

Hampshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Habitat Regulations Assessment Stage 1
Screening

Hampshire County Council

February 2020



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Client signoff

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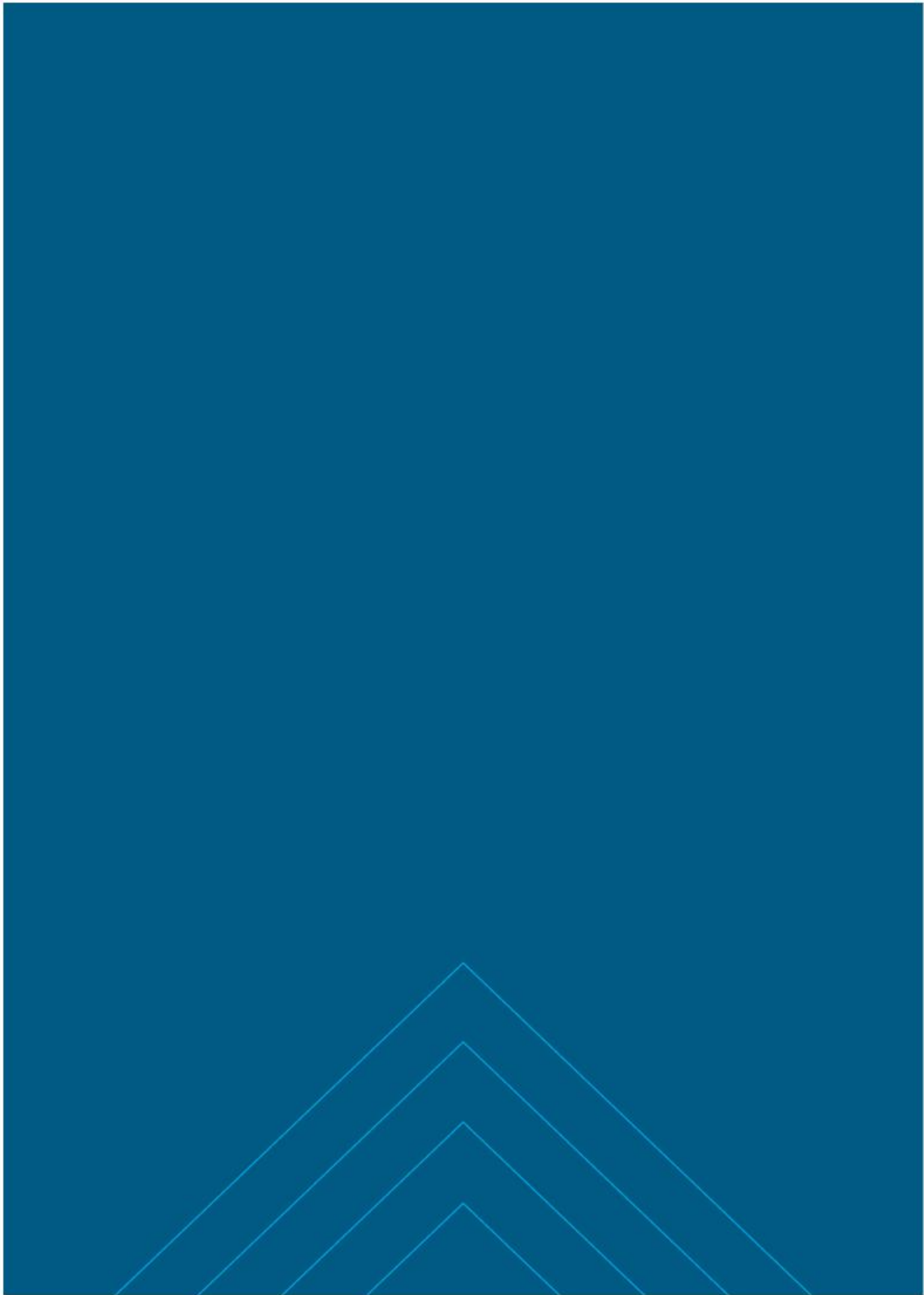
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1. Introduction

1.1. Background to this assessment

Atkins, member of the SNC-Lavalin group, has been commissioned by Hampshire County Council (HCC) to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Stage 1 Screening of the HCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).

This HRA Stage 1 Screening has been undertaken in parallel with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the LFRMS, which has been completed by the HCC Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Team.

A previous version of the LFRMS HRA Stage 1 Screening was written in 2018 on behalf of HCC. This HRA comprises an update of the HRA based on changes to the LFRMS since 2018.

1.2. Background to the LFRMS

In accordance with the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010¹, HCC became the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Hampshire and took on several statutory duties, including the requirement to produce a LFRMS.

The HCC FWM Team are currently in the process of updating the existing LFRMS², which was adopted on 23 July 2013. The purpose of the LFRMS is to identify the extent of flood risk across Hampshire; how it will be managed in partnership with others and outline HCC's approach to local flood risk management in the county.

The proposed update will principally change how the LFRMS is structured. The existing 'Action Plan' sets out proposed flood risk management plans on a ward by ward basis; whereas the proposed update will instead organise Hampshire's Action Plan into a catchment based approach. This update requires an update of the existing Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)² and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)², which were originally produced in 2012 for the current adopted LFRMS. This HRA Stage 1 – Screening only considers the update to the LFRMS document itself, as the other elements of the strategy delivery (the Catchment Plans and subsequent Action Plans) have not yet been produced.

The LFRMS sets out HCC's updated overall strategic approach to management of flood risk in Hampshire, which incorporates community engagement, the catchment approach and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) principles across the board. It also contains concise individual statements for how the HCC FWM Team will deal with each of their statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

The LFRMS will be used in conjunction with distinct, detailed technical plans for each catchment within Hampshire, highlighting specific issues and potential responses.

1.3. Background to Habitats Regulations Assessment

HRA is required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive³ and Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations)⁴, for all plans and projects which may have likely significant effects on sites designated for nature conservation importance under European legislation (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and are not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the site.

Sites that are designated under European legislation include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). HRA is also required, as a matter of UK Government policy for sites going through the formal designation process (i.e. candidate and proposed SACs (cSAC), Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and potential SPAs (pSPA), listed and proposed Wetlands of International Importance designated under the Ramsar Convention 1979 (commonly referred to as 'Ramsar sites'), and sites identified for Natura 2000 compensatory measures, for the purposes of considering plans and projects that may affect them⁵. Hereafter all of the above designated nature conservation sites are referred to as 'international sites'.

¹ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga_20100029_en.pdf

² <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/strategies/Local-Flood-Risk-Management-Strategy>

³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive)

⁴ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/contents/made>

⁵ *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department for Communities and Local Government. March 2012.

There are four stages to the HRA process. These are summarised below and illustrated in Figure 1-1:

- Stage 1 – Screening: To test whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect⁶ on an international site;
- Stage 2 – Appropriate assessment: To determine whether, in view of an international site’s conservation objectives, the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site with respect to the site structure, function and conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;
- Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions: Where a plan is assessed as having an adverse impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of an international site, there should be an examination of alternatives (e.g. alternative locations and designs of development); and
- Stage 4 – Assessment: In exceptional circumstance where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain (e.g. where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI). Compensatory measures would usually be required to offset negative impacts.

This report comprises Stage 1 - Screening and assesses the LFRMS and any specific components that could lead to likely significant effects on sites of international importance. The HRA screening process is based on the application of the precautionary principle. Where uncertainty or doubt remains, an impact should be assumed, triggering the requirement for appropriate assessment of the plan.

The results of this Screening stage (Stage 1) will be used to establish whether an appropriate assessment is needed (Stage 2) due to likely significant effects on international sites. This conclusion would need to be agreed with Natural England.

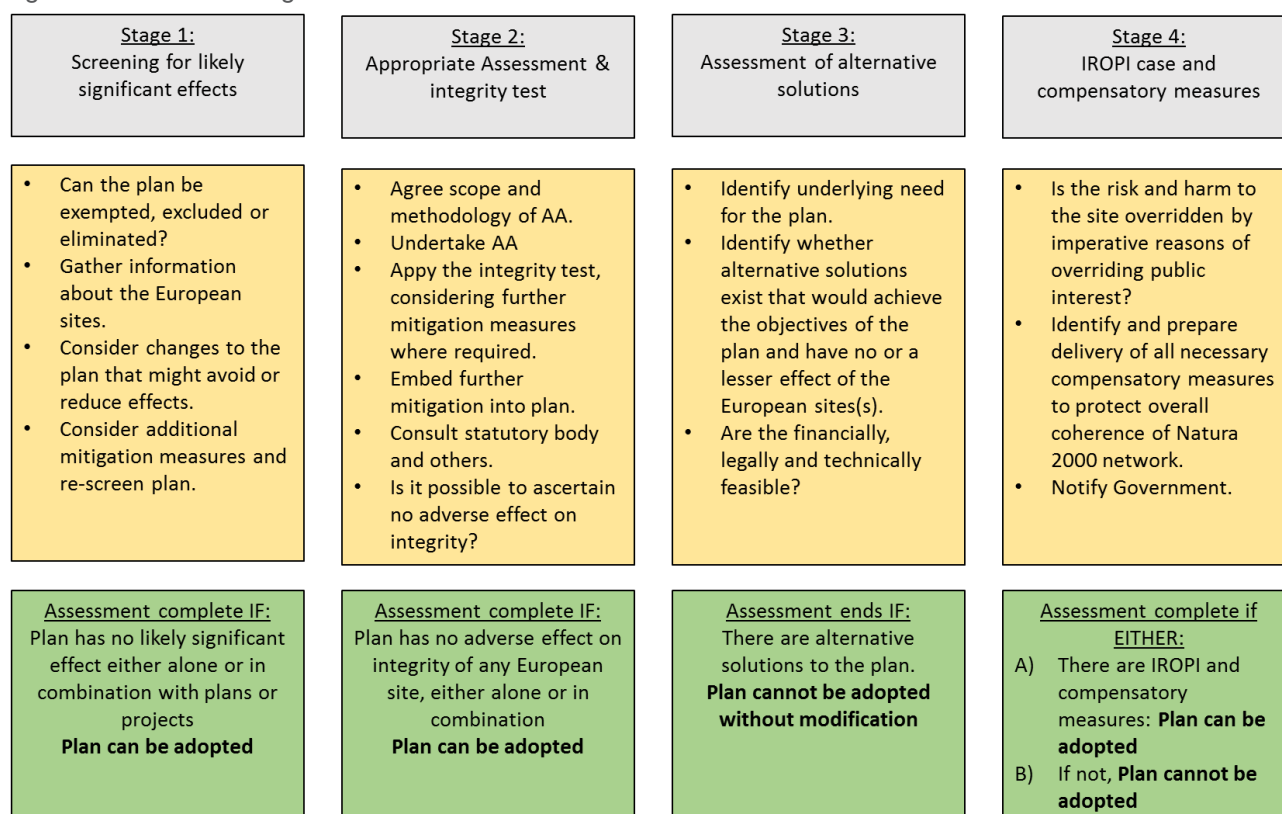


Figure 1-1 Illustration of the HRA process (adapted from DTA, 2016)

⁶ Likely significant effect is any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated. If any plan or project causes the cited interest features of a site to fall into unfavourable condition, they can be considered to have a likely significant effect on the site.

1.4. Outline of this report

Following this introduction:

- Section 2 of this report sets out the methodology used for the Stage 1 - Screening;
- Section 3 outlines the details of the LFRMS;
- Section 4 details the preliminary risk categorisation of the LFRMS components in terms of their potential to give rise to significant effects;
- Section 5 provides further detail on the screening of specific LFRMS components that carry some risk of likely significant effects on international sites;
- Section 6 details the other plans and projects identified which may lead to in combination effects on the international sites; and,
- Section 7 provides the conclusions of the Stage 1 – Screening assessment.

Data collected about the European sites that are relevant to the Hampshire LFRMS are presented in **Appendix A** of this report.

2. Methodology

2.1. Published guidance

The approach to the HRA screening has been developed with reference to the following published documents and guidance:

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive);
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); and
- Tyldesley, D. and Chapman C. (2016) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook. Published and updated by DTA Publications Limited.

As illustrated in Figure 1-1, Stage 1 (screening) of the HRA process involves the following steps:

1. Determining the need for assessment: Is the plan exempt, excluded or can be obviously eliminated from assessment?
2. Gathering of information about the European sites potentially affected;
3. Checking the plan and analysing options, with preliminary screening for likely significant effects (either alone or in-combination);
4. Consideration and incorporation of further mitigation measures;
5. Re-screening to account for mitigation; and
6. Preliminary consultation and recording of the assessment.

This section outlines the approach to each of the steps listed above.

2.2. Determining the need for assessment

The Habitats Regulations Handbook (DTA 2016) recommends a series of tests to determine whether a plan should be subject to HRA. These are whether:

- The plan is exempt from assessment as it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European site(s) potentially affected;
- The plan can be excluded from assessment as it is not a 'plan' within the meaning and scope of the Habitats Directive; and / or
- The plan can be eliminated from assessment because it cannot have any conceivable effect on any European sites.

The Hampshire LFRMS is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites, and is therefore not exempt from assessment. The LFRMS is not excluded from assessment, as it falls within the classification of a 'plan' within the Habitats Regulations, being a formal statement prepared by a public body that has an influence on future consent decisions, sets out an intended course of future action, and sets out intentions and decisions about what is going to be done, or should be done. As the LFRMS covers the whole of Hampshire and could (theoretically) be applied to any location where there is a sufficient level of flood risk, it is not possible to eliminate the plan from assessment, as managing flood risk could conceivably have effects on European sites.

It has therefore been determined that the LFRMS should be taken through a Stage 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment screening, which is the purpose of this report.

2.3. Identification of relevant international sites

The next step was to review which international sites should be included in the HRA. For spatially-based land use plans, this process would include an initial consideration of the geographic extent or 'Zone of Influence' (ZoI) of any theoretical impacts which could arise as a result of options included in the plan, and used to help determine whether any international sites should be included within the assessment, or could be screened out. However, the LFRMS only includes high level statements that set out how flood risk should be managed, and does not specifically set out how these statements should be applied in specific locations. It has therefore not been possible to apply a detailed or precise geographical screening to sites within the LFRMS area at this stage, and a broad-brush approach has been taken.

As a starting point, all international sites within Hampshire and crossing its administrative borders were identified (the Zol). Within this Zol, 30 international sites were considered for inclusion within the assessment. The international sites consist of 13 SACs, ten SPAs, one pSPA and six Ramsar sites. The sites within Hampshire that have been included for screening are listed below:

- Butser Hill SAC
- Dorset Heaths SAC
- East Hampshire Hangers SAC
- Emer Bog SAC
- Mottisfont Bats SAC
- River Avon SAC
- River Itchen SAC
- Salisbury Plain SAC
- Shoreheath Common SAC
- Solent and IOW Lagoons SAC
- Solent Maritime SAC
- The New Forest SAC
- Woolmer Forest SAC
- Avon Valley SPA
- Avon Valley Ramsar site
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar site
- New Forest SPA
- New Forest Ramsar site
- Porton Down SPA
- Portsmouth Harbour SPA
- Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar site
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA
- Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site
- Thames Basin Heaths SPA
- Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA
- Dorset Heathlands SPA
- Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site
- Salisbury Plain SPA
- Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA

There are no SCIs, cSACs or pRamsar sites present within the Zol.

As a further step, any international sites that were outside of the Hampshire LFRMS boundary, but located on/ adjacent to rivers downstream of the county boundary were also identified. The rivers that have their sources, or have tributaries in Hampshire, but end outside the county are:

- The River Kennet (of which the River Enbourne is a tributary);
- The River Loddon;
- The River Wey; and
- The River Rother.

There are no international sites that are adjacent to or hydraulically connected to either the River Kennet or the River Loddon, from the Hampshire county boundary to their confluences with the River Thames. Similarly, there are no international sites on or adjacent to the River Rother from the county boundary to the end of the river at its confluence with the River Arun (more than 25km away).

The River Wey flows east into Surrey, and forms part of the site boundary of the Wealden Heaths (Phase I) SPA, and the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC, approximately 4.5km downstream of the county boundary. These two sites have therefore also been included in the HRA screening.

Further details of all 32 of these international sites, including their location, reasons for designation, and conservation objectives are provided in **Error! Reference source not found.**

2.4. Gathering information on the international sites with the potential to be affected

Information on the qualifying interest features of each international site and their reasons for designation was obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website⁷. The conservation objectives and favourable conditions tables for each international site were obtained from the Natural England website⁸ for the purpose of this assessment. These details are also included in the summary descriptions of each relevant international site in **Appendix A**.

2.5. Gathering information on the LFRMS

The first step of the HRA process was to gather all available information regarding the LFRMS. This information was required to undertake an analysis of the LFRMS and its impact on international sites. A summary of the LFRMS and its contents is provided in **Section 3**.

⁷ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>

2.6. Obtaining information on other plans and projects

In accordance with the Habitat Regulations there is a need to consider the potential for likely significant effects of the LFRMS 'in combination' with other projects and plans. A web based search of HRA Screening reports (and Appropriate Assessments where relevant) was undertaken, to identify any projects or plans that have been subject to HRA, to determine if there is any potential for in-combination effects on these international sites. Identification of 'Likely Significant Effects' of the plan 'Alone' and 'In-Combination', and consideration of mitigation

Following the gathering of information on the LFRMS and the international sites, a two-step exercise has been undertaken to predict whether the LFRMS could result in likely significant effects on the international sites 'alone'. In order to inform this process, all parts of the LFRMS were considered to see if they could result in likely significant effects on the international sites. As the LFRMS is a high level strategic document (i.e. individual catchment plans and action plans have yet to be developed and specific measures that may be implemented are unknown at this stage), this HRA Stage 1 Screening has also been undertaken at a strategic level.

The first step initially considers the broad principles and statements contained within the LFRMS, and determined whether these statements have any potential pathways for likely significant effects to arise as a result of their implementation, taking into account any environmental protection principles that are built in to the LFRMS. A categorisation system has been used to assign the potential for LSE pathways to arise from each component of the LFRMS. The purpose of this step is a 'coarse' screening to identify any components that carry no obvious risk of causing likely significant effects, and to eliminate them from further screening. The results of the initial categorisation are shown in **Section 4**.

The second step in the assessment process considers in more detail whether, based on the categorisation of the LFRMS elements and the baseline data (qualifying features and sensitivities) collected for the international sites, there is any likelihood of significant effects arising from the statements or actions arising from the LFRMS. **Section 4** documents the outcome of this analysis.

The potential for likely significant effects of the LFRMS on the international sites 'in combination' with other plans and projects has also been considered in the screening process. As part of this process, all completed HRAs for other relevant plans and projects were reviewed to determine whether there is the potential for 'in combination' effects (see **Section 5**).

2.7. Consultation with Natural England

Natural England was consulted on the proposed methodology and the scope of the international sites to be included in this assessment. One additional international site was recommended for inclusion; Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA (by email from Pauline Holmes dated 13 April 2017, refer to Appendix C for Consultation Response). Details of this international site, including its qualifying interest features are provided in Section 3.

Natural England was consulted again in December 2017 on the draft LFRMS document and a draft of this HRA Screening report. Comments were received from Natural England in January 2018 (refer to Appendix C for a copy of the response), and these have been incorporated to the LFRMS document and this version of the HRA Screening Report as requested. A summary of the changes made to the LFRMS in response to the consultation with Natural England is given in Section 2.8. A summary of the comments made by Natural England in January 2018, and the corresponding responses is given in

Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Summary of Natural England comments and responses

Natural England comment	Response
The LFRMS wording should be amended with strengthened statements on the protection of European sites, relating to Hampshire CC's duties as a competent authority under the Habitats Regulations.	A summary of the subsequent changes made is given in Section 2.9
The flood risk responsibilities of water companies and inclusion of water company plans should be included in the in-combination assessment.	This assessment has been undertaken and is included in Section 5.
In the consultation draft of the HRA Screening report, an initial 'pre-screening' exercise of the forthcoming Catchment Plans was included. Natural England did not agree with this exercise and felt that at this stage there was a risk of Catchment Plans/issues being screened out prematurely.	The pre-screening of the Catchment Plans has been removed entirely from the HRA Screening.

2.8. Consideration of changes or amendments to the Plan to avoid likely significant effect

HRA is an iterative process. Where necessary, suggestions can be made on how to amend the plan or project to avoid likely significant effects on an international site. This iterative approach has been adopted as part of this assessment and recommendations that were submitted to HCC have been included in the LFRMS.

The changes that have been made to the LFRMS following comments received from Natural England are as follows:

- Page 10: Statement outlining HCC role as a competent authority added;
- Page 25: Text added that environmental designations and wider biodiversity will be taken into consideration during Ordinary Watercourse Consenting
- Page 27: Statement added to emphasise that the use of flood risk mitigation will have due regard to environmental legislation, including the Habitats Regulations 2017; and
- Page 29: Statement added to emphasise that development of flood risk and coastal defence schemes will ensure compliance with environmental legislation, including the Habitats Regulations 2017, and seek opportunities for biodiversity enhancement where feasible.

3. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

HCC has produced an updated LFRMS, which outlines the strategic approach to management of flood risk in Hampshire. The document incorporates community engagement, the catchment approach and SuDS principles across the board. HCC recognise the multi-source nature of flooding and the significant role that natural geology and topography play in flood risk management. Based on this understanding, it was considered appropriate to adopt a catchment approach to flood risk management, basing plans on natural river catchment areas rather than administrative borough or district boundaries. The updated LFRMS also contains individual statements regarding how the Hampshire Flood and Water Management Team (FWM Team) will deal with each of their statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The strategy will be used in conjunction with technical plans for each catchment within Hampshire, which will highlight specific issues and potential responses.

3.1. Delivery of the new LFRMS

Local flood risk management in Hampshire will be supported by the production of the following documents:

- HCC LFRMS: a document setting out the strategic approach to flood risk management in Hampshire.
- Catchment Plans: individual documents for each catchment that identify areas at risk of flooding. HCC aim to commence preparation of individual catchment plans.
- Action Plans: individual documents that form part of the catchment plan, which identify short, medium and long term approaches to managing flood risk.

This HRA Stage 1 – Screening only considers the LFRMS document itself, as the other elements of the strategy delivery (the Catchment Plans and Action Plans) have not yet been produced.

3.2. LFRMS flood risk management policies

There are seven defined ‘policies’ of flood risk management in Hampshire that are covered by the LRFMS, which are:

1. Effective Partnership Working Policy
2. Catchment Approach Policy
3. Priorities and Risk Management Policy
4. Sustainable and Resilient Development Policy
5. Recording, Prioritising and Investigating Flood Events Policy
6. Working with Multi-Agency Groups Policy
7. Supporting Community Resilience Policy

As stated in the LFRMS, HCC aim to be at the forefront of flood risk and water management creating a safer, more resilient Hampshire. The priority is to protect people, homes, businesses and key infrastructure by:

- Avoiding risks and managing water resources through effective planning and design;
- Preventing future flooding by reducing or removing existing risks;
- Adapting to flood risk in order to minimise the impact and enable normal life to return as soon as possible;
- Enabling communities to be better prepared to react to flood events and recover more easily; and
- Adopting effective practices that are sustainable and affordable now and in the future.

3.3. Catchment flood risk management approach

A catchment approach to flood risk management has been adopted by HCC to enable a more integrated multi-agency response, in active partnership with local communities, to mitigate the risk of flooding. It is based on the understanding that the nature of flooding does not follow administrative borough or district boundaries, and measures that are implemented in one part of the catchment could affect flood risk in another part.

The main aims of the Catchment Flood Risk Management Approach are to avoiding risks and managing water resources through effective planning and design, preventing future flooding by reducing or removing existing risks, adapting to flood risk in order to minimise the impact and enable normal life to return as soon as possible,

enabling communities to be better prepared to react to flood events and recover more easily; and adopting effective practices that are sustainable and affordable now and in the future.

There will be a total of 18 catchment plans, named as follows: Loddon East, Loddon West, Meon/ Wallington, Itchen, Test (Lower), Test (Upper), Lavant, Hamble, Wey Western, Test (Middle), Monks Brook, Rother, Enbourne, Lymington, Avon, Wey Eastern, Avon Water and Beaulieu. The aims of the Catchment Flood Risk Management Approach are:

- Ensure a stepped approach to interventions and measures to reduce flood risk in the catchment with preference for natural flood risk management, recognising that one single solution is not appropriate in all situations.
- Work more effectively with partners within the catchment area, understanding each organisation’s role and sharing responsibility to develop appropriate flood risk mitigation.
- Empower local residents and communities to take action to mitigate flooding.

The Action Plans will be specific to each catchment area and contain individual measures/ interventions, lead contributing organisations/groups, potential timescales, source of funding, and issues and constraints associated with the delivery of each measure. The Action Plans will remain live documents that will require monitoring and potential revision should constraints and timescales alter the delivery programme.

3.4. Provisions within the LFRMS that protect international sites

The LFRMS states that

‘Hampshire County Council also has a duty as a ‘competent authority’ under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive when exercising our responsibility to manage flood risk. The County Council must ensure that flood risk management works do not lead to a ‘likely significant effect’ on any sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive.’

The principle of environmental protection is also integrated at key points throughout the LFRMS as follows:

- When granting consent for works on ordinary watercourses consenting, Applications will be ‘assessed against flood risk, design and ecological issues’;
- When investigating significant flood events and making recommendations, the HCC process ‘will also consider issues relating to water quality, flood risk downstream and ecological issues from any potential mitigation measures and will pay due regard to relevant environmental legislation, including the Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)’.

4. Preliminary screening of the LFRMS

4.1. Categorisation of potential significant effects

This section documents the screening of the seven different components of the LFRMS, and the high level statements and actions set out within them. The results determine whether the different components are considered to have a likely significant effect on international sites. The likely significant effects take into account any statements in the LFRMS which seek to protect international sites.

Where possible, the LFRMS components have been categorised into sub category types, using an amended approach based on Natural England published guidance⁹, as set out in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1 Categories of Potential Effects of the LRFMS on European Sites

Category	Sub Category	Description
Policy 1	A1	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 location-specific or land use planning statement.
	A2	Policies that would have no likely significant effect because no development could occur through the statement itself.
	A3	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	Policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
	A5	Policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European sites and associated sensitive areas.
Policy 2	N/A	Policies that could have a negative effect but would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
Policy 3	C1	The policy 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 policy could indirectly affect a European site e.g. because it provides for or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressures.
	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	A policy that makes provision for a quantity / type of development but the effects are uncertain because the detailed location of the development is to be selected following consideration of options at a later, more specific plan .
	C5	Policies for developments or infrastructure projects that could block options or alternatives for the provision of other development or projects in the future which will be required in the public interest that may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided.

⁹ The Habitat Regulations Assessment of Local Development Projects (Revised Draft Guidance) (David Tyldesley & Associates for Natural England, February 2009).

	C6	A policy which depend on how the recommendations are implemented in due course. There is a theoretical possibility that if implemented in one or more particular ways the proposals could possibly have a significant effect on a European site.
	C7	Any policy that would be vulnerable to failure under the Habitat 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 the Habitat Regulations at project assessment stage by arguing that the plan provides the imperative reasons of overriding public interest to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.
Policy 4	D1	The policy alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other component or statements/actions provided for within the LFRMS (internally) the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant.
	D2	Policies that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are combined with the effects of other plans or projects , or possibly other statements or proposals provided for within the LFRMS (internally) as well, the combined effects would be likely to be significant.
	D3	Policies that are or could be part of a programme or sequence of development delivered over a period of time, and over time this delivery could have a likely significant effect on international sites.

The above guidance sets out criteria to assist with the screening process and addresses the management of uncertainty in the assessment process. Proposals falling with Policies 1 and 2 are considered not to have an effect on a European site and can be eliminated from the assessment procedure. Proposals falling within Policies 3 and 4 require further analysis, including the consideration of 'in-combination' effects to determine whether they should be included in the next stage of the HRA process.

4.2. Categorisation of LFRMS components

Each of the seven components of the LFRMS described in Section 3 have been assigned a 'potential effects' category in accordance with the criteria set out in **Table 4-1**. The rationale for the assignment of categories to each LFRMS component is documented in **Table 4-2**, and the need for further screening of any specific areas of the LRFMS is also identified.

Table 4-2 HRA Risk categorisation of the LFRMS components.

LFRMS Component	Summary of component	Actions under component	Rationale for risk categorisation	Risk categorisation	LSE alone?	Can the element be changed to avoid likely significant effects?
Effective Partnership Working Policy	To ensure collaboration and successful flood risk management Hampshire County Council will undertake effective partnership working	1A. Lobby central government and the Environment Agency to ensure that Hampshire’s specific flood risk challenges are recognised and appropriate national funding mechanisms are in place. 1B. Lead the Hampshire Strategic Flood Risk Management Partnership Board to shape flood risk management strategy with all relevant partners 1C. Lead the Hampshire Flood Risk Management Technical Delivery Group to coordinate flood alleviation activity across the region 1D. Improve information available to the public on the Council’s website regarding flood risk responsibility. 1E. Update this strategy as required by the Environment Agency	This component of the LFRMS is a general statement outlining the roles and responsibilities of the different flood risk management authorities in Hampshire and to improve communication. The policy itself will not lead to development and therefore is considered to have no likely significant effects on the European sites.	A1	No LSE	Not required
Catchment Approach Policy	To better understand the risk of water movement Hampshire County Council will develop a catchment approach	2A. Develop 18 prioritised river catchment based flood management plans across Hampshire. 2B. Record and monitor flood risk data by river catchment area. 2C. Develop catchment based working groups for flood alleviation schemes. 2D. Ensure a sequential approach to measures to reduce flood risk in the catchment and encourage the wider use of natural flood risk management techniques.	Undertaking studies of the catchment areas has no implications for international sites. This component of the LFRMS sets out a broad provision for managing flood risk using a catchment-based approach, but at this stage (prior to actual Catchment Plan development) there is no detail as to how, when or where flood risk should be managed. Therefore, it is concluded that this component of the LRFMS (undertaking studies and	A1	No LSE	Not required

LFRRMS Component	Summary of component	Actions under component	Rationale for risk categorisation	Risk categorisation	LSE alone?	Can the element be changed to avoid likely significant effects?
			making provision to develop the Catchment Plans) will not have any implications for international sites, and can be screened out of further assessment. The individual Catchment Management Plans will themselves be defined as a 'plan' within the meaning and scope of the Habitats Directive, and will therefore also need to be subject to HRA screening for likely significant effects on international sites, as they develop more specific proposals for managing flood risk.			
Priorities and Risk Management Policy	To help communities that are most vulnerable to flooding, Hampshire County Council will continue to improve our understanding of priorities and risks	3A. Utilise a risk-based approach applying a risk matrix and knowledge of historic flooding in each catchment.	This component of the LFRMS is a general statement regarding the types of flood risk in Hampshire and a commitment to maintaining and developing the existing Asset Register to enable partner organisations and residents to access information about assets that affect flood risk. There are no implications for international sites arising from this element of the LFRMS.	A1	No LSE	Not required
		3B. Undertake a prioritisation exercise based on numbers of properties at risk; vulnerability of residents and other socio-economic factors for each of the 18 catchment based flood risk management plans.				
		3C. Improve flood data collection, recording and sharing to better identify 'at risk' areas.				
		3D. Use this improved data collection to inform an updated Flood Risk Asset Register.				
Sustainable and Resilient	To ensure successful and	4A. Encourage the development of robust flood risk management policies within the Local Planning	This component of the LFRMS refers to HCC's role in guiding planning	B		

LFRMS Component	Summary of component	Actions under component	Rationale for risk categorisation	Risk categorisation	LSE alone?	Can the element be changed to avoid likely significant effects?
Development Policy	To improve sustainable growth Hampshire County Council will support the planning process by encouraging resilient development	<p>Authorities' Local Plans, and in Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>4B. Require developments to utilise Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the drainage hierarchy based on current best practice and industry standards for water quality and quantity</p> <p>4C. Encourage development which demonstrates an understanding of environmental sensitivity and provides appropriate mitigation</p> <p>4D. Require development to demonstrate a net environmental gain in local flood risk management</p> <p>4E. Ensure that works to ordinary watercourses are only consented where there is no increased flood risk and enforce against unconsented works where appropriate</p> <p>4F. Work with the Environment Agency, local planning authorities and other partners to develop the planning skills and capabilities to advise developers on how adaptive approaches should inform strategic local plans and enable climate resilient places.</p>	policy, commenting on planning applications (including SuDS advice/designs) and regulating development on Ordinary Watercourses. Provisions for environmental protection are integrated into the LFRMS for SuDS advice: <i>“Understand the environmental sensitivity and provide appropriate mitigation”</i> and Ordinary Watercourse consenting <i>“Consider the effects on environmental designations as part of the consenting process”</i> . As long as these provisions are applied it is considered unlikely that there would be any implications for the international sites arising from this element of the LFRMS.		No LSE	Not required
Recording, Prioritising and Investigating Flood Events Policy	To increase knowledge and understanding of flood events Hampshire County Council	<p>5A. Record and respond to all instances of flooding from any source reported to us.</p> <p>5B. Prioritise flood investigation work according to our published prioritisation schedule</p> <p>5C. Liaise with the Highway Authority to investigate highway flooding.</p>	This component of the LFRMS is a general statement outlining the roles and responsibilities of the different flood risk management authorities in Hampshire and to improve communication.	A1	No LSE	Not required

LFRMS Component	Summary of component	Actions under component	Rationale for risk categorisation	Risk categorisation	LSE alone?	Can the element be changed to avoid likely significant effects?
	will record, prioritise and investigate instances of flooding	5D. Undertake formal investigations for significant flooding events.	The policy itself will not lead to development and therefore is considered to have no likely significant effects on the European sites.			
Working with Multi-Agency Groups Policy	To reduce flood risk in vulnerable areas Hampshire County Council will work with Multi-Agency Groups to develop Flood Alleviation Schemes	<p>6A. Continue to work in partnership to deliver the Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme and community-led flood alleviation initiatives supported by the Rural Communities Fund.</p> <p>6B. Encourage the development and implementation of innovative flood and water management measures and a flexible policy approach from partner organisations.</p> <p>6C. Work to maximise the available funding from national and local sources including the private sector, and enable investment in schemes to contribute positively to local economic regeneration and sustainable growth.</p> <p>6D. Continue to attend and contribute to other multi-agency group meetings concerning flood risk across Hampshire and the South of England including Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meetings.</p> <p>6E. Work with other Risk Management Authorities to set up new multi-agency groups where appropriate for flood alleviation schemes.</p> <p>6F. Work with coast protection authorities and the Environment Agency on the refresh of shoreline</p>	<p>This component of the LFRMS relates to HCC's ongoing commitment to working with other agencies to deliver schemes within HCC's ongoing delivery programme of flood risk and coastal defence schemes. The aim is to maintain effective partnership working and to seek funding from different sources or innovative funding streams to deliver projects on the ground. As such the policy itself will not lead to development and therefore is considered to have no likely significant effects on the European sites.</p> <p>Any individual schemes that are proposed and taken forward for delivery would need to be considered within the context of the Habitats Regulations 2017, and subject to project level HRA, if required.</p>	A1	No LSE	Not required

LFRMS Component	Summary of component	Actions under component	Rationale for risk categorisation	Risk categorisation	LSE alone?	Can the element be changed to avoid likely significant effects?
		management plans to ensure that these take account of local circumstances, infrastructure and assets, and that there is full recognition of the costs and benefits of proposed 'adaptive approaches' such as reversal of hold the line policies.				
Supporting Community Resilience Policy	To improve adaptation to and recovery from flood events Hampshire County Council will encourage and support community resilience	<p>7A. Increase the number of community Flood Action Groups and emergency Flood Action Plans.</p> <p>7B. Produce guidance in the form of action plans and recommendations from flood investigation reports to inform communities of the best action to take.</p> <p>7C. Improve online guidance on funding sources and support available from charities such as the National Flood Forum.</p>	<p>This component of the LFRMS relates to HCC working with residents' groups and community forums to provide advice on preparing for flooding or mitigating flood impacts, helping communities recover from flood events and campaigning for communities at risk.</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development and therefore is considered to have no likely significant effects on the European sites.</p>	A1	No LSE	Not required

4.2.1. Amending the Plan/ re-screening

The preliminary screening of the LFRMS has not identified any possible pathways for likely significant effects to arise on international sites, as the majority of the LFRMS components will not directly result in any development that could affect such sites. There are two elements that have been identified as having possible negative effects, depending on how the components in the LFRMS are carried out, which are:

- Advising against inappropriate development; and
- Investigation of significant flood events.

In both cases the potential for negative effects depends upon how advice is given and what recommendations are subsequently made. However, the text of the LFRMS contains appropriate wording that recognises potential risks to the environment and environmental designations and directs that any advice provided by HCC should take account of these risks.

Provided that these environmental considerations are built into the advice given by HCC as stated in the LFRMS, there should be no risk of likely significant effects arising on any international sites, and no amendments to or further mitigation for the draft plan components are considered necessary.

5. In-Combination Assessment

The relevant plans and projects that have been subject to HRA (refer to Section 2.6) have been examined to review where potential effects on international sites have been identified. Consideration has been given to whether these effects could give rise to any potential in-combination effects with the LFRMS. The results of this review are presented in Table 5-1, and this has concluded that the LFRMS is unlikely to result in LSE on any international sites in-combination with other plans and programmes.

The plans selected for inclusion within the in-combination assessment are other flood risk management plans and strategies, other water management-related plans, and relevant spatial plans and strategies for Hampshire. This has included consideration of the following plan types:

- Other LFRMS's within adjoining or connected Counties;
- Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs);
- Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategies (FCERMS);
- River Basin Management Plans;
- Water Resource Management Plans;
- Minerals and Waste Plans;
- Local Transport Plans; and
- Local Development Plans.

The preparation of LFRMS's is a statutory requirement of LLFAs under the Flood and Water Management Act. Other types of flood plans and strategies (prepared by other Risk Management Authorities) such as SMPs and FCERMS are non-statutory documents. Although Water Companies have a defined role and responsibility for managing flood risk from their infrastructure, there is no statutory requirement for them to produce a 'plan' to address these types of flood risk; they are only required to make financial provisions to address known problems within their financial investment plans. Therefore, there are no relevant flood risk management plans relating to flood risk managed by water companies to consider. Water companies are required to produce statutory Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs), which set out how they intend to secure future water supplies for their customers over a 25 year period. These plans have the potential to affect international sites, and therefore the relevant WRMPs have been considered in the in-combination assessment in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Review of other plans and programmes

Plan name	Conclusion of HRA	Potential effects identified (and mitigation/ compensation)	Potential in-combination effects with LFRMS?
Southampton LFRMS, 2014	No LSE – with appropriate mitigation	Disturbance (noise), dust and pollution, hydrological changes. General good practice mitigation measures recommended to address potential impacts.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Surrey LFRMS, 2016	No LSE – with appropriate mitigation	There are three sites that overlap between the two LFRMS HRAs – Thames Basin Heaths SPA, Weladen Heaths Phase I SPA and Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC. No risk of LSE has been identified to any of these international sites from the Surrey LFRMS, although further detailed screening of any schemes subsequently implemented would be required.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Surrey Waste Local Plan 2018-2033	No LSE – with appropriate mitigation	Potential for LSE as a result of wildfire and arson to be mitigated through wildfire risk assessments for all sites and preparing and implementing wildfire management plans, and with embedding wildfire mitigation and adaptation into local authority Local Development Plan policies and community risk registers. Potential for LSE as a result of air pollution to be mitigated through appropriate mitigation measures (i.e. retention of hedgerows, tree-belts and other linear habitats used by the SAC bat species, or the undertaking of bat surveys prior to ascertain the SAC species use of any hedgerows, treebelts or other linear habitats that would be removed as a consequence of development).	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Portsmouth LFRMS, 2014 Dorset LFRMS, 2014 Wiltshire LFRMS, 2014	No HRA undertaken	N/A	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.

Plan name	Conclusion of HRA	Potential effects identified (and mitigation/ compensation)	Potential in-combination effects with LFRMS?
North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, 2010	Adverse effects on Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site	Adverse effects predicted to arise from the implementation of coastal defence schemes leading to habitat loss via coastal squeeze, saline intrusion and alterations to natural coastal processes. Effects to be compensated via the Environment Agency's established Regional Habitat Creation Programme.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan, 2009	Adverse effects on Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site, Solent Maritime SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Dorset Heaths SAC and Poole Harbour SPA.	Adverse effects predicted to arise from the implementation of coastal defence schemes leading to habitat loss via coastal squeeze, and by the implementation of future managed realignment policies. Intertidal and transitional habitats to be created by managed realignment of coastal defences identified in the SMP. Grazing marsh and heathland requirements to be determined through further study as policies are implemented. However, it is expected that compensatory habitat will be implemented through the Environment Agency's Regional Habitat Creation Programme.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
South east River Basin Management Plan, 2015	No LSE – with appropriate mitigation	Potential hazards to the international sites include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in water levels or table • Changes in flow or velocity regime • Changes in physical regime • Competition from nonnative species • Disturbance (noise or visual) • Habitat loss • Killing/injury or removal of fish or other animals • Physical damage • Salinity • Siltation • Turbidity The HRA provides specific mitigation approaches for implementation of measures.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.

Plan name	Conclusion of HRA	Potential effects identified (and mitigation/ compensation)	Potential in-combination effects with LFRMS?
		Protection of international sites is written in to the RBMP policies, and the RBMP itself makes it clear that before any measures in the plan are implemented they must be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.	
Southern Water - Water Resources Management Plan 2019 Annex 15: Habitats Regulations Assessment Main Report December 2019	No LSE - provided mitigation measures are developed and implemented	Potential for LSE as a result of emissions. Mitigation measures to be developed but may include avoidance of habitats and standard construction phase mitigation measures, etc.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Wessex Water WRMP 2014	HRA not required.	N/A	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Bournemouth Water WRMP 2014	HRA not required.	N/A	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
South East Water WRMP 2014	Potential LSE on Thames Basin Heaths SPA (no other sites with LSE identified in the WRMP overlap with the LFRMS).	The option with possible LSE on this site is not anticipated to be required until 2030. After proposed mitigation, residual risks identified relate to proposed reservoir expansion (habitat loss) and possible in-combination effects. Alternative water resource options are available if adverse effects cannot be avoided or mitigated at the project level.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Portsmouth Water WRMP 2014	No LSE – with appropriate mitigation	Mitigation involves normal good practice measures during implementation of proposed water resource schemes.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.

Plan name	Conclusion of HRA	Potential effects identified (and mitigation/ compensation)	Potential in-combination effects with LFRMS?
Cholderton and District Water WRMP 2014	HRA not required.	N/A	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Thames River Basin Management Plan, 2015	No LSE – with appropriate mitigation	The assessment identified a number of potential effects on the international sites including changes in water quality and hydrology. Protection of international sites is written in to the RBMP policies, and the RBMP itself makes it clear that before any measures in the plan are implemented they must be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, 2013	No LSE – with appropriate mitigation	<p>Provided the mitigation is implemented, it was considered in all cases that adverse impacts on site integrity as a result of physical damage/loss of habitat can be ruled out</p> <p>Potential effects as a result of hydrological changes can be implemented through the consenting processes.</p> <p>The provision of alternative recreational space would mitigate for changes in recreational pressures.</p> <p>It is considered that the mitigation provided by the development management considerations for these sites is adequate to rule out adverse effects on the integrity of European sites from dust arising from development of the allocated sites.</p> <p>Protection of international sites and the need for further assessment is explicitly written in to the Minerals and Waste Plan policies.</p>	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Hampshire Local Transport Plan, 2011-2031	No LSE	None	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.

Plan name	Conclusion of HRA	Potential effects identified (and mitigation/ compensation)	Potential in-combination effects with LFRMS?
Hampshire Local Authorities' Local Development Plans: Basingstoke & Deane, East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Hart, Havant, New Forest, Portsmouth, Rushmoor, Southampton, Test Valley and Winchester.	No LSE, or no LSE – with appropriate mitigation written into planning policy	Broadly, the key issues for European sites arising from the Local Development Plans relate to construction activity on development allocation sites, air pollution, increased recreational pressure, increased water demand (and resultant changes to water levels or water quality). Mitigation has been written into the relevant development policies where required to ensure that no LSE arises from the proposals in the Local Development Plans.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Warfield Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Decision October 2016	No LSE	None	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
West Berkshire Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026	No LSE	Further assessment of some policies will be required at a later stage as policies develop.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening May 2019	No LSE	None	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework Minerals and Waste Core Strategies Submission Reports Habitat Regulations Assessment Report February 2008	No LSE or effect in integrity with appropriate mitigation	Potential for LSE as a result of air quality. Mitigation measures to include standard practices and controls.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.

Plan name	Conclusion of HRA	Potential effects identified (and mitigation/ compensation)	Potential in-combination effects with LFRMS?
Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 Strategies - consultation draft Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026 (LTP3) Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of Sub-Strategies	No LSE	Potential impact of lighting on roost can be mitigation. Potential impact of water spray can be mitigated through standard construction mitigation measures for pollution, etc. to be incorporated.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.
Bournemouth, Poole & Dorset Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report April 2011	No LSE	There is the potential for certain policies to have a LSE, however, they can be mitigated through the following: 1. Additional wording to policies; 1. All schemes arising are subjected to HRA; 2. Monitoring commitments are implemented.	No – the HCC LFRMS will not lead to any development or development which will have any effects on an international site.

6. Conclusions of Screening and Next Steps

6.1. Conclusions of screening

This HRA Stage 1 Screening Report documents the process that has been undertaken to determine whether the revised Hampshire LFRMS has the potential to result in Likely Significant Effects on any international sites, and the ways in which any such effects could occur. Natural England was initially consulted on the list of sites proposed for inclusion in the Screening, and the list was subsequently expanded further to include two other international sites in Surrey that had possible hydrological connections to Hampshire catchments.

The LFRMS comprises seven different components, and each of these include high level statements about how they will be implemented to manage flood risk in Hampshire. The LFRMS does not contain any specific statements about how or where potential flood risk measures should be implemented, but it does identify 18 specific catchment areas in Hampshire where Catchment Plans will subsequently be developed to understand flood risks and make recommendations for appropriate measures to manage the risks.

The HRA screening has not identified any potential for Likely Significant Effects to arise from the seven overarching objectives of the LFRMS, either alone, or in combination with other relevant plans or programmes. The screening exercise indicates that appropriate assessment is not required for the LFRMS. No specific mitigation or amendments to the LFRMS have been identified as being necessary.

Although the HRA screening has concluded that Likely Significant Effects are unlikely to arise from the proposals in the LFRMS, it is also recognised that the forthcoming Catchment Plans will set out the future direction for the implementation of future flood risk measures which could potentially have effects on international sites. The Catchment Plans themselves will be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations and will require HRA further screening as they are developed to ensure that they do not result in Likely Significant Effects on any international sites.

The LFRMS also sets out HCC's role regarding the investigation of significant flood events and the implementation of HCC's ongoing delivery programme of flood risk and coastal defence schemes. The LFRMS contains environmental protection provisions to ensure that environmental issues are taken into consideration. Any works or schemes that are proposed under these elements of the LFRMS would also have to be screened for Likely Significant Effects on international sites under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations 2017.

6.2. Next steps

This HRA Stage 1 Screening Report will be published on Hampshire County Council's website in 2020. Any comments received during the public consultation period will be incorporated into a final version of the report.

As recommended above, further HRA screening of the Catchment Plans for all catchments will be required as they are developed; and the need for HRA screening of any future flood risk mitigation measures or schemes will also need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Appendices



Appendix A. Relevant details of international sites in Hampshire

A.1. Special Areas of Conservation

A.1.1. Butser Hill SAC

Table A-1 below provides information about Buster Hill SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities)¹⁰.

Table A-1 Information about Buster Hill SAC

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU716197. Area: 237.36 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) English yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>) woods of the British Isles * Priority feature
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biocenotic evolution, succession Grazing

A.1.2. Dorset Heaths SAC

Table A-2 below provides information about the Dorset Heaths SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-2 Information about Dorset Heaths SAC

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SY887835. Area: 5719.54 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> European dry heaths Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion Species of European importance listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern damselfly (<i>Coenagrion mercurial</i>) Annex I habitats present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)

¹⁰ Conservation Objectives and Sensitivities have been from Natural England's website and original site citations available on the JNCC website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> * Priority feature • Alkaline fens • Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains <p>Annex II species present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive non-native species • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities • Grazing

A.1.3. East Hampshire Hangers SAC

Table A-3 below provides information about East Hampshire Hangers SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-3 Information about East Hampshire Hangers SAC

Location and Size	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU739268.</p> <p>Area: 561.69 hectares.</p>
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests • <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature <p>Annex I habitats present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) • <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles * Priority feature <p>Annex II species present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive non-native species • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Forest and Plantation management & use

A.1.4. Emer Bog SAC

Table A-4 below provides information about the Emer Bog SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-4 Information about Emer Bog SAC

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU394214. Area: 36.76 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition mires and quaking bogs
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitat • The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitat; and, • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitat rely
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities

A.1.5. Mottisfont Bats SAC

Table A-5 below provides information about the Mottisfont Bats SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-5 Information about Mottisfont Bats SAC

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU322297. Area: 196.55 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Species of European importance listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbastelle bat <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown threat or pressure • Changes in biotic conditions • Forest and Plantation management & use

A.1.6. River Avon SAC

Table A-6 below provides information about River Avon SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-6 Information about River Avon SAC

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU124339. Area: 416.57 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation Species of European importance listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desmoulin`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) • Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) • Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) • Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) • Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>)
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in biotic conditions • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions

A.1.7. River Itchen SAC

Table A-7 below provides information about the River Itchen SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-7 Information about the River Itchen SAC

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU467174. Area: 303.98 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation Species of European importance listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern damselfly (<i>Coenagrion mercurial</i>) Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>) Annex II species present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Grazing Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)

A.1.8. Salisbury Plain SAC

Table A-8 below provides information about the Salisbury Plain SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-8 Information about Salisbury Plain SAC

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU077497. Area: 21,465.94 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) Species of European importance listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</i>
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in biotic conditions Interspecific floral relations Grazing

A.1.9. Shortheath Common SAC

Table A-9 below provides information about Shortheath Common SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-9 Information about Shortheath Common SAC

Location and Size	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU774367.</p> <p>Area: 58.53 hectares.</p>
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition mires and quaking bogs <p>Annex I habitats present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European dry heaths Bog woodland * Priority feature
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats; and, The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely
Vulnerabilities of the Site	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other human intrusions and disturbances Biocenotic evolution, succession Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities

A.1.10. Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

Table A-10 below provides information about the Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-10 Information about Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SZ608977. Area: 37.93 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal lagoons * Priority feature
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in abiotic conditions Air pollution, air-borne pollutants Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Invasive non-native species Interspecific floral relations

A.1.11. Solent Maritime SAC

Table A-11 below provides information about the Solent Maritime SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-11 Information about Solent Maritime SAC

Location and Area	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU756003. Area: 11,243.12 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estuaries Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) Annex I habitats present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Coastal lagoons * Priority feature Annual vegetation of drift lines Perennial vegetation of stony banks Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand "Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")" Annex II species present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desmoulin`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Changes in abiotic conditions • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources • Changes in biotic conditions • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities

A.1.12. The New Forest SAC

Table A-12 below provides information about The New Forest SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-12 Information about The New Forest SAC

Location and Area	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU225075. Area: 29,213.57 hectares.</p>
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) • Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • European dry heaths • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) • Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> • Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>) • <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests • Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains • Bog woodland * Priority feature • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) * Priority feature <p>Annex I habitats present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition mires and quaking bogs • Alkaline fens <p>Species of European importance listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercurial</i> • Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>

	Annex II species present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great crested newt
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Problematic native species • Forest and Plantation management & use

A.1.13. Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC

Table A-14 below provides information about the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-13 Information about Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC

Location and Area	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU914411. Area: 5,154.5 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • European dry heaths • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats; and, • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other human intrusions and disturbances • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Grazing • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Biocenotic evolution, succession

A.1.14. Woolmer Forest SAC

Table A-14 below provides information about the Woolmer Forest SAC, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-14 Information about Woolmer Forest SAC

Location and Area	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU805325. Area: 670.15 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Habitats of European importance listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds European dry heaths Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion Annex I habitats present as qualifying features but not a primary reason for site selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> Transition mires and quaking bogs
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats; and, The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely
Vulnerabilities of the Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive non-native species Unknown threat or pressure Modification of cultivation practices Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities

A.2. Special Protection Areas

A.2.1. Avon Valley SPA

Table A-15 below provides information about the Avon Valley SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-15 Information about Avon Valley SPA

Location and Area	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU143048. Area: 1,351.10 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berwick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe), 1.9% of the GB population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 Regularly occurring migratory species listed in Annex I Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over winter the area regularly supports:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) (North-western Europe), 2.2% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the Site	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Changes in biotic conditions

A.2.2. Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-16 Information about Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA

Location and Area	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU742041. Area: 5,810.95 hectares.</p>
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) (Eastern Atlantic - breeding), 4.2% of the GB breeding population, 5 year mean, 1992-1996 - Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding), 0.3% of the GB breeding population, 5 year mean, 1992-1996 - Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) (Western Europe/Western Africa), 0.2% of the GB breeding population, 5 year mean, 1993-1997 • Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) (Western Palearctic – wintering), 3.2% of the GB population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 <p>Regularly occurring migratory species listed in Annex I Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) (North-western Europe), 1.2% of the population in Great Britain, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) (North-western/Central Europe), 1% of the population in Great Britain, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) (North-western Europe), 0.5% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe), 0.7% of the population in Great Britain, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) (Western Palearctic - wintering), 0.7% of the population in Great Britain, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Branta bernicla bernicla (Western Siberia/Western Europe), 5.7% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) (Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering), 0.2% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa), 3.2% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering), 3% of the population in Great Britain, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) (North-western/Central Europe), 3% of the population in Great Britain, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) (Europe - breeding), 1.6% of the population in Great Britain, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) (Eastern Atlantic - wintering), 2.3% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) (North-western Europe), 3.3% of the population in Great Britain, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Common redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) (Eastern Atlantic - wintering), 1% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 <p>An internationally important assemblage of birds qualifying the site under Annex I Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 93230 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96). Including: Dark-bellied brent goose, Common shelduck, Eurasian wigeon, Eurasian teal, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, Red-breasted merganser, Ringed plover, Grey plover, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed godwit, Eurasian curlew, Common redshank, Ruddy turnstone
<p>Conservation Objectives</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
<p>Vulnerabilities of the Site</p>	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Changes in abiotic conditions • Changes in biotic conditions • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities

A.2.3. Dorset Heathlands SPA

Error! Reference source not found. Table A-17 below provides information about the Dorset Heathlands SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-17 Information about Dorset Heathlands SPA

Location and Area	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU105069. Area: 8,184.96 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) at least 12.8% of the GB breeding population Two year mean, 1991-1992 - Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) at least 6.8% of the GB breeding population Three count mean, 1991-2 & 1994 - Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) at least 26.1% of the GB breeding population Three count mean, 1991-2 & 1994 • Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) 2.7% of the GB population Count, as at 1991/2 - Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) 1.2% of the GB population Count, as at 1991/2
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive non-native species • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Grazing • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions

A.2.4. New Forest SPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the New Forest SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-18 Information about New Forest SPA

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU263074. Area: 27968.96 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) 8.8% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1991 - Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) 29.5% of the GB breeding population No count period specified. - European honey-buzzard (<i>Pernis apivorus</i>) 12.5% of the GB breeding population No count period specified.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) 33.6% of the GB breeding population No count period specified. • Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) 2% of the GB population No count period specified. <p>Regularly occurring migratory species listed in Annex I Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eurasian hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>) 5% of the population in Great Britain No count period specified. - Wood warbler (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>) at least 2% of the population in Great Britain No count period specified.
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions

A.2.5. Porton Down SPA

Error! Reference source not found.9 below provides information about the Porton Down SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-19 Information about Porton Down SPA

Location and Size	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU243372.</p> <p>Area: 1562.32 hectares.</p>
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stone-curlew (<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>) (Western Europe - breeding) 10.6% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1995 - 1999
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Vulnerabilities of the European Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in biotic conditions • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants
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A.2.6. Portsmouth Harbour SPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Portsmouth Harbour SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-20 Information about Portsmouth Harbour SPA

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU622033. Area: 1249.60 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Regularly occurring migratory species listed in Annex I Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>) (Western Siberia/Western Europe) 0.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa) 1% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) (Iceland - breeding) 0.4% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 - Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) (North-western/Central Europe) 0.9% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Changes in abiotic conditions • Changes in biotic conditions • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities

A.2.7. Salisbury Plain SPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Salisbury Plain SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-21 Information about Salisbury Plain SPA

Location and Area	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU218456. Area: 19,715.99 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stone-curlew (<i>Burhinus oedicanus</i>) (Western Europe - breeding) 14.5% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1997 • Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) 0.7% of the GB population Count, as at 1993 <p>Regularly occurring migratory species listed in Annex I Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common quail (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>) 20% of the population in Great Britain Count, as at 1986 - Eurasian hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>) 1.2% of the population in Great Britain Count, as at 1990
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Changes in biotic conditions

A.2.8. Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-22 Information about Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA

Location and Area	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SZ510993. Area: 89,078.02 hectares.</p>
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), 4.01% of the GB population Count as at 2014 - Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), 4.77% of the GB population Count as at 2014 - Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>), 3.31% of the GB population Count as at 2014
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Vulnerabilities of the Site	<i>Not yet known.</i>
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A.2.9. Solent and Southampton Water SPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-23 Information about Solent and Southampton Water SPA

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SZ440977. Area: 5,401.12 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mediterranean gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) 15.4% of the GB breeding population 5 year peak mean, 1994-1998 - Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) (Eastern Atlantic - breeding) 2% of the GB breeding population 5 year peak mean, 1993-1997 - Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) (Europe - breeding) 3.1% of the GB breeding population 5 year peak mean, 1993-1997 - Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding) 2.2% of the GB breeding population 5 year peak mean, 1993-1997 - Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) (Western Europe/Western Africa) 1.7% of the GB breeding population 5 year peak mean, 1993-1997 <p>Regularly occurring migratory species listed in Annex I Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over winter the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) (North-western Europe) 1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7 - Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>) (Western Siberia/Western Europe) 2.5% of the population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7 - Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering) 1.2% of the population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7 - Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) (Iceland - breeding) 1.7% of the population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7 <p>An internationally important assemblage of birds qualifying the site under Annex I Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over winter the area regularly supports: 51361 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96). Including: Dark-bellied brent goose, Eurasian teal, Ringed plover, Black-tailed godwit.
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

<p>Vulnerabilities of the European Site</p>	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Changes in abiotic conditions • Changes in biotic conditions • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
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A.2.10. Thames Basin Heaths SPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-24 Information about Thames Basin Heaths SPA

<p>Location and Size</p>	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU776590. Area: 8,311.06 hectares.</p>
<p>Qualifying Interest Features</p>	<p>Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) 7.8% of the GB breeding population Count mean (RSPB 1998-99) - Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) 9.9% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1997 (Wotton & Gillings 2000) - Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) 27.8% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1999 (RSPB)
<p>Conservation Objectives</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
<p>Vulnerabilities of the European Site</p>	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and Plantation management & use • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities • Other human intrusions and disturbances • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Biocenotic evolution, succession

A.2.11. Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase 1) SPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase 1) SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-25 Information about Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase 1) SPA

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU885405. Area: 1879.83 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) 0.6% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1985-1990 - Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) 1.8% of the GB breeding population, Count as at 1994 - Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) at least 1.3% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1984
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and • the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Other human intrusions and disturbances

A.2.12. Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-26 Information about Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU786333. Area: 2056.5 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Species that are rare or vulnerable listed in Annex I (Article 4.1) of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) 1.3% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1989-1993 - Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) 2.5% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1997 - Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) 1% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1994 - Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) 1% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1989-1993
Conservation Objectives	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; • the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; the population of each of the qualifying features, and the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modification of cultivation practices Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities Invasive non-native species Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Unknown threat or pressure

A.3. Ramsar Sites

A.3.1. Avon Valley Ramsar Site

Table A-27 below provides information about the Avon Valley Ramsar site, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-27 Information about Avon Valley Ramsar site

Location and Area	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU154088. Area: 1,385.1 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Avon Valley Ramsar site is designated for meeting the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramsar criterion 1 - contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site shows a greater range of habitats than any other chalk river in Britain, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland and small areas of woodland. Ramsar criterion 2 - supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally-rare species. Ramsar criterion 6 - regularly supports $\geq 1\%$ of individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird: Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera strepera</i>), NW Europe 537 individuals, representing an average of 3.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3). Species subject to future consideration: Species with peak counts in winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), NW Europe 715 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>), Iceland/W Europe 1142 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3).
Vulnerabilities of the Site	Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character including changes in land (including water) use and development projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to vegetation through cutting / clearing Vegetation succession Drainage/land-claim for agriculture Sedimentation/siltation Introduction/invasion of non-native plant species

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution – domestic sewage • Pollution – agricultural fertilisers • Recreational/tourism disturbance (unspecified) • Reservoir/barrage/dam impact: flow regime
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A.3.2. Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar Site

Table A-28 below provides information about the Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar site, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-28 Information about Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar site

Location and Size	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU703017.</p> <p>Area: 5810.03 hectares.</p>
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar site is designated for meeting the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar criterion 1 – contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 5 – regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds: <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 76480 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) • Ramsar criterion 6 – regularly supports ≥1% of individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird: <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), 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 (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>), Iceland/W Europe 906 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) - Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i>), 2577 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), 12987 individuals, representing an average of 6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) - Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), NW Europe 1468 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) - Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering 3043 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), W Siberia/W Europe 33436 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) <p>Species subject to future consideration:</p> <p>Species regularly supported during the breeding season:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i>), W Europe 130 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 1.1% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character including changes in land (including water) use and development projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion • Eutrophication • Pollution – domestic sewage

A.3.3. Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site

Error! Reference source not found. below provides information about the Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-29 Information about Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site

Location and Area	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU105070. Area: 6,730.15 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site is designated for meeting the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar criterion 1 – contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contains particularly good examples of (i) northern Atlantic wet heaths with cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> and (ii) acid mire with Rhynchosporion. Contains largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i>. • Ramsar criterion 2 - supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species, and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species. • Ramsar criterion 3 - supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a high species richness and high ecological diversity of wetland habitat types and transitions, and lies in one of the most biologically-rich wetland areas of lowland Britain, being continuous with three other Ramsar sites: Poole Harbour, Avon Valley and The New Forest.
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character including changes in land (including water) use and development projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid rain • Pollution - unspecified

A.3.4. New Forest Ramsar Site

Table A-30 below provides information about the New Forest Ramsar site, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-30 Information about New Forest Ramsar site

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU346083. Area: 28002.81 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	New Forest Ramsar site is designated for meeting the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar criterion 1 - contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 2 - supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 3 - supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 scarce wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England.
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	<p>Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial-scale forest exploitation • Drainage/land-claim: (unspecified) • Introduction/invasion of non-native plant species • Recreational/tourism disturbance (unspecified)

A.3.5. Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar Site

Table A-31 below provides information about the Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar site, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-31 Information about Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar site

Location and Size	<p>Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SU621038.</p> <p>Area: 1248.77 hectares.</p>
Qualifying Interest Features	<p>Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar site is designated for meeting the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar criterion 3 - supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The intertidal mudflat areas possess extensive beds of eelgrass <i>Zostera angustifolia</i> and <i>Zostera noltei</i> which support the grazing dark-bellied brent geese populations. The mud-snail <i>Hydrobia ulvae</i> is found at extremely high densities, which helps to support the wading bird interest of the site. Common cord-grass <i>Spartina anglica</i> dominates large areas of the saltmarsh and there are also extensive areas of green algae <i>Enteromorpha</i> spp. and sea lettuce <i>Ulva lactuca</i>. More locally the saltmarsh is dominated by sea purslane <i>Halimione portulacoides</i> 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 6 - Regularly supports $\geq 1\%$ of individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird: <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), 2105 individuals, representing an average of 2.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Vulnerabilities of the European Site	Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character including changes in land (including water) use and development projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eutrophication • Unspecified development: urban use • Coastal engineering, e.g. construction of sea defences for coastal protection
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A.3.6. Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site

Table A-32 below provides information about the Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site, its designation status, location, size (hectares), qualifying features for designation, conservation objectives, and sensitivities (vulnerabilities).

Table A-32 Information about Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site

Location and Size	Approximate Ordnance Survey national grid reference: SZ341944. Area: 5,346.44 hectares.
Qualifying Interest Features	Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site is designated for meeting the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar criterion 1 - contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 2 - supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 5 - regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds: Species with peak counts in winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 51343 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) • Ramsar criterion 6 - regularly supports $\geq 1\%$ of individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird: Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), Europe/Northwest Africa 397 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Species with peak counts in winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dark-bellied Brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), 6456 individuals, representing an average of 3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) - Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), NW Europe 5514 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) - Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>), Iceland/W Europe 1240 individuals, representing an average of 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Vulnerabilities of the European Site	Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character including changes in land (including water) use and development projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion

Appendix B. Maps

Appendix C. Natural England Consultation Response

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