

Date: 12 February 2013
Our ref: 76534
Your ref:

Alison Fowler
River Hamble Harbour Authority



Cromwell House
15 Andover Road
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 7BT

By email only, no hard copy to follow

Dear Alison,

**Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes SSSI
Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation
Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area
Solent and Southampton Water Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention**

**Location: Royal Southern and RAF Yacht Clubs, River Hamble, Hampshire
Proposal: Reconfiguration of berthing facilities and installation of additional pontoons**

Thank you for your letter dated 22 January 2013 consulting Natural England on the above application. We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that the application site lies close to habitats which form part of the Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and also the Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary SSSI. These SSSIs are a component part of the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), part of the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar Site).

Natural England has no objection to the proposed development. It is our view that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, this proposal would not be likely to have a significant effect on the above sites and the consent may be granted (subject to other planning considerations) under the terms of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations. We also do not believe that this scheme will have a detrimental effect upon the interest features of the SSSI sites listed above. This decision is subject to the following avoidance measures included in the application detailed below being fully implemented:

- Vibro-piling should be used as standard. In the event that it is necessary to use percussive piling methods, then this should only be undertaken in order to drive a pile to its design level, using soft start techniques.
- Use of a backhoe dredger for all capital dredging works.
- The proposed works may have an effect upon migratory fish species within the estuary; we recommend you consult with the Environment Agency for further information.
- The redundant pontoons within the mitigation site should be removed (as specified within the Consent application) before the proposed works commence.
- We welcome the implementation of all of the mitigation measures proposed within the application.

We have considered the potential implications upon the hydrodynamics of the Hamble Estuary which may result from the scheme. We would agree with the conclusions of the application, namely

that the proposed capital dredge will not adversely affect the functioning of the Hamble Estuary and therefore by implication the wider Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Bradshaw', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sally Bradshaw
Marine Adviser, Southern Team

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