



Appendix B

Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Matrix and Appropriate Assessment Statement

PLEASE NOTE: Undertaking the HRA process is the responsibility of the decision maker as the Competent Authority for the purpose of the Habitats Regulations. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the Competent Authority with the information that they require for this purpose.

HRA drafting date:	04/10/2022
HRA completion date:	04/10/2022
Application reference:	N/A
Application address:	Hill Head Shoreline (SU536023)
Application description:	Extension of the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order
Lead Planning Officer:	Nick Cutler
Please note that all references in this assessment to the 'Habitats Regulations' refer to The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).	

Stage 1 - details of the plan or project

European site potentially impacted by planning application, plan or project:	Solent and Southampton Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.
Is the plan or project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (if yes, Applicant should have provided details)?	Yes. The extension of the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) relates to the exclusion of dogs on an identified location on the shoreline at Hill head which is within the boundary of the Solent & Southampton Water Special Protection Area. The PSPO proposes to exclude dogs from the shoreline between the months of October 1 st and March 31 st .
Are there any other plans or projects that together with the proposed plan or project being assessed could affect the site?	Yes. A current PSPO designates an existing dog exclusion zone on the shoreline at Hill Head just east of the proposed PSPO extension.

Stage 2 - HRA screening assessment

Screening under Regulation 63(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations – The Applicant to provide evidence so that a judgement can be made as to whether there could be any potential significant impacts of the development on the integrity of the SPA/SAC/Ramsar.

Government Guidance on Habitats Regulations Assessments: Protecting a European Site¹, states that Competent Authorities should “give the terms ‘plan’ and ‘project’ a very broad meaning to cover a wide range of activities”. Therefore, for the purposes of this Habitats Regulations Assessment, Public Space

Protection Orders are considered to constitute a Project under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The proposed extension of the PSPO will be regulating an activity (dog walking) on a new area of the shoreline at Hill Head which is within the boundary of the Solent & Southampton Water SPA. The proposed extension of the dog exclusion zone on Hill Head shoreline is shown in the figure below.

As indicated by the figure below, the proposed exclusion zone falls within the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.



The impact of this PSPO extension is considered to be positive. There is likely to be a reduction in recreational disturbance (a known adverse impact) to the SPA in this location. The reduction in recreational disturbance has the benefit of allowing the qualifying species of this SPA being able to rest and feed undisturbed for greater periods of time; helping to achieve the stated conservation objectives of this internationally protected site.

Would the proposal lead to a likely significant effect on European site integrity? No

(If yes, continue to Stage 3).

Stage 3 - Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 63(1) - if there are any potential significant impacts, the applicant must provide evidence showing avoidance and/or mitigation measures to allow an Assessment to be made. The Applicant must also provide details which demonstrate any long-term management, maintenance and funding of any solution.

N/A

Stage 4 – Summary of the Appropriate Assessment (To be carried out by the Competent Authority (the local planning authority) in liaison with Natural England

N/A

Natural England Officer:

Summary of Natural England's comments:

¹ [Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site)

