at junction 11. Although this would remove the potential for loss of land near Monument Farm to development, it could nonetheless reduce the ability of permanent pastures in the area to support occasional flocks of Curlew. Option Four focuses all development west of the A32, where overall ecological value and potential to support wintering birds is lower.
- **Location of secondary school:** Locating the school at Roche Court has the potential to reduce the ability of permanent pastures in the area to support occasional flocks of Curlew by increasing disturbance in the area (although the existing playing fields at Boundary Oak School are some distance away; c.600m). Locating the school to the north of Roche Court is likely to fare better in this respect than locating it to the south of Roche Court. On the other hand, development of an additional school may result in the need for additional playing fields which are an important source of grassland for feeding Brent Goose.

- **Quantum of housing:** The level of housing provision will influence the amount of land lost to development. Most of the land to be allocated, particularly that to the west of the A32, is considered to be sub-optimal for Brent Goose due to a combination of distance from the coast, habitat type, and high levels of disturbance; the loss of land to development itself will not contribute greatly to the impact in this respect. However, the higher the number of homes to be developed, the greater the pressure for recreation will be. Increasing recreational use of land outside of European site boundaries will require consideration where these areas are also identified as important or potentially important to waders and Brent Goose, such as some of the fields around Portsdown Hill, Wicor Recreation Ground and Cams Hall.

5.6.6 These issues will be further explored during the Appropriate Assessment stage.

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6 Screening Statement and Consultation

6.1 Screening Statement

6.1.1 This document sets out Fareham Borough Council's statement on Habitats Regulations Assessment for the New Community North of Fareham Plan. It shows that significant effects are considered a likely or uncertain outcome of one or more of the masterplanning options within each of the following themes:

- Site boundary
- Use of land in Winchester district
- Location of secondary school
- Quantum of housing
- Transport network
- Energy
- Retail floorspace
- Secondary school capacity/catchment
- Employment location
- Balance of public/private open space
- Use of Fareham Common

6.1.2 The assessment shows that, of the 13 European sites considered, one (Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC) is not likely to be affected by the NCNF Plan. For three sites there is uncertainty at the present stage as to whether they could be significantly affected (Butser Hill SAC and New Forest SAC/Ramsar). All other sites are considered likely to be significantly affected by the NCNF Plan.

6.1.3 The following aspects of the NCNF Plan are considered to be unlikely to significantly affect any European site:

- Number of local and district centres
- Community facilities
- Housing density
- Affordable housing mix
- Quantum of employment floorspace
- Smarter choices
- Water;
- Location of district centre
- Additional Development Principles
- Health
- Affordable housing
- Employment land use split
- Public transport
- Green infrastructure strategy
- Household waste & recycling centre;
- Use of land at Pinks Sawmills
- High Level Development Principles

6.1.4 The Council will now undertake a detailed Appropriate Assessment of the NCNF Plan with specific reference to these areas, to determine the ways in which the sites may be adversely affected, and consider suitable avoidance and mitigation measures.

6.2 Consultation Arrangements

6.2.1 The findings of this report are open to consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency, RSPB, Hampshire Wildlife Trust and New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities.

6.2.2 Comments are invited at any time between 29 April and 10 June 2013.

6.2.3 Please submit comments to planningpolicy@fareham.gov.uk .

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Appendix I: European Site Information

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Site Characteristics for Butser Hill SAC			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire	50 58 18 N, 00 58 48 W	238.66 ha
Coincident Sites	Butser Hill SSSI		
Broad Habitat Classes	Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (0.1%) Dry grassland. Steppes (70%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (5%) Coniferous woodland (15%) Mixed woodland (9.9%)		
Site Account	Butser Hill is situated on the east Hampshire chalk which forms part of the South Downs. Much of the site consists of *Festuca ovina – Avenula pratense* grassland. The site has a varied range of slope gradients and aspects which has a strong influence on the vegetation composition. A particular feature of the site is its lower plant assemblage. It has the richest terricolous lichen flora of any chalk grassland site in England, and also supports the distinctive *Scapanietum asperae* or southern hepatic mat association of leafy liverworts and mosses on north-facing chalk slopes. This association is very rare in the UK and Butser Hill supports the largest known example. The site exhibits various transitions between semi-natural dry grassland, chalk heath, mixed scrub and yew *Taxus baccata* woods. The combes of the south-east flank of Butser Hill support dense yew woodland in association with scrub and chalk grassland. The yew is regenerating into the grassland and shows the classic interaction of these habitats in relation to grazing pressure.		
Qualifying Features * Denotes priority feature	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)	Annex I Habitat	
	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles *	Annex I Habitat	
Conservation Objectives	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:		

	▸ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▸ The populations of qualifying species; ▸ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Condition Status and Trends	There is one coincident or adjacent SSSI site of mostly favourable status; Butser Hill SSSI: 10 units consisting of; 92.13% Favourable and 7.87% Unfavourable recovering.
Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Maintenance of grazing ▸ Minimal air pollution – nitrogen deposition may cause reduction in diversity, sulphur deposition can cause acidification ▸ Absence of direct fertilisation ▸ Well-drained soils ▸ No spray-drift (i.e. eutrophication) from surrounding intensive arable land

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Emer Bog SAC			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire	50 59 24 N, 01 26 18 W	37.5 ha
Coincident Sites	Baddesley Common and Emer Bog SSSI		

Broad Habitat Classes	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (16.3%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (43.5%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (40.2%)	
Site Account	Emer Bog lies in a wet infilled hollow on the developed eastern hinterland of the New Forest. Apart from scattered willow *Salix* spp scrub, it is largely open, and dominated by bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* and marsh cinquefoil Potentilla palustris, with frequent common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, and occasional pools with bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*. White sedge *Carex curta* and the bog-mosses *Sphagnum fimbriatum* and *S. squarrosum* become common at the edge of the bog, with the rushes *Juncus effusus* and *J. acutiflorus*. There are also patches of common reed *Phragmites australis*. The basin is surrounded by more mature willow *Salix* spp woodland and open heathland.	
Qualifying Features	Transition mires and quaking bogs	Annex I Habitat
Conservation Objectives	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ▸ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▸ The populations of qualifying species; ▸ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	
Condition Status and Trends	There is one coincident or adjacent SSSI site of mostly favourable status; Baddesley Common and Emer Bog SSSI: 3 units consisting of; 3.73% Favourable and 96.27% Unfavourable recovering.	

Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Careful management of water levels - the principal threat to this site is considered to be adjacent land-use, which affects the hydrological processes acting on the mire

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, Conservation Objectives – Favourable Condition Tables, 2007 - 2011
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for River Itchen SAC			
Location / NGR / Area	City of Southampton, Hampshire	50 57 14 N, 01 20 05 W	309.26 ha
Coincident Sites	River Itchen SSSI		
Broad Habitat Classes	Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (40%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (27%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (19%) Improved grassland (1%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (10%) Mixed woodland (2%) Non-Forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, (1%)		
Site Account	The Itchen is a classic example of a sub-type 1 chalk river. The river is dominated throughout by aquatic *Ranunculus spp.* The headwaters contain pond water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*, while two *Ranunculus* species occur further downstream: stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*, a species especially characteristic of calcium-rich rivers, and river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*.		

	Strong populations of Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* occur here, estimated to be in the hundreds of individuals. The site in central southern England represents one of the major population centres in the UK. It also represents a population in a managed chalk-river flood plain, an unusual habitat for this species in the UK, rather than on heathland. The Itchen is a classic chalk river that supports high densities of bullhead *Cottus gobio* throughout much of its length. The river provides good water quality, extensive beds of submerged plants that act as a refuge for the species, and coarse sediments that are vital for spawning and juvenile development.	
Qualifying Features	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	Annex I Habitat
	Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*	Annex II Species
	Bullhead *Cottus gobio*	Annex II Species
	White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*	Annex II Species
	Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*	Annex II Species
	Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*	Annex II Species
	Otter *Lutra lutra*	Annex II Species

Conservation Objectives	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ▸ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▸ The populations of qualifying species; ▸ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Condition Status and Trends	There is one coincident or adjacent SSSI sites of mostly favourable status; River Itchen SSSI: 108 units consisting of; 3.76% Favourable, 53.79% unfavourable recovering, 29.46% unfavourable no change and 12.98% unfavourable declining.
Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Maintenance of flow velocities - low flows interact with nutrient inputs from point sources to produce localised increases in filamentous algae and nutrient tolerant macrophytes at the expense of Ranunculus ▸ Low levels of siltation ▸ Unpolluted water and low nutrient inputs ▸ Maintenance of grazing pressure is essential for Southern damselfly habitat

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC			
Location / NGR / Area	City of Portsmouth; Hampshire; Isle of Wight	50 46 30 N, 01 08 13 W	36.24 ha
Coincident Sites	Gilkicker lagoon Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI, Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges SSSI, Langstone Harbour SSSI Solent and Southampton Water (Special Protection Area) SPA and Ramsar, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar.		
Broad Habitat Classes	Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (91.7%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (8.3%)		
Site Account	The Solent on the south coast of England encompasses a series of Coastal lagoons, including percolation, isolated and sluiced lagoons. The site includes a number of lagoons in the marshes in the Keyhaven – Pennington area, at Farlington Marshes in Chichester Harbour, behind the sea-wall at Bembridge Harbour and at Gilkicker, near Gosport. The lagoons show a range of salinities and substrates, ranging from soft mud to muddy sand with a high proportion of shingle, which support a diverse fauna including large populations of three notable species: the nationally rare foxtail stonewort *Lamprothamnium papulosum*, the nationally scarce lagoon sand shrimp *Gammarus insensibilis*, and the nationally scarce starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis*. The lagoons in Keyhaven – Pennington Marshes are part of a network of ditches and ponds within the saltmarsh behind a sea-wall. Farlington Marshes is an isolated lagoon in marsh pasture that, although separated from the sea by a sea-wall, receives sea water during spring tides. The lagoon holds a well-developed low-medium salinity insect-dominated fauna. Gilkicker Lagoon is a sluiced lagoon with marked seasonal salinity fluctuation and supports a high species diversity. The lagoons at Bembridge Harbour have formed in a depression behind the sea-wall and sea water enters by percolation. Species diversity in these lagoons is high and the fauna includes very high densities of *N. vectensis*.		
Qualifying Features *** Denotes priority feature**	Coastal lagoons *	Annex I habitat	

Conservation Objectives	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ▸ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▸ The populations of qualifying species; ▸ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Condition Status and Trends	There are 4 coincident or adjacent SSSI sites of varying statuses; Gilkicker Lagoon SSSI: A single unit; 100% favourable Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI: 34 units of varying statuses; 27.04% of the area is favourable, 70.09% unfavourable recovering and 2.87% unfavourable declining. There are a number of coincidental units containing saline lagoons, all are of favourable condition.
	Brading Marshes To St. Helen's Ledges SSSI: 59 units of varying statuses; 50.57% of the area is favourable, 39.79% unfavourable recovering and 9.64% unfavourable declining. There are a small number of coincidental units, all are of favourable condition. Langstone Harbour SSSI: 13 units of varying statuses; 8.96% of the area is favourable, 90.60% unfavourable recovering and 0.45% unfavourable declining. The coincidental areas characterised by saline lagoon is of favourable condition.

Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	Various factors are required to maintain site integrity; ▸ Salinity is the key water quality parameter for these lagoons. Therefore the relative balance of saltwater to freshwater inputs is critical. At the moment, most of these lagoons are considered to have a salt concentration that is below the desirable level (15 – 40%) ▸ Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze ▸ No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Absence of nutrient enrichment ▸ Absence of non-native species

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012 (Feb)
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Solent Maritime SAC			
Location / NGR / Area	City of Portsmouth; City of Southampton; Hampshire; Isle of Wight; West Sussex	50 47 47 N, 00 55 40 W	11325.09 ha
Coincident Sites	Chichester Harbour SSSI, Bracklesham Bay SSSI, Yar Estuary SSSI, Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI, the New Forest SSSI, King's Quay Shore SSSI, Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI, Eling and Bury Marshes SSSI, Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI, Lower Test Valley SSSI, Bouldnor And Hamstead Cliffs SSSI, Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI, Sinah Common SSSI, Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI, Newtown Harbour SSSI, Langstone Harbour SSSI, Medina Estuary SSSI, Thorness Bay SSSI, Warblington Meadow SSSI and North Solent SSSI. Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar		

Broad Habitat Classes	Marine areas. Sea inlets (14%) Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (59%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (23%) Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair (0.5%) Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (3%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (0.5%)	
Site Account	The Solent encompasses a major estuarine system on the south coast of England with four coastal plain estuaries (Yar, Medina, King's Quay Shore, Hamble) and four bar-built estuaries (Newtown Harbour, Beaulieu, Langstone Harbour, Chichester Harbour). The site is the only one in the series to contain more than one physiographic sub-type of estuary and is the only cluster site. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime of four tides each day, and for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive estuarine flats, often with intertidal areas supporting eelgrass *Zostera spp.* and green algae, sand and shingle spits, and natural shoreline transitions. The mudflats range from low and variable salinity in the upper reaches of the estuaries to very sheltered almost fully marine muds in Chichester and Langstone Harbours. Unusual features include the presence of very rare sponges in the Yar estuary and a sandy 'reef' of the polychaete *Sabellaria spinulosa* on the steep eastern side of the entrance to Chichester Harbour. Solent Maritime is the only site for smooth cord-grass *Spartina alterniflora* in the UK and is one of only two sites where significant amounts of small cord-grass *S. maritima* are found. It is also one of the few remaining sites for Townsend's cord-grass *S. x townsendii* and holds extensive areas of common cord-grass *Spartina anglica*, all four taxa thus occurring here in close proximity. It has additional historical and scientific interest as the site where *S. alterniflora* was first recorded in the UK (1829) and where *S. x townsendii* and, later, *S. anglica* first occurred. The Solent contains the second-largest aggregation of Atlantic salt meadows in south and south-west England. Solent Maritime is a composite site composed of a large number of separate areas of saltmarsh. In contrast to the Severn estuary, the salt meadows at this site are notable as being representative of the ungrazed type and support a different range of communities dominated by sea-purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*, common sea-lavender *Limonium vulgare* and thrift *Armeria maritima*. As a whole the site is less truncated by man-made features than other parts of the south coast and shows rare and unusual transitions to freshwater reedswamp and alluvial woodland as well as coastal grassland. Typical Atlantic salt meadow is still widespread in this site, despite a long history of colonisation by cord-grass *Spartina spp.*	
Qualifying Features	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Annex I habitat

*** Denotes priority feature**	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Annex I habitat
	Coastal lagoons *	Annex I habitat
	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Annex I habitat
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Annex I habitat
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Annex I habitat
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (`white dunes`)	Annex I habitat
	Desmoulin`s whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*	Annex II species
Conservation Objectives	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ▸ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▸ The populations of qualifying species; ▸ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	

Condition Status and Trends	There are 20 coincidental or adjacent SSSI sites of varying statuses; Chichester Harbour SSSI: 43 units; 22.09% of the area is favourable, 77.67% unfavourable recovering and 0.24% unfavourable no change. Unfavourable recovering areas are mainly units affected significantly by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze' as much of the units' area is backed by hard sea defences so habitats are unable to retreat landward as levels rise. Recovery is through creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. Some unfavourable units including the 'unfavourable no change' units are impacted by diffuse pollution creating excessive nutrients, characterised by green algae. Bracklesham Bay SSSI: 4 units; 64.95% of the area is favourable, 29.54% unfavourable recovering and 5.51% unfavourable no change. The single unit which is 'unfavourable no change' is in poor condition due to continual sea defence works. However, this unit is part of the Medmerry realignment and will undergo significant change in the near future which will allow natural processes to resume and the possibility of development of vegetated shingle communities. Yar Estuary SSSI: 30 units; 83.15% of the area is favourable and 16.85% unfavourable recovering. Most of the unfavourable area is affected by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze'. Much of the unit is backed by hard sea defences so that the habitats are unable to retreat landward as levels rise. Changes in water level may also be having adverse impacts on the distribution and extent of biotopes associated with the intertidal sediments. The issue is being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI: 34 units; 27.04% of the area is favourable, 70.09% unfavourable recovering and 2.87% unfavourable declining. Inappropriate sea defences along the eastern part of the broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland unit have caused loss of vegetation along a 5 metre wide strip of one unfavourable declining unit and another is experiencing loss of intertidal habitat due to natural erosion. Operation of ferries is accelerating this erosion. New Forest SSSI: 582 units; 45.53% of the area is favourable, 53.22% unfavourable recovering, 0.43% unfavourable no change, 0.81% unfavourable declining and 0.01% destroyed/part destroyed. Only small areas of the SSSI overlap with the SAC. King's Quay Shore SSSI: 30 units; 76.99% of the area is favourable, 20.95% unfavourable recovering, 1.86% unfavourable declining and 0.21% destroyed / part destroyed. Unfavourable declining and destroyed areas are woodland areas affected by inappropriate woodland management. Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI: 16 units; 85.94% of the area is favourable, 11.31% unfavourable recovering and 2.75% unfavourable no change. Unfavourable unit is a broadleaved, mixed woodland area dominated by non-native species.

(contd…)	Eling and Bury Marshes SSSI: 4 units; 11.46% of the area is favourable and 88.54% unfavourable recovering. Unfavourable recovering units are affected by diffuse pollution, which is being addressed by through the Solent DWP action, and by sea level rise creating 'coastal squeeze' as much of the unit is backed by hard sea defences. However, the issue is being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI: 3 units, all unfavourable recovering. The excessive algal weed and diffuse pollution impacts are being addressed through the South Downs and Harbours Clean Water Partnership Delivery Strategy. Lower Test Valley: 8 units all of which are of favourable status. Bouldnor And Hamstead Cliffs SSSI: 9 units all of which are of favourable status. Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI: 6 units, all unfavourable recovering. The habitat is affected significantly by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze' as much of the unit is backed by hard sea defences so that the habitats are unable to retreat landward as levels rise. Changes in water level may also be having adverse impacts on the distribution and extent of biotopes associated with the intertidal sediments. The issue is being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. Sinah Common SSSI: 2 units, both unfavourable recovering. Scrub levels on dune grassland remains above target although there is evidence of recent clearance. Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI: 27 units; 82.49% of the area is favourable, 15.98% unfavourable recovering, 1.53% unfavourable no change. Unfavourable recovering units show significant retreat of coastal marsh with large areas being replaced by mudflats. Algal mats in the Hamble estuary and elsewhere, with Ulva lactuca particularly abundant, suggests utrophication. The unfavourable no change unit contains a submerged clay bed feature, which is no longer exposed due to sediment recharge. With the lack of long-shore drift and change in beach profile, the sediment from the recharge appears to be accumulating on the exposures. Newtown Harbour SSSI: 78 units; 89.33% of the area is favourable, 10.32% unfavourable recovering and 0.35% unfavourable declining. Unfavourable recovering units include diffuse pollution issues, which are being addressed through the Isle of Wight Catchment Sensative Farming Project. Other unfavourable areas are woodland zones outside of the Maritime SAC. Langstone Harbour SSSI: 13 units; 8.96% of the area is favourable, 90.60% unfavourable recovering and 0.45% unfavourable declining. Issues associated with 'coastal squeeze' and changes in water level are being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. There is also concern about high nutrient levels throughout Langstone Harbour, resulting in excessive algal growth in places. The unfavourable declining unit is partly coincidental with the SAC but is a roosting habitat for wintering birds above high tide level. There is an increasing amount of scattered scrub so that it is becoming less attractive to birds.

(contd…)	Medina Estuary SSSI: 12 units all of which are favourable. Thorness Bay SSSI: 14 units; 96.21% of the area is favourable and 3.79% is unfavourable declining. The 2 unfavourable declining units are outside of the SAC's geographical area. Warblington Meadow SSSI: consisting of one unfavourable recovering unit, now under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). North Solent SSSI: 98 units; 63.21% of the area is favourable, 34.94% is unfavourable recovering, 0.93% unfavourable no change and 0.91% unfavourable declining. At several locations of open coast, active erosion of salt marsh is apparent with significant areas of marsh reverting to mudflat, particularly around the seaward areas of the Beaulieu River estuary. Some units are remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan, which re-established tidal exchange in the Lymington River. The scheme will deliver 21ha of intertidal habitat to offset coastal squeeze occurring elsewhere. The unfavourable declining area is outside of SAC geographic area.
Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze ▸ No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Absence of nutrient enrichment in the intertidal zone ▸ Absence of eutrophication and acidification from atmospheric pollution ▸ Absence of non-native species ▸ Maintenance of freshwater inputs ▸ Balance of saline and non-saline conditions ▸ Maintenance of grazing

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012 (Feb)
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for New Forest SAC			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire; Wiltshire	50 51 59 N, 01 40 50 W	29262.36 ha
Coincident Sites	Landford Heath SSSI, River Avon System SSSI, Landford Bog SSSI, Langley Wood and Homan's Copse SSSI, Whiteparish Common SSSI, Loosehanger Copse and Meadows SSSI, The New Forest SSSI, Norley Copse and Meadow SSSI, Roydon Woods SSSI, Lymington River SSSI and North Solent SSSI. The New Forest SPA, New Forest Ramsar		
Broad Habitat Classes	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (7%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (34%) Dry grassland. Steppes (10%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (3%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (29%) Coniferous woodland (17%)		
Site Account	The New Forest contains the most extensive stands of lowland northern Atlantic wet heaths in southern England, mainly of the *Erica tetralix - Sphagnum compactum* type. *Schoenus nigricans - Narthecium ossifragum* mire is also found on this site. The wet heaths are important for rare plants, such as marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe* and marsh clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*, and a number of dragonfly species, including the scarce blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura pumilio* and small red damselfly *Ceriagrion tenellum*. There is a wide range of transitions between wet heath and other habitats, including dry heath, various woodland types, *Molinia* grasslands, fen, and acid grassland. Wet heaths enriched by bog myrtle *Myrica gale* are a prominent feature of many areas of the Forest. Unlike much lowland heath, the New Forest heaths continue to be extensively grazed by cattle and horses, favouring species with low competitive ability.		

	The New Forest represents European dry heaths in southern England and is the largest area of lowland heathland in the UK. It is particularly important for the diversity of its habitats and the range of rare and scarce species which it supports. The New Forest is unusual because of its long history of grazing in a traditional fashion by ponies and cattle. The dry heaths of the New Forest are of the *Calluna vulgaris - Ulex minor* heath type, and *Ulex minor - Agrostis curtisii* heath is found on damper areas. There are a wide range of transitions between dry heath and wet heath, *Molinia* grassland, fen, acid grassland and various types of scrub and woodland. Both the New Forest and the two Dorset Heath SACs are in southern England. All three areas are selected because together they contain a high proportion of all the lowland European dry heaths in the UK. There are, however, significant differences in the ecology of the two areas, associated with more oceanic conditions in Dorset and the continuous history of grazing in the New Forest. The New Forest represents *Molinia* meadows in southern England. The site supports a large area of the heathy form of *Molinia caerulea - Cirsium dissectum* fen-meadow. This vegetation occurs in situations of heavy grazing by ponies and cattle in areas known locally as lawns, often in a fine-scale mosaic with northern Atlantic wet heaths and other mire and grassland communities. These lawns occur on flushed soils on slopes and on level terrain on the floodplains of rivers and streams. The New Forest *Molinia* meadows are unusual in the UK in terms of their species composition, management and landscape position. The grasslands are species-rich, and a particular feature is the abundance of small sedges such as carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, common sedge *C. nigra* and yellow-sedge *C. viridula ssp. oedocarpa*, and the more frequent occurrence of mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and petty whin *Genista anglica* compared to stands elsewhere in the UK.	
Qualifying Features *** Denotes priority feature**	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	Annex I Habitat
	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*	Annex I Habitat
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Annex I Habitat
	European dry heaths	Annex I Habitat
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)	Annex I Habitat
	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	Annex I Habitat
	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*)	Annex I Habitat

	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	Annex I Habitat
	Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains	Annex I Habitat
	Bog woodland *	Annex I Habitat
	Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) *	Annex I Habitat
	Transition mires and quaking bogs	Annex I Habitat
	Alkaline fens	Annex I Habitat
	Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*	Annex II Species
	Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*	Annex II Species
	Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*	Annex II Species
	Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*	Annex II Species
	Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*	Annex II Species
	Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteini*	Annex II Species
	Otter *Lutra lutra*	Annex II Species
	Bullhead *Cottus gobio*	Annex II Species
Conservation Objectives	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:	

	▸ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▸ The populations of qualifying species; ▸ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Condition Status and Trends	There are eleven coincident or adjacent SSSI sites of varying statuses; Landford Heath SSSI: 3 units consisting of; 51.97% unfavourable recovering and 48.03% unfavourable declining. River Avon System SSSI: 51 units consisting of; 3.48% favourable, 36.59% unfavourable recovering, 57.13% unfavourable no change and 2.80% unfavourable declinging. Landford Bog SSSI: 2 units consisting of; 27.76% Favourable and 72.24% unfavourable recovering. Langley Wood and Homan's Copse SSSI: 3 units consisting of 100% unfavourable no change. Whiteparish Common SSSI: 4 units consisting of 1.27% favourable, 91.84% unfavourable recovering and 6.90% unfavourable no change. Loosehanger Copse and Meadows SSSI: 5 units consisting of 100% unfavourable recovering New Forest SSSI: 582 units; 45.53% of the area is favourable, 53.22% unfavourable recovering, 0.43% unfavourable no change, 0.81% unfavourable declining and 0.01% destroyed/part destroyed. Norley Copse and Meadow SSSI: 2 units consisting of 58.63% Favourable and 41.37% unfavourable recovering. Roydon Woods SSSI: 8 units consisting of 100% Favourable. Lymington River SSSI consists of one unfavourable recovering unit*. The assessment concerns have now been addressed and remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan (See commentary for Lymington River ReedBeds SSSI). North Solent SSSI: 98 units; 63.21% Favourable, 34.94% unfavourable recovering, 0.93% unfavourable no change and 0.91% unfavourable declining*. At several locations of open coast, active erosion of salt marsh is apparent with significant areas of marsh reverting to mudflat, particularly around the seaward areas of the Beaulieu River estuary. Some units are remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan, which re-established tidal exchange in the Lymington River.

Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools ▸ Acid soils ▸ Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time) ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Minimal nutrient inputs ▸ Low recreational pressure ▸ Maintenance of grazing regime

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
*(Feb 2012)
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire; West Sussex	50 48 23 N, 00 55 12 W	5810.03 ha
Coincident Sites	Chichester Harbour SSSI, Sinah Common SSSI, Langstone Harbour SSSI and Warblington Meadow SSSI Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar, Solent Maritime SAC		

Broad Habitat Classes	Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (63.0%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (21.5%) Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair (0.3%) Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (0.4%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (0.5%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (0.1%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (1.7%) Improved grassland (11.7%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (0.8%) Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites) (0.2%)	
Site Account	Chichester and Langstone Harbours are located on the south coast of England in Hampshire and West Sussex. They are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive sand and mudflats exposed at low tide. The two harbours are joined by a stretch of water that separates Hayling Island from the mainland. Tidal channels drain the basin and penetrate far inland. The mud-flats are rich in invertebrates and also support extensive beds of algae, especially *Enteromorpha* species, and eelgrasses *Zostera spp*. The basin contains a wide range of coastal habitats supporting important plant and animal communities. The site is of particular significance for waterbirds, especially in migration periods and in winter. It also supports important colonies of breeding terns.	
Qualifying Features	Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 100 pairs representing up to 4.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992-1996)	Article 4.1 Qualification
	Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 158 pairs representing up to 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998)	Article 4.1 Qualification
	Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 0.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992-1996)	Article 4.1 Qualification
	Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,692 individuals representing up to 3.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.1 Qualification
	Over winter the area regularly supports:	

	Ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 3% of the population in Great Britain. (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Northern pintail *Anas acuta*, 1.2% of the population in Great Britain. (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 1% of the population in Great Britain. (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Teal *Anas crecca*, 0.5% of the population in Great Britain. (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 0.7% of the population in Great Britain. (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 0.7% of the population in Great Britain. (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 17,119 individuals representing up to 5.7% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 0.2% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 44,294 individuals representing up to 3.2% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Red-Breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, 3% of the population in Great Britain.(5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Curlew *Numenius arquata, 1.6% of the population in Great Britain. (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96)*	Article 4.2 Qualification

	Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 3,825 individuals representing up to 2.3% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Common Shellduck *Tadorna tadorna, 3.3% of the population in Great Britain.* (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 Qualification
	Over winter, the area regularly supports 93230 waterfowl. (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6). Including; *Branta bernicla bernicla , Tadorna tadorna, Anas penelope, Anas crecca, Anas acuta, Anas clypeata, Mergus serrator, Charadrius hiaticula, Pluvialis squatarola, Calidris alba, Calidris alpina alpina, Limosa lapponica, Numenius arquata, Tringa totanus, Arenaria interpres*	Article 4.2 Qualification
Conservation Objectives	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ▸ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▸ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▸ The populations of qualifying species; ▸ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	

Condition Status and Trends	There are four coincident or adjacent SSSI sites of varying statuses; Chichester Harbour SSSI: 43 units; 22.09% of the area is favourable, 77.67% unfavourable recovering and 0.24% unfavourable no change. Unfavourable recovering areas are mainly units affected significantly by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze' as much of the units' area is backed by hard sea defences so habitats are unable to retreat landward as levels rise. Recovery is through creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. Some unfavourable units including the 'unfavourable no change' units are impacted by diffuse pollution creating excessive nutrients, characterised by green algae.* Sinah Common SSSI: 2 units, both unfavourable recovering. Scrub levels on dune grassland remains above target although there is evidence of recent clearance.* Langstone Harbour SSSI: 13 units; 8.96% of the area is favourable, 90.60% unfavourable recovering and 0.45% unfavourable declining. Issues associated with 'coastal squeeze' and changes in water level are being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. There is also concern about high nutrient levels throughout Langstone Harbour, resulting in excessive algal growth in places. The unfavourable declining unit is partly coincidental with the SAC but is a roosting habitat for wintering birds above high tide level. There is an increasing amount of scattered scrub so that it is becoming less attractive to birds.* Warblington Meadow SSSI: consisting of one unfavourable recovering unit, now under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS).*
Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Absence of nutrient enrichment in the intertidal zone ▸ Absence of eutrophication and acidification from atmospheric pollution ▸ Absence of non-native species e.g. from shipping activity ▸ Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime, e.g. freshwater flows at heads of channels are important for birds to preen, drink and feed ▸ Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource for Brent goose

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012

Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
*(Feb 2012)
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Portsmouth Harbour SPA			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire	50 49 41 N, 01 07 32 W	1248.77 ha
Coincident Sites	Portsmouth Harbour SSSI, Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar, Portsmouth Harbour SPA		
Broad Habitat Classes	Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (85.0%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (14.0%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (1.0%)		
Site Account	Portsmouth Harbour is located on the central south coast of England. It is a large industrialised estuary and includes one of the four largest expanses of mud-flats and tidal creeks on the south coast of Britain. The mud-flats support large beds of narrow-leaved eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* and dwarf *eelgrass Z. noltii*, extensive green algae beds, mainly *Enteromorpha* species, and sea lettuce *Ulva lactuca*. Portsmouth Harbour has only a narrow connection to the sea via the Solent, and receives comparatively little fresh water, thus giving it an unusual hydrology. The site supports important numbers of wintering dark-bellied Brent goose *Branta b. bernicla*, which feed also in surrounding agricultural areas away from the SPA.		
Qualifying Features	Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 31 individuals representing up to 0.4% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 qualification	
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 2,847 individuals representing at least 0.9% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 qualification	
	Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 5,123 individuals representing up to 1% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)	Article 4.2 qualification	

	Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, 87 individuals representing up to 0.9% of the wintering North-western/Central Europe population (5year peak mean 1991/92 - 1995/96)	Article 4.2 qualification
Conservation Objectives	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.	
	Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ▸ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; ▸ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; ▸ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; ▸ The populations of the qualifying features; ▸ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	
Condition Status and Trends	There is one coincident or adjacent SSSI site of mostly unfavourable recovering status; Portsmouth SSSI: 23 units consisting of; 23.44% Favourable, 76.19% unfavourable recovering, 0.02% unfavourable declining and 0.35% destroyed /part destroyed.	

Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Absence of nutrient enrichment of water ▸ Absence of non-native species ▸ Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Solent & Southampton Water SPA			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	50 44 25N, 01 31 33 W	5505.86 (ha)
Coincident Sites	Yar Estuary SSSI, Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI, Bembridge School and Cliffs SSSI, New Forest SSSI, King's Quay Shore SSSI, Sowley Pond SSSI, Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI, Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges SSSI, Eling and Bury Marshes SSSI, Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI, Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges SSSI, Lower Test Valley SSSI, Lymington River ReedBeds SSSI, Dibden Bay SSSI, Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI, River Test SSSI, Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI, Titchfield Haven SSSI, Newtown Harbour SSSI, Lymington River SSSI, Medina Estuary SSSI, Thorness Bay SSSI, Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek SSSI, North Solent SSSI. Solent and isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, South Wight SAC, Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar.		

Broad Habitat Classes	Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (47.7%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (18.2%) Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair (2.8%) Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (10.2%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (3.4%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (17.1%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (0.6%)	
Site Account	The Solent and Southampton Water are located on the south English coast. The area covered extends from Hurst Spit to Hill Head along the south coast of Hampshire, and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises a series of estuaries and harbours with extensive mud-flats and saltmarshes together with adjacent coastal habitats including saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reedbeds, damp woodland and grazing marsh. The mud-flats support beds of *Enteromorpha spp*. and *Zostera spp*. and have a rich invertebrate fauna that forms the food resource for the estuarine birds. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and four species of terns. In winter, the SPA holds a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds, including geese, ducks and waders. Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta b. bernicla* also feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.	
Qualifying Features	Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 267 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997)	Article 4.1 qualification
	Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 49 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997)	Article 4.1 qualification
	Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1994-1998)	Article 4.1 qualification
	Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 231 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997)	Article 4.1 qualification
	Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 2 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997)	Article 4.1 qualification

	Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,125 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7)	Article 4.2 qualification
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 7,506 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7)	Article 4.2 qualification
	Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 552 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7)	Article 4.2 qualification
	Teal *Anas crecca*, 4,400 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7)	Article 4.2 qualification
	Over winter, the area regularly supports 53,948 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including: Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.	Article 4.2 qualification

Conservation Objectives	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ▸ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; ▸ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; ▸ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; ▸ The populations of the qualifying features; ▸ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Condition Status and Trends	There are 22 coincidental or adjacent SSSI sites of varying statuses; Yar Estuary SSSI: 30 units; 83.15% of the area is favourable and 16.85% unfavourable recovering. Most of the unfavourable area is affected by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze'. Much of the unit is backed by hard sea defences so that the habitats are unable to retreat landward as levels rise. Changes in water level may also be having adverse impacts on the distribution and extent of biotopes associated with the intertidal sediments. The issue is being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI: 34 units; 27.04% of the area is favourable, 70.09% unfavourable recovering and 2.87% unfavourable declining. Inappropriate sea defences along the eastern part of the broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland unit have caused loss of vegetation along a 5 metre wide strip of one unfavourable declining unit and another is experiencing loss of intertidal habitat due to natural erosion. Operation of ferries is accelerating this erosion. Bembridge School and Cliffs SSSI: 6 units; 92.45% of the area is favourable and 7.55% unfavourable no change. Unfavourable units generally due to presence of beach huts or landscaped gardens affecting interest feature and vegetation encroachment on cliff face. New Forest SSSI: 582 units; 45.53% of the area is favourable, 53.22% unfavourable recovering, 0.43% unfavourable no change, 0.81% unfavourable declining and 0.01% destroyed/part destroyed. Only small areas of the SSSI overlap with the SPA. King's Quay Shore SSSI: 30 units; 76.99% of the area is favourable, 20.95% unfavourable recovering, 1.86% unfavourable declining and 0.21% destroyed / part destroyed. Unfavourable declining and destroyed areas are woodland areas affected by inappropriate woodland management.

(contd…)	Sowley Pond SSSI: 2 units both of which are favourable. Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods: 16 units; 85.94% of the area is favourable, 11.31% unfavourable recovering and 2.75% unfavourable no change. Unfavourable unit is outside of the SPA geographical area. Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges SSSI: 8 units; 99.07% of the area is favourable and 0.93% unfavourable no change. Eling and Bury Marshes SSSI: 4 units; 11.46% of the area is favourable and 88.54% unfavourable recovering. Unfavourable recovering units are affected by diffuse pollution, which is being addressed by through the Solent DWP action, and by sea level rise creating 'coastal squeeze' as much of the unit is backed by hard sea defences. However, the issue is being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI: 3 units, all unfavourable recovering. The excessive algal weed and diffuse pollution impacts are being addressed through the South Downs and Harbours Clean Water Partnership Delivery Strategy. Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges SSSI: 58 units; 50.57% of the area is favourable, 39.79% unfavourable recovering and 9.64% unfavourable declining. Unfavourable declining units are affected by different factors; coastal squeeze due to sea defences, encroachment by scrub, undergrazing, poor waterway management and illicit vehicles. Lower Test Valley SSSI: 8 units all of which are of favourable status. Lymington River ReedBeds SSSI: 4 units; 35.50% of the area is favourable and 64.50% is unfavourable recovering. Unfavourable units are part of HLS scheme and remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan, which re-establishes tidal exchange in the Lymington River. The scheme will deliver 21ha of intertidal habitat, and address the water levels to create a more sustainable and manageable suite of habitats. Dibden Bay SSSI: 2 units; 98.00% of the area is favourable and 2% is unfavourable declining. This SSSI only abuts the SPA alongside the eastern edge of the site. The unfavourable unit is outside of the SPA geographical area. Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI: 6 units, all unfavourable recovering. The habitat is affected significantly by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze' as much of the unit is backed by hard sea defences so that the habitats are unable to retreat landward as levels rise. Changes in water level may also be having adverse impacts on the distribution and extent of biotopes associated with the intertidal sediments. The issue is being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. River Test SSSI: 91 units; 18.50% favourable, 36.99% unfavourable recovering, 12.36% unfavourable no change and 32.16% unfavourable declining. There is only one unit, to the south of the SSSI, which is coincidental to the SPA, which has a status of 'unfavourable no change' (water flow, water quality and some aspects of channel and banks habitat structure are below targets and standards). Main causes include; inappropriate weirs dams and other structures, invasive freshwater species, siltation and agriculture/run off water pollution.

(contd...)	Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI: 27 units; 82.49% of the area is favourable, 15.98% unfavourable recovering, 1.53% unfavourable no change. Unfavourable recovering units show significant retreat of coastal marsh with large areas being replaced by mudflats. Algal mats in the Hamble estuary and elsewhere, with Ulva lactuca particularly abundant, suggests eutrophication. The 'unfavourable no change' unit contains a submerged clay bed feature, which is no longer exposed due to sediment recharge. With the lack of long-shore drift and change in beach profile, the sediment from the recharge appears to be accumulating on the exposures. Titchfield Haven SSSI: 8 units; 96.48% of the area is favourable and 3.52% unfavourable declining. The unfavourable area is a reedbed community which has scrub encroachment including willow and oak saplings. Newtown Harbour SSSI: 78 units; 89.33% of the area is favourable, 10.32% unfavourable recovering and 0.35% unfavourable declining. Unfavourable recovering units include diffuse pollution issues, which are being addressed through the Isle of Wight Catchment Sensative Farming Project. The unfavourable declining unit is outside of the SPA geographic boundary. Medina Estuary SSSI: 12 units all of which are favourable. Thorness Bay SSSI: 14 units; 96.21% of the area is favourable and 3.79% is unfavourable declining. The unfavourable declining areas are showing signs of under grazing and succession with scrub encroachment and herbaceous plants. The shingle bank of one unit is highly trampled due to foot traffic from the holiday park lane and car park. Lymington River SSSI consists of one unfavourable recovering unit, of which only the southern most points of the river overlap with the SPA geographical area. The assessment concerns have now been addressed and remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan (See above commentary for Lymington River ReedBeds SSSI). Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek SSSI: 17 units of which 71.92% of the area is favourable and 28.08% is unfavourable recovering. The western areas of unfavourable recovering units (that are coincidental) are affected by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze' as much of the unit is backed by hard sea defences so that the habitats are unable to retreat landward as levels rise. Changes in water level may also be having adverse impacts on the distribution and extent of biotopes associated with the intertidal sediments. The issue is being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. The other mid-point coincidental area is affected by heavy use by hovercraft and access to the marina. No visible strandline and high visitor use for this area suggest it is not in favourable condition. North Solent SSSI: 98 units; 63.21% of the area is favourable, 34.94% is unfavourable recovering, 0.93% unfavourable no change and 0.91% unfavourable declining. At several locations of open coast, active erosion of salt marsh is apparent with significant areas of marsh reverting to mudflat, particularly around the seaward areas of the Beaulieu River estuary. Some units are remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan (See above commentary for Lymington River ReedBeds SSSI). The unfavourable declining area is outside of SPA geographic area.

Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity

- Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze
- No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment in the intertidal zone
- Absence of eutrophication and acidification from atmospheric pollution
- Absence of non-native species
- Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore and offshore can avoid disturbance effects during sensitive (over-wintering) periods
- Freshwater inputs are of value for providing a localised increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking
- Low amounts of silt loss
- Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012 (Feb)
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for New Forest SPA			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire; Wiltshire	50 49 32 N, 01 39 22 W	28002.81 ha
Coincident Sites	Landford Heath SSSI, River Avon System SSSI, The New Forest SSSI, Norley Copse and Meadow SSSI, Roydon Woods SSSI, Lymington River SSSI and North Solent SSSI. The New Forest SAC, New Forest Ramsar		
Broad Habitat Classes	Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (0.2%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (5.9%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (27.3%) Dry grassland. Steppes (17.6%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (2.1%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (28.9%) Coniferous woodland (17.3%) Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites) (0.7%)		
Site Account	The New Forest is located in southern Hampshire, west of the Solent in southern England. It comprises a complex mosaic of habitats overlying mainly nutrient-poor soils over plateau gravels. The major components are the extensive wet and dry heaths with their rich valley mires and associated wet and dry grasslands, the ancient pasture woodlands and inclosure woodlands, the network of clean rivers and streams, and frequent permanent and temporary ponds. The area supports important populations of breeding birds associated with such habitats, including nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata*. Breeding honey buzzard *Pernis apivorus* and wintering hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* are also notable.		
Qualifying Features	Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 538 pairs representing at least 33.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain	Article 4.1 qualification	
	Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, 2 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain	Article 4.1 qualification	
	Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 300 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain	Article 4.1 qualification	

	Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 184 pairs representing at least 12.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)	Article 4.1 qualification
	Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 15 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain	Article 4.1 qualification
	Hobby *Falco Subbuteo*, representing 5% of population in Great Britain	Article 4.2 qualification
	Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, representing at least 2% of population in Great Britain	Article 4.2 qualification
Conservation Objectives	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the Qualifying Features listed above); Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ▸ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; ▸ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; ▸ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; ▸ The populations of the qualifying features; ▸ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	
Condition Status and Trends	There are seven coincident or adjacent SSSI sites of varying statuses; Landford Heath SSSI: 3 units consisting of; 51.97% unfavourable recovering and 48.03% unfavourable declining. River Avon System SSSI: 51 units consisting of; 3.48% favourable, 36.59% unfavourable recovering, 57.13% unfavourable no change and 2.80% unfavourable declinging. New Forest SSSI: 582 units; 45.53% of the area is favourable, 53.22% unfavourable recovering, 0.43% unfavourable no change, 0.81% unfavourable declining and 0.01% destroyed/part destroyed.	

	Norley Copse and Meadow SSSI: 2 units consisting of 58.63% Favourable and 41.37% unfavourable recovering. Roydon Woods SSSI: 8 units consisting of 100% Favourable. Lymington River SSSI consists of one unfavourable recovering unit*. The assessment concerns have now been addressed and remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan (See commentary for Lymington River ReedBeds SSSI). North Solent SSSI: 98 units; 63.21% Favourable, 34.94% unfavourable recovering, 0.93% unfavourable no change and 0.91% unfavourable declining*. At several locations of open coast, active erosion of salt marsh is apparent with significant areas of marsh reverting to mudflat, particularly around the seaward areas of the Beaulieu River estuary. Some units are remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan, which re-established tidal exchange in the Lymington River.
Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools ▸ Acid soils ▸ Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time) ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Minimal nutrient inputs ▸ Low recreational pressure ▸ Appropriate grazing regime

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
* (Feb 2012)
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire; West Sussex	50 48 23 N, 00 55 12 W	5810.03 ha
Coincident Sites	Chichester Harbour SSSI, Sinah Common SSSI and Langstone Harbour SSSI Solent Maritime SAC, Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar SPA		
Broad Habitat Classes	Tidal flats (46%) Salt marshes (21.4%) Other (14.3%) Estuarine waters (14.1%) Marine beds (e.g. sea grass beds) (1.7%) Freshwater marshes / pools: seasonal / intermittent (0.9%) Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems) (0.8%) Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent (0.4%) Saline / brackish marshes: permanent (0.3%) Shrub-dominated wetlands (0.07%) Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent (0.02%) Coastal brackish / saline lagoons (0.01%)		
Site Account	Chichester and Langstone Harbours are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive mud and sand flats exposed at low tide. The site is of particular significance for over-wintering wildfowl and waders and also a wide range of coastal and transitional habitats supporting important plant and animal communities.		
Qualifying Features	Two large estuarine basins linked by the channel which divides Hayling Island from the main Hampshire coastline. The site includes intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits and sand dunes.	Ramsar criterion 1	

	Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 76480 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)	Ramsar criterion 5
	Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula, Europe*/Northwest Africa, 853 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe, 906 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*, 2577 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)	Ramsar criterion 6

	Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*, E Atlantic/WAfrica 3043 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 12987 individuals, representing an average of 6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*, NW Europe 1468 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)	Ramsar criterion 6
	Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*, W Siberia/W Europe, 3436 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)	
	Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species regularly supported during the breeding season: Little tern, *Sterna albifrons albifrons*, W Europe, 130 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 1.1% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)	Ramsar criterion 6
Conservation Objectives	The Ramsar Convention criteria for Chichester and Langstone Harbours overlap substantially with the features of the equivalent SPA. No additional conservation objectives are defined to assess these features, but those relating to the SPA can be used.	

Condition Status and Trends	There are three coincident or adjacent SSSI sites of varying statuses; Chichester Harbour SSSI: 43 units; 22.09% of the area is favourable, 77.67% unfavourable recovering and 0.24% unfavourable no change. Unfavourable recovering areas are mainly units affected significantly by sea level rise and 'coastal squeeze' as much of the units' area is backed by hard sea defences so habitats are unable to retreat landward as levels rise. Recovery is through creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. Some unfavourable units including the 'unfavourable no change' units are impacted by diffuse pollution creating excessive nutrients, characterised by green algae.* Sinah Common SSSI: 2 units, both unfavourable recovering. Scrub levels on dune grassland remains above target although there is evidence of recent clearance.* Langstone Harbour SSSI: 13 units; 8.96% of the area is favourable, 90.60% unfavourable recovering and 0.45% unfavourable declining. Issues associated with 'coastal squeeze' and changes in water level are being addressed through the creation of compensatory habitat and coastal re-alignment at Medmerry. There is also concern about high nutrient levels throughout Langstone Harbour, resulting in excessive algal growth in places. The unfavourable declining unit is partly coincidental with the SAC but is a roosting habitat for wintering birds above high tide level. There is an increasing amount of scattered scrub so that it is becoming less attractive to birds.*
Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Absence of nutrient enrichment in the intertidal zone ▸ Absence of eutrophication and acidification from atmospheric pollution ▸ Absence of non-native species e.g. from shipping activity ▸ Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime, e.g. freshwater flows at heads of channels are important for birds to preen, drink and feed ▸ Short grasslands surrounding the Ramsar site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource for Brent goose

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992

Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
*(Feb 2012)
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire	50 49 41 N, 01 07 32 W	1248.77 ha
Coincident Sites	Portsmouth Harbour SSSI, Portsmouth Harbour SPA		
Broad Habitat Classes	Tidal flats (59.3%) Estuarine waters (21.2%) Salt marshes (14%) Marine beds (e.g. sea grass beds) (4.8%) Other (0.3%) Coastal brackish / saline lagoons (0.3%) Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems) (0.08%)		
Site Account	Portsmouth Harbour's mudflats support large beds of narrowleaved and dwarf eelgrass, extensive green alga and sea lettuce. The intertidal mudflat areas possess extensive beds of eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* and *Zostera noltei* which support the grazing dark-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* populations. The mud-snail *Hydrobia ulvae* is found at extremely high densities, which helps to support the wading bird interest of the site. Common cord-grass *Spartina anglica* dominates large areas of the saltmarsh and there are also extensive areas of green algae *Enteromorpha spp*. and sea lettuce *Ulva lactuca*. More locally the saltmarsh is dominated by sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides* which gradates to more varied communities at the higher shore levels. The site also includes a number of saline lagoons hosting nationally important species.		

Qualifying Features	The intertidal mudflat areas possess extensive beds of eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* and *Zostera noltei* which support the grazing dark-bellied brent geese populations. The mud-snail *Hydrobia ulvae* is found at extremely high densities, which helps to support the wading bird interest of the site. Common cord-grass *Spartina anglica* dominates large areas of the saltmarsh and there are also extensive areas of green algae *Enteromorpha* spp. and sea lettuce *Ulva lactuca*. More locally the saltmarsh is dominated by sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides* which gradates to more varied communities at the higher shore levels. The site also includes a number of saline lagoons hosting nationally important species.	Ramsar criterion 3
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 2,105 individuals, representing an average of 2.1% of the GB over-wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	Ramsar criterion 6
Conservation Objectives	The Ramsar Convention criteria for the Portsmouth Harbour overlaps substantially with the features of the equivalent SPAs. No dditional conservation objectives are defined to assess these features, but those relating to the SPA can be used.	
Condition Status and Trends	There is one coincident or adjacent SSSI site of mostly unfavourable recovering status; Portsmouth SSSI: 23 units consisting of; 23.44% Favourable, 76.19% unfavourable recovering, 0.02% unfavourable declining and 0.35% destroyed /part destroyed.	

Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze ▸ No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Absence of nutrient enrichment in the intertidal zone ▸ Absence of non-native species ▸ Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore and offshore can avoid disturbance effects during sensitive (over-wintering) periods ▸ Freshwater inputs are of value for providing a localised increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking ▸ Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	50 44 25 N, 01 31 32 W	5346.44 (ha)
Coincident Sites	Yar Estuary SSSI, Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI, Bembridge School and Cliffs SSSI, New Forest SSSI, King's Quay Shore SSSI, Sowley Pond SSSI, Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI, Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges SSSI, Eling and Bury Marshes SSSI, Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI, Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges SSSI, Lower Test Valley SSSI, Lymington River ReedBeds SSSI, Dibden Bay SSSI, Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI, River Test SSSI, Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI, Titchfield Haven SSSI, Newtown Harbour SSSI, Lymington River SSSI, Medina Estuary SSSI, Thorness Bay SSSI, Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek SSSI, North Solent SSSI. Solent and isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, South Wight SAC, Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Southampton Water SPA.		
Broad Habitat Classes	Tidal flats (47.9%) Salt marshes (18.5%) Saline / brackish marshes: permanent (14.9%) Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems) (12.1%) Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent (3.7%) Rocky shores (1.5%) Coastal brackish / saline lagoons (0.7%) Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands (0.7%)		
Site Account	The estuaries and harbours of the Solent are particularly sheltered and form the largest number and tightest cluster of small estuaries anywhere in Great Britain. The Solent and Isle of Wight system is notable for its large range and extent of different habitats. The intertidal area is predominantly sedimentary in nature with extensive intertidal mud and sandflats within the sheltered harbours and areas of gravel and pebble sediments on more exposed beaches. These conditions combine to favour an abundant benthic fauna and green algae which support high densities of migrant and over-wintering wildfowl and waders. Eelgrass *Zostera* beds occur discontinuously along the north shore of the Isle of Wight and in a few places along the northern shore of The Solent. The Solent system supports a wide range of saltmarsh communities. Upper saltmarshes are dominated by sea purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*, sea plantain *Plantago maritima*, sea meadow grass *Puccinellia maritima* and sea lavender *Limonium vulgare*; locally thrift *Armeria maritima* and the nationally scarce golden samphire *Inula crithmoides* are abundant. Lower saltmarsh vegetation tends to be		

	dominated by sea purslane, cord grass *Spartina spp.*, glasswort *Salicornia spp.* and sea-blite *Suaeda maritima*. Cord-grasses dominate much of the saltmarsh in Southampton Water and in parts of the Solent and it was the original location of the introduction of *Spartina alterniflora* and subsequent hybridisation with the native species. There are several shingle spits including Hurst spit, Needs Ore Point, Calshot spit and Newtown Harbour spits which support a characteristic shingle flora. A range of grassland types lie inshore of the intertidal zone including unimproved species-rich neutral and calcareous grasslands, brackish grazing marsh systems and reed dominated freshwater marshes. The brackish water lagoons associated with grazing marsh systems behind the seawalls, e.g. Keyhaven-Lymington, Gilkicker lagoon, and at Brading Marshes contain internationally important communities of rare and endangered invertebrates and plants.	
Qualifying Features	The site is one of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland in European waters, exhibiting an unusual strong double tidal flow and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It includes many wetland habitats characteristic of the biogeographic region: saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.	Ramsar criterion 1
	The site supports an important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates. At least 33 British Red Data Book invertebrates and at least eight British Red Data Book plants are represented on site.	Ramsar criterion 2
	Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 51343 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)	Ramsar criterion 5

	Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa. 397 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3). Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, NW Europe. 5514 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).	Ramsar criterion 6
	Eurasian teal, *Anas crecca*, NW Europe. 5514 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3). Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe. 1240 individuals, representing an average of 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).	
Conservation Objectives	The Ramsar Convention criteria for the Solent and Southampton Water site overlap substantially with the features of the equivalent SPA. No additional conservation objectives are defined to assess these features, but those relating to the SPA can be used.	
Condition Status and Trends	See above - Solent and Southampton Water SPA.	

Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Prevention of coastal erosion. However, coastal habitats are sensitive to flood and coastal defence works, often creating coastal squeeze. Measures in place or being developed include; Coastal Defence Strategies, regulation of private coastal defences, shoreline management plans, coastal habitat management plan (CHaMPs) are in place. ▸ No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats; both resulting from developments including ports, marinas, jetties etc. Marine habitats are particularly sensitive to accidental pollution from shipping, oil/chemical spills, heavy industrial activities, former waste disposal sites and waste-water discharge. ▸ Protection from recreational and commercial interests, in what is a busy and developed area. ▸ These issues are dealt with through site management statements and joint projects with outside organisations e.g. intertidal sediment recharge, monitoring of saltmarsh erosion or though the relevant planning/ review provisions of the Habitat Regulations. Other more strategic issues are being addressed locally.

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Site Characteristics for New Forest Ramsar			
Location / NGR / Area	Hampshire; Wiltshire	50 49 32 N, 01 39 22 W	28002.81 ha
Coincident Sites	River Avon System SSSI, The New Forest SSSI, Norley Copse and Meadow SSSI, Roydon Woods SSSI, Lymington River SSSI and North Solent SSSI. The New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA		

Broad Habitat Classes	Other (92.5%) Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens) (5.3%) Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands (0.8%) Shrub-dominated wetlands (0.6%) Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent (0.4%) Forested peatland (0.4%)	
Site Account	The New Forest is an area of semi-natural vegetation including valley mires, fens and wet heath within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. The habitats present are of high ecological quality and diversity with undisturbed transition zones. The suite of mires is regarded as the *locus classicus* of this type of mire in Britain. Other wetland habitats include numerous ponds of varying size and water chemistry including several ephemeral ponds and a network of small streams mainly acidic in character which have no lowland equivalent in the UK. The plant communities in the numerous valleys and seepage step mires show considerable variation, being affected especially by the nutrient content of groundwater. In the most nutrient-poor zones, *Sphagnum* bog-mosses, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, common cottongrass and similar species predominate. In more enriched conditions the communities are more fen-like.	
Qualifying Features	Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain.	Ramsar criterion 1
	The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.	Ramsar criterion 2
	The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. The invertebrate fauna of the site is important due to the concentration of rare and scare wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England.	Ramsar criterion 3
Conservation Objectives	The Ramsar criteria for the New Forest overlap with the features of its equivalent SAC. No additional conservation objectives are defined to assess these features, but those relating to the SAC can be used.	

Condition Status and Trends	River Avon System SSSI: 51 units consisting of; 3.48% favourable, 36.59% unfavourable recovering, 57.13% unfavourable no change and 2.80% unfavourable declinging. New Forest SSSI: 582 units; 45.53% of the area is favourable, 53.22% unfavourable recovering, 0.43% unfavourable no change, 0.81% unfavourable declining and 0.01% destroyed/part destroyed. Norley Copse and Meadow SSSI: 2 units consisting of 58.63% Favourable and 41.37% unfavourable recovering. Roydon Woods SSSI: 8 units consisting of 100% Favourable. Lymington River SSSI consists of one unfavourable recovering unit*. The assessment concerns have now been addressed and remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan (See commentary for Lymington River ReedBeds SSSI). North Solent SSSI: 98 units; 63.21% Favourable, 34.94% unfavourable recovering, 0.93% unfavourable no change and 0.91% unfavourable declining*. At several locations of open coast, active erosion of salt marsh is apparent with significant areas of marsh reverting to mudflat, particularly around the seaward areas of the Beaulieu River estuary. Some units are remedied by the Lymington reed bed water level management plan, which re-established tidal exchange in the Lymington River.
Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity	▸ Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools ▸ Acid soils ▸ Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time) ▸ Unpolluted water ▸ Minimal nutrient inputs ▸ Low recreational pressure ▸ Maintenance of grazing regime

Sources:
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Protected Sites Information, 2012
Natural England, European Site Conservation Objectives, 2012
Habitats Directive, Annex I, 1992
Natural England, Nature on the Map, 2012
*(Feb 2012)
DEFRA, Magic, 2012

Appendix II: Screening Matrix

Please see insert.

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			SAC					SPA				Ramsar			
New Community North of Fareham: Options Screening			Butser Hill	River Itchen	Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Solent Maritime	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest
ID	**Proposal**	**Likely Significant Effect / Comment**													
Site boundary															
1	Concept Masterplan Options 1/2: Land west and east of A32, including land north of M27J11	Habitat loss	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	D2	D2	D2	A4	D2	D2	D2	A4
2	Concept Masterplan Option 3: Land west and east of A32, not including land north of M27J11	Habitat loss	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	?	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
3	Concept Masterplan Option 4: Land west of A32 only		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Use of land in Winchester District															
4	Further Variation 2a: Housing on part (Knowle buffer)	Disturbance	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	D2	D2	D2	?	D2	D2	D2	A4
5	Further Variation 2b: Playing fields or other formal open space (Knowle buffer)		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
6	Semi-natural greenspace		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Location of district centre															
7	Alternative DC Option 1: Adjacent to A32		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
8	Alternative DC Option 2: Adjacent to A32 and Knowle Road junction		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
9	Alternative DC Option 3: Halfway along Knowle Road		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
10	Alternative DC Option 4: Centre of site		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Number of local and district centres															
11	Two new centres, plus better use of Knowle		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
12	Three new centres		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
13	Four new centres		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Retail floorspace															
14	Core Strategy level of provision: up to 9,000sqm	Atmospheric pollution	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?
15	More than Core Strategy	Atmospheric pollution	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?
16	Less than Core Strategy	Atmospheric pollution	A4	?	A4	?	A4	?	?	?	A4	?	?	?	A4

New Community North of Fareham: Options Screening			SAC					SPA				Ramsar			
ID	Proposal	Likely Significant Effect / Comment	Butser Hill	River Itchen	Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Solent Maritime	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest
Location of secondary school															
17	Alternative School Option 1: near Funtley		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
18a	Alternative School Option 2a: south of Roche Court (potentially sharing some facilities with Boundary Oak Sch)	Atmospheric pollution; mixed (+/-) impacts on wintering birds (habitat loss/gain)	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	??	?	??	A4	??	?	??	A4
18b	Alternative School Option 2b: north of Roche Court (potentially sharing some facilities with Boundary Oak Sch)	Atmospheric pollution; mixed (+/-) impacts on wintering birds (habitat loss/gain)	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	??	?	??	A4	??	?	??	A4
19	Near Knowle, with playing fields in Knowle triangle (additional option)		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Secondary school capacity and catchment															
20	Meets NCNF needs only		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
21	Larger (also serving parts of Fareham)	Atmospheric pollution	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	?	A1	A1	A1	?	A1	A1
22	Smaller	Atmospheric pollution	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	?	A1	A1	A1	?	A1	A1
Health															
23	Higher level of facilities provided		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
24	Lower level of facilities provided		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
Community facilities															
25	Higher level of facilities provided		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
26	Lower level of facilities provided		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
Quantum of housing															
27	High: 7,500 (Concept Masterplan Options 1/2)	Atmospheric pollution, disturbance, water discharge, habitat loss	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	?
28	Mid: 6,500 (Concept Masterplan Option 3)	Atmospheric pollution, disturbance, water discharge, habitat loss	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	?
29	Low: 5,400 (Concept Masterplan Option 4)	Atmospheric pollution, disturbance, water discharge, habitat loss	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2	?
Housing density															
30	30 dwellings per hectare	But higher density / lower quantum could mean more space for mitigation	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
31	35 - 38dph		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
32	40dph		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1

New Community North of Fareham: Options Screening			SAC					SPA				Ramsar			
ID	Proposal	Likely Significant Effect / Comment	Butser Hill	River Itchen	Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Solent Maritime	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest
Affordable housing															
33	0% provision		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
34	20% provision		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
35	30-40% provision (as in the Core Strategy)		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
Affordable housing mix															
36	More affordable rent, less intermediate homes		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
37	Less affordable rent, more intermediate homes		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
Employment location															
38	Largely at junction 11	Atmospheric pollution (Portsmouth Harbour only), habitat loss	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	D2	D2	D2	A4	D2	D2	D2	A4
39	Largely at Dean Farm and junction 10		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Employment land use split															
40	B1: 60%; B2: 13%; B8: 27% (as per Concept Masterplan)		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
41	Market decides		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
Quantum of employment floorspace															
42	One job per household (i.e. 12.1sqm per dwelling)	But lower quantum could mean more space for mitigation	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
43	Less than one job per household		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Public transport															
44	Bus Rapid Transit penetrates site	But BRT most likely to reduce traffic emissions	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
45	Rail halt at Knowle / Funtley		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
46	New / re-routed local bus service		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Smarter choices															
47	More intense	But intense most likely to reduce traffic emissions	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
48	Less intense		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1

New Community North of Fareham: Options Screening			SAC					SPA				Ramsar			
ID	Proposal	Likely Significant Effect / Comment	Butser Hill	River Itchen	Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Solent Maritime	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest
Transport network															
49	Junction 11 upgrades and link road, plus some improvements at J10 (Concept Masterplan Option 1)	Atmospheric pollution	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?
50	Upgrade junction 10 to all-moves (Concept Masterplan Options 2, 3 and 4)	Atmospheric pollution	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?
51	Upgrade junction 10 to all-moves with east-facing slip leaving M27 just east of Funtley	Atmospheric pollution	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?
Balance of public and private open space															
52	More garden space and less public open space	Disturbance	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	?	?	?	??	?	?	?	A4
53	Less garden space and more public open space		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Green Infrastructure Strategy															
54	Green Infrastructure Strategy from Concept Masterplan	Contributes towards avoidance/mitigation for disturbance	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Energy															
55	Concept Masterplan Energy Option 1: Site wide energy generation	Atmospheric pollution - both plume (if CHP) and deliveries (if biomass)	?	D1/2	A4	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?	D1/2	D1/2	D1/2	?
56	Concept Masterplan Energy Option 2: Individual building energy generation		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
57	Concept Masterplan Energy Option 3: Energy efficiency		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Water															
58	Reducing water usage	But positive effects to abstraction and discharge	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
59	Rainwater harvesting		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
60	Grey water recycling		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
61	Black water recycling		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Household waste recycling centre															
62	Include HWRC on site		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
63	No HWRC on site		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4

New Community North of Fareham: Options Screening			SAC					SPA					Ramsar				
ID	Proposal	Likely Significant Effect / Comment	Butser Hill	River Itchen	Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Solent Maritime	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest
Use of Fareham Common															
64	Housing on part		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	D2	D2	D2	?	D2	D2	D2	A4
65	Green infrastructure - local food production or other formal open space		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
66	Green infrastructure - semi-natural / agricultural as at present		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
Use of land at Pinks Sawmills															
67	Exclude from site boundary		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
68	Allocate as housing		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
69	Allocate as mixed-use site for employment and HWRC		A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4
High Level Development Principles															
70	Retain Core Strategy vision for NCNF, including high level of self-containment and exemplar energy efficiency		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
71	Revise vision to encourage self-containment, and promote renewable energy and thermal efficiency		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
Additional Development Principles															
72	Include additional development principles focusing on character & distribution of land uses		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
73	Do not include additional development principles		A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1

			SAC					SPA				Ramsar			
New Community North of Fareham: Options Screening			Butser Hill	River Itchen	Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Solent Maritime	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Portsmouth Harbour	Solent and Southampton Water	The New Forest
ID	**Proposal**	**Likely Significant Effect / Comment**													
Assessment Key															
Category A: No negative effect															
A1		Options / policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.													
A2		Options / policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.													
A3		Options / policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European Site.													
A4		Options / policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.													
A5		Options / policies that would have no effect because development is implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites.													
Category B: No significant effect															
B		Options / policies that could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects.													
Category C: Likely significant effect alone															
C1		The option, policy or proposal could directly affect a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto a European site, or adjacent to it.													
C2		The option / policy could indirectly affect a European site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or increase disturbance.													
C3		Proposals for a magnitude of development that, no matter where it was located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.													
C4		An option / policy that makes provision for a quantity / type of development but the effects are uncertain because its detailed location is to be selected following consideration of options in a later, more specific plan.													
C5		Options / policies for developments or infrastructure projects that could block alternatives for the provision of other development in the future, that may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided.													
C6		Options, policies or proposals which are to be implemented in due course - if implemented in one or more particular ways, the proposal could possibly have a significant effect on a European site.													
C7		Any other options, policies or proposals that would be vulnerable to failure under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage; to include them in the plan would be regarded by the EC as 'faulty planning'.													
C8		Any other proposal that may have an adverse effect on a European site, which might try to pass the tests of HRA at project level by arguing that the plan provides IROPI to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.													
Category D: Likely significant effects in combination															
D1		The option, policy or proposal alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other policies within the same plan the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant.													
D2		Options, policies or proposals that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are combined with the effects of other plans or projects, the combined effects would be likely to be significant.													
D3		Options or proposals that are, or could be, part of a programme or sequence of development delivered over a period, where the implementation of the later stages could have a significant effect on European sites.													
?		Uncertain effects because the issue/option currently lacks detail. The screening assessment will be re-visited as more detail becomes available.													

Appendix III: Record of Consultation Responses

Please see insert.

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Analysis of Consultation Responses

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the New Community North of Fareham Plan

Organisation	Date	Comment ID	Para	Comments	Document	Summary of FBC reaction, if any needed
Natural England	Aug-12	1	General	In our response to the SA Scoping Report we advised that we would wish to see consideration to the possible impacts to the coastal designated sites as a result of the development. We therefore welcome the Baseline Data Review Report (May 2012) to inform a Habitat Regulations Assessment. The information provided offers a suitable scope on which further assessment may be undertaken.	Baseline Data Review Report (May 2012); "BDRR"	-
		2	Chap3	The Baseline Data Review Report provides a useful summary of the protected sites and their designated features. We welcome the detail offered in section 3 on air pollution. This supports the approach previously discussed with the council with regard to modelling the impacts of the development, as outlined in section 3.5.1	BDRR	-
		3	4.4.12	The development of the Habitat Regulations Assessment will need to give consideration of disturbance on the coastal sites beyond those nearest to the development area, as is suggested in section 4.4.12 of the review, unless evidence can be offered as to the behaviour of the local population and visitor patterns. For example, it may be noted that during the visitor surveys undertaken for the project Salterns Park was the site which suffered the most disturbance events. Whilst not in the Borough, the condition assessment for Browndown notes impacts from recreational pressure. To what extent is the development likely to exacerbate these issues?	BDRR	Table 4.1 illustrates the predicted annual visits to coastal sites closest to the SDA. The report does not suggest that only these sites will be considered. The HRA will consider all coastal sites which are likely to be affected by visitor disturbance. The Council will prepare a methodology and scope for the HRA and will discuss this with Natural England in order to agree the sites that will assessed.
		4	Chap4	We would recommend that the authority starts to give consideration to possible measures which may be implemented on a precautionary approach, on the information already available, or make it clear that the measures that come out of Phase III of the SDMP will be implemented prior to the development of the SDA area taking place. We would advise that attendance at the Solent Forum meetings would be helpful in ensuring that the authority is well placed to action any recommendations resulting from the project.	BDRR	The Council is considering a number of measures already including developing a comprehensive green infrastructure strategy. The Council also intends to implement measures from the SDMP. The Council will be represented at Solent Forum meetings by the County ecologist who will feedback on any recommendations.
		5	Chap5	With regard to the abstraction of water for consumption Natural England is aware that the council is considering the best approach to reducing this. Given the publication of the Water Resource Management Plan for Portsmouth Water, the supplier for the area, which allows for the development to come forward, Natural England has no further comment to make on this matter at this time.	BDRR	The Council is considering ways of reducing the water demand of the development and is working with Portsmouth Water to ensure a sustainable supply.
		6	Chap6	The quality requirements for waste water discharge have already been defined and as a result it is likely that Natural England could offer little further advice. We would recommend assurance be sought from the operator of the wastewater treatment works that there is capacity for the development, as suggested by the Environment Agency.	BDRR	The Council will liaise with the two waste water operators through the Infrastructure planning work. The Environment Agency will of course be involved.
		7	7.4	Natural England supports the suggestion of an impact pathway from the development onto sites which are important to the integrity of the designated sites. Increased recreational use of playing fields and other areas used for feeding by over-wintering species may cause disturbance beyond the boundaries of the development area. The likelihood of this impact will need to be considered further. We would welcome any effort to increase the value of sites which have uncertain use in the Wader and Brent Goose Strategy, to allow the development to offer biodiversity enhancements. We advise that any sites with uncertain use should not be dismissed as having no value but should be surveyed to confirm whether they have value or not. We therefore welcome and support the suggestion in section 7.4 for surveying to be undertaken.	BDRR	The potential impact on Brent geese of intensified use of the playing fields will be one of the issues for further consideration in the screening. If surveys are necessary to support the plan they will be done, otherwise, we would look to encourage them to be done at the project stage through a policy in the plan.
RSPB	Aug-12	8	General	Overall, we consider that the report identifies the key issues concerning the European Sites and we broadly welcome the proposed next steps needed to develop the evidence base in respect of these issues. However, we have some comments and concerns regarding information presented within the Disturbance and Functional or Actual Loss of Habitat chapters:	BDRR	-
		9	4.3.2 & 4.4.5	We query the status of the proposed New Forest recreational disturbance research and the development of strategic access management within the National Park. The HRA report suggests that this work is already underway, however we are not aware of any recent progress to either further the understanding of disturbance impacts in the Forest or manage visitor pressure. We agree however that this work is a critical part of the HRA evidence base and therefore we recommend that discussions are held with NE and the NPA at the earliest opportunity.	BDRR	Conversations with NE are ongoing; the Council will liaise with the NFNPA at the appropriate time.
		10	4.4.13	It should be noted that the most recent (Phase 2) report is due to be subject to independent peer review.	BDRR	Noted.

Analysis of Consultation Responses

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the New Community North of Fareham Plan

Organisation	Date	Comment ID	Para	Comments	Document	Summary of FBC reaction, if any needed
		11	4.4.9	We would urge caution in relying solely on the SDMP visitor surveys to assess current and future visitor patterns from North Fareham. The disturbance fieldwork results report (Liley et al, 2011) provides the following clear caution: *"4.3 The data are not necessarily relevant at a local level, for example in assessing the impacts of a single development, and we urge caution in interpreting the results in this way. The data collection has used twenty different survey locations and at each a relatively small area of mudflat was the focus. It is therefore not possible to use the data collected to determine the amount of disturbance along a stretch of coast, for example an entire creek or length of shoreline. The usefulness and potential of the survey is the overall picture (across a wide range of sites, habitats and levels of use), of how birds respond to the presence of people, providing the basic information necessary to develop models which will all the impacts of disturbance to be determined at a Solent-wide scale."*	BDRR	See below.
		12	4.4.9	Furthermore, a simple assessment the use of those sections of the coast closest to the proposed development, is not a robust approach to assessment of recreational behaviour of current and future residents of North Fareham. Travel times, visitor infrastructure and other access factors may mean that a significant proportion of the local population do not visit the closest sections of the Solent coast. As highlighted above, it will be necessary to carry out further more detailed surveys of the local area (i.e. North Fareham and the surrounding residential area) to obtain a robust baseline of access patterns and hence predict the likely behaviour of new residents of the SDA.	BDRR	Discussions are being held between the Council, NE and landowners over how best to address this.
		13	7.4	We strongly support the proposal to carry out further surveys to establish the current Brent goose (and possible wader) use of areas to the east of the SDA, previously identified as supporting feeding Brent geese in the 2002 Brent Goose Strategy. We also welcome to the proposal to extend these surveys to also collect bird flight-line data, in order to inform an initial impact assessment of potential wind energy development considered through the plan.	BDRR	Surveys are underway.
Environment Agency	Aug-12	14	General	We are pleased with the approach that has been taken in the baseline data review report and are satisfied our previous comments have been taken into consideration.	BDRR	-
		15	General	We defer comment on several of the identified impacts to Natural England, including atmospheric pollution, disturbance and functional and/or actual loss.	BDRR	-
					BDRR	
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Aug-12	16	General	We have seen the response from RSPB and would also share the same points so have not repeated them in detail here. Overall we also feel that the main points have been identified and welcome the additional proposed surveys and evidence gathering. In addition to those raised by the RSPB we would raise two further points.	BDRR	-
		17	Chap4/7	The Solent Waders and Brent Goose strategy has been mentioned in relation to loss of habitat. We would also wish to see recognition of the potential for displacement of birds from recreational disturbance. If sites of importance for Waders and Brent Geese are regularly being used as part of any GI strategy this could result in disturbance to the birds and to birds being displaced elsewhere. This is something that to date that has not been looked at as part of the Solent Disturbance mitigation project but may need to be considered within the mitigation phase of the project. When considering GI as part of the North of Fareham development it would be good to see this taken into account.	BDRR	A GI Strategy for the New Community is being prepared as part of the masterplan; surveys are being undertaken to establish how such areas are used by overwintering birds.
		18	2.1.3	You mention in 2.1.3 Emer Bog SAC and that the SDA is unlikely to affect it in terms of its water levels. A number of Local Authority HRA's have also identified Emer bog as being vulnerable to recreational pressure and that mitigation should be provided in the form of Green Infrastructure. Whilst recognising that Emer Bog is a distance from the Fareham SDA we would wish to see recognition for this recreational pressure to Emer from the PUSH growth made within this baseline report and a recognition that this would be dealt with through the PUSH strategic GI strategy.	BDRR	The HRA for the plan will not be making recommendations about the PUSH-wide GI Strategy.
The Fareham Society	Aug-12	19	Chap3	The chapter on atmospheric pollution does not read well.	BDRR	Review at Screening and AA stages.
			Chap4	Paragraph 4.4.4.7 Adequate research has not been done on the composition of visitors accessing the important sites and this should be done, whilst assessing the likely impact of extra population from the SDA on all European sites. It will be necessary to include in these studies, the newly permitted length of coastal footpath to be constructed close to the water's edge in Upper Fareham Creek SPA, Ramsar etc. Until recently the footpath has been set back from the edge of the Creek and this particular stretch was permitted as part of the planning permission for the faux mill restaurant at Cams. Bird disturbance will have to be monitored along with work done at Salterns Quay.	BDRR	Discussions are being held between the Council, NE and landowners over how best to address further surveys.
			7.4	The situation at Monument Farm has been noted and it is expected that adequate monitoring will take place in subsequent years (7.4 data gaps). Significant numbers of geese fly over North Fareham towards the open countryside in winter months. This is certainly an issue to be monitored.	BDRR	Surveys are underway.
			General	The society wishes to be reassured that extensive and fully informed research on species and habitats relying and present on land in the SDA and close by will be done. Local knowledge should also be tapped on these issues as only intermittent visits to the sites are not adequate.	BDRR	The necessary surveys will be commissioned to inform planning applications, and some are already underway.

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