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Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Plan

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Lymington & Pennington Neighbourhood Plan Group

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Quality information

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
0	18/06/24	Draft	JR	James Riley	Technical Director
1	12/02/25	Updated HRA in response to comments from the New Forest National Park Authority	JR	James Riley	Technical Director

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1. Introduction

Background to the project

1.1 AECOM was appointed by Locality to assist in undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the new Lymington and Pennington Neighbourhood Plan for the parish (LPNP). The objectives of the assessment are to:

- Identify any aspects of the LPNP that would result in Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on any Habitats Sites, which include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), candidate SACs (cSACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), potential SPAs (pSPAs) and, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites, both in isolation and in combination with other plans and projects;
- Undertake an Appropriate Assessment (AA) if LSEs on Habitats Sites regarding specific impact pathways cannot be excluded; and
- Complete the analysis to inform the AA, with a view to whether any aspects of the LPNP would result in adverse effects on the integrity of any Habitats Sites.

Legislation

1.2 The UK left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020 under the terms set out in the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ("the Withdrawal Act"). While the UK is no longer a member of the EU, a requirement for HRA continues post-Brexit, as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019[1]. The ultimate aim of the Directive is to "*maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest*" (Habitats Directive, Article 2(2)).

1.3 The Habitats Directive applies the Precautionary Principle to Habitats Sites. Plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Habitats Site(s) in question. Plans and projects with predicted adverse effects on Habitats Sites may still be permitted if there are no reasonable alternatives to them and there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest. (IROPI) as to why they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network. The need for AA (see **Box 1** below) is set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

[1] These don't replace the 2017 Regulations but are just another set of amendments.

Box 1. The legislative basis for Appropriate Assessment

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

With specific reference to Neighbourhood Plans, Regulation 106(1) states that:

"A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority [the Local Planning Authority] may reasonably require for the purpose of the assessment under regulation 105… [which sets out the formal process for determination of 'likely significant effects' and the appropriate assessment']."

1.4 Therefore, it is important to note that this report has two purposes:

- To assist the Qualifying Body (Lymington and Pennington Parish Council) in preparing their plan by recommending (where necessary) any adjustments required to protect Habitats Sites, thus making it more likely their plan will be deemed compliant with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); and
- On behalf of the Qualifying Body, to assist the Local Planning Authority (New Forest National Park Authority) to discharge their duty under Regulation 105 (in their role as 'plan-making authority' within the meaning of that regulation) and Regulation 106 (in their role as 'competent authority') and reach the formal HRA decision.

1.5 As 'competent authority', the legal responsibility for ensuring that a decision of LSEs is made, an AA (where required) is undertaken, and Natural England are consulted, falls on the local planning authority. However, they are entitled to request from the Qualifying Body the necessary information on which to base their judgment and that is a key purpose of this report.

1.6 Over the years the phrase 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' has come into wide currency to describe the overall process set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations from screening for LSEs through to IROPI. This has arisen in order to distinguish the process from the individual stage described in the law as an AA. Throughout this report we use the term HRA for the overall process.

1.7 In spring 2018 the 'Sweetman' European Court of Justice ruling[2] clarified that 'mitigation' (i.e. measures that are specifically introduced to avoid or reduce a harmful effect on a Habitats Site that would otherwise arise) should **not** be taken into account when forming a view on LSEs. Mitigation should instead only be considered at the AA stage. 'Appropriate Assessment' is not a technical term: it simply means 'an assessment that is appropriate' for the plan or project in question. As such, the law purposely does not prescribe what it should consist of

[2] People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)

or how it should be presented. These are decisions to be made on a case-by-case basis by the competent authority. As this report only encompasses the screening stage of HRA and no impact pathways are taken forward to AA, mitigation measures in relation to the LPNP will not be required.

Report structure

1.8 Chapter 2 of this report summarises the methodology adopted in this HRA. Chapter 3 details background information on the Habitats Sites discussed in this report, including a general introduction, their qualifying features, conservation objectives and pressures/threats to their integrity. Chapter 4 identifies the possible impact pathways linking the Habitats Sites to the LPNP. Chapter 5 discusses the screening for LSEs. Chapter 6 summarises the main findings of the HRA process. The full policy screening table is presented in Appendix B.

2. Methodology

Introduction

2.1 This section sets out the approach taken and methodology adopted for undertaking the HRA. HRA itself operates independently from the planning policy system, being a legal requirement of a discrete statutory instrument.

A proportionate assessment

2.2 Project-related HRA often requires bespoke survey work and novel data generation in order to accurately determine the significance of any negative ecological impacts. In other words, to look beyond the risk of an effect to an evidence-based prediction of the actual likely impact and towards the development of avoidance or mitigation measures.

2.3 However, the draft CLG guidance[3] makes it clear that when implementing HRA of land-use plans, the AA should be undertaken at a level of detail that is appropriate and proportional to the level of detail provided within the plan itself:

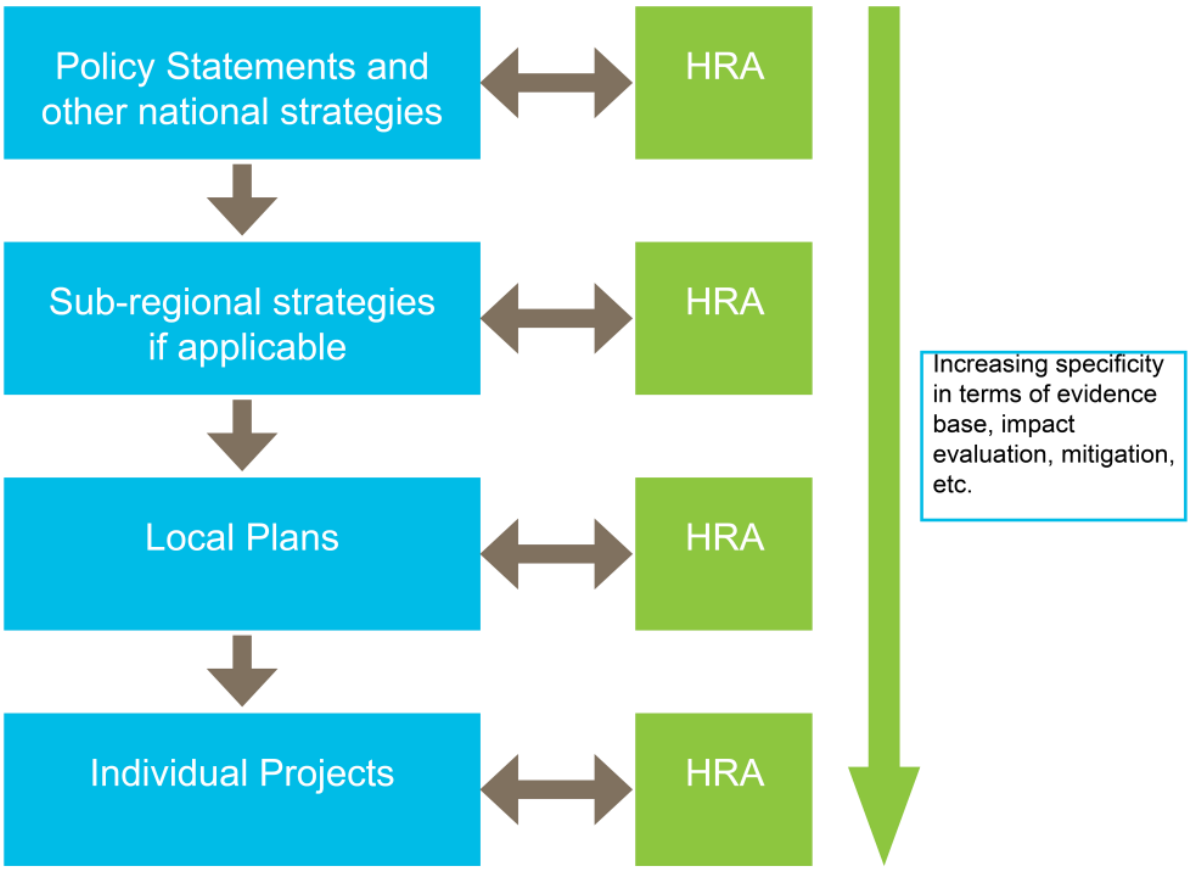
'The comprehensiveness of the [Appropriate] assessment work undertaken should be proportionate to the geographical scope of the option and the nature and extent of any effects identified. An AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose. It would be inappropriate and impracticable to assess the effects [of a strategic land use plan] in the degree of detail that would normally be required for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project.'

2.4 In other words, there is a tacit acceptance that the HRA process can be tiered and not all impacts are necessarily appropriate for consideration to the same degree of detail at all tiers (Box 2).

2.5 For a Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan, the level of detail concerning the developments that will be delivered is usually insufficient to make a highly detailed assessment of any potential negative impacts. For example, a precise and full determination of the significance of impacts of a new settlement will require in-depth design detail of the town, including the layout of greenspaces and type of development to be delivered in particular locations. However, such detail will typically not be decided until subsequent stages.

2.6 The most robust and defensible approach in the absence of such detail at the plan level is to make use of the Precautionary Principle. In other words, the plan is never given the benefit of the doubt and it must be assumed that a policy/measure is likely to have an impact leading to LSEs and adverse effects on the integrity of a Habitats Site unless it can be clearly established otherwise.

3 CLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites, Consultation Paper



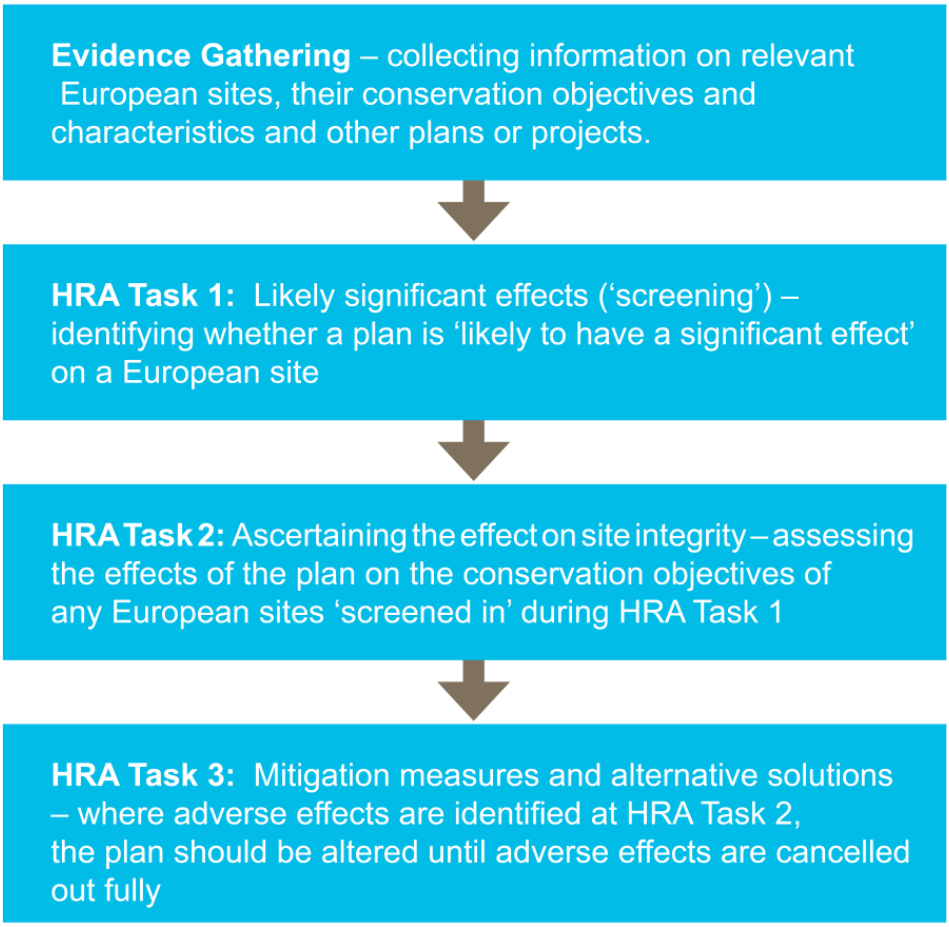
Box 2. Tiering in HRA of Land Use Plans

The HRA process

2.7 The HRA has been carried out in the continuing absence of formal Government guidance. CLG released a consultation paper on AA of Plans in 2006[4]. As yet, no further formal guidance has emerged.

2.8 Box 3 below outlines the stages of HRA according to current draft CLG guidance. The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendation and any relevant changes to the plan until no significant adverse effects remain.

[4] Ibid



Box 3. Four-Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.9 In practice, this broad outline requires some amendment in order to feed into a developing land use plan such as a Neighbourhood Plan. Only details on HRA Task 1 are provided below because HRA Task 2 and HRA Task 3 are not carried out in this HRA..

HRA Task 1: Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) Screening

2.10 The first stage of any HRA is a screening for LSEs - essentially a brief, high level assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage known as AA is required. The essential question is:

'Is the Plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon Habitats Sites?'

2.11 The objective is to 'screen out' those plans and projects (or site allocations/policies) that can, without any detailed appraisal, be concluded to be unlikely to result in material negative impacts upon Habitats Sites, usually because there is no mechanism or pathway for an adverse interaction with such sites. This stage is undertaken in Chapter 5 of this report.

2.12 The LSEs screening is based on identification of the impact source, its pathway to receptors and an appraisal of the specific Habitats Site receptors. These are

normally designated features but also include habitats and species fundamental for designated features to achieve favourable conservation status (notably functionally linked habitats outside the Habitats Site boundary).

2.13 In the Waddenzee case[5], the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, including that:

- An effect should be considered 'likely', "if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site" (para 44);
- An effect should be considered 'significant', "if it undermines the conservation objectives" (para 48); and
- Where a plan or project has an effect on a site "but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned" (para 47).

2.14 The LSEs screening consists of two parts: Firstly, it determines whether there are any policies that could result in negative impact pathways and secondly it establishes whether there are any Habitats Sites that might be affected. It identifies Habitats Sites that are most likely to be impacted by a proposal and the impact pathways that are most likely to require consideration.

2.15 It is important to note that LSEs screening must generally follow the Precautionary Principle as its main purpose is to determine whether the subsequent stage of AA (i.e., a more detailed investigation) is required.

2.16 In evaluating significance, AECOM have relied on our professional judgement as well as the results of previous stakeholder consultation regarding development impacts on the Habitats Sites considered within this assessment.

Geographic Scope of the HRA

2.17 There are no standard criteria for determining the ultimate physical scope of an HRA. Rather, the source-pathway-receptor model should be used to determine whether there is any potential pathway connecting development to any European sites.

2.18 The Habitats Sites of relevance to this HRA are as follows:

- The New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar;
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar;
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC;
- Solent Maritime SAC;
- Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar; and
- River Avon SAC.

[5] Case C-127/02

2.19 Full details comprising a general introduction to, qualifying features of, conservation objectives and key threats/pressures to these Habitats Sites are presented in Chapter 3. The Habitats Sites are shown in Appendix B, Figure 1. These sites are located wholly or partly within the LPNP area or within its surrounding sphere of influence.

2.20 Although within 10km of the parish boundary, the South Wight SAC and Isle of Wight Downs SAC have been scoped out of this report as there are no linking pathways of impact.

The 'In-Combination' Scope – Other Plans and Projects

2.21 It is a requirement of the Regulations that the impact and effects of any plan being assessed are not considered in isolation but in-combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the Habitats Sites(s) in question.

2.22 In practice, in-combination assessment is of greatest importance when a development plan would otherwise be screened out because its individual contribution is inconsequential. However, it is neither practical nor necessary to assess the in-combination effects of the LPNP in the context of all other plans and projects within the region. The principal other plans and projects that have been considered for in-combination effects are:

- New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016 – 2036 (Adopted August 2019).
- New Forest District Local Plan (Adopted 2020);
- Southampton Local Development Plan documents (Adopted 2015);
- East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan (Adopted 2014);
- West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan (Adopted 2015);
- The Island Plan Core Strategy (Adopted 2012);
- Gosport Borough Local Plan (Adopted 2015);
- Fareham Borough Local Plan (Adopted 2023);
- Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan (Adopted 2016);
- The Portsmouth Plan (Adopted 2012);
- Havant Borough Local Plan (Adopted 2011);
- Regulation 19 Chichester Local Plan 2021 – 2039 (Proposed Submission); and
- East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy to 2028.

3. Relevant Habitats Sites

The New Forest SAC, SPA & Ramsar

Introduction

3.1 The New Forest is located in southern Hampshire, west of the Solent in southern England. It comprises a complex mosaic of habitats overlying mainly nutrient-poor soils over plateau gravels. The major components are the extensive wet and dry heaths with their rich valley mires and associated wet and dry grasslands, the ancient pasture woodlands and inclosure woodlands, the network of clean rivers and streams, and frequent permanent and temporary ponds.

SAC Qualifying Features[6]

3.2 Annex I habitats that are primary reason for selection of this site:

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)
- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- European dry heaths
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)
- Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
- Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*)
- Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests
- Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains
- Bog woodland
- Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)

3.3 Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Transition mires and quaking bogs

[6] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5704025894813696 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

- Alkaline fens

3.4 Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial*
- Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*

3.5 Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:

- Great crested newts *Triturus cistatus*

SPA Qualifying Features[7]

3.6 This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season;

- Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 538 pairs representing at least 33.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, 2 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 300 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 184 pairs representing at least 12.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997)

Over winter;

- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 15 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

Ramsar Qualifying Features[8]

3.7 Ramsar criterion 1

Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain.

3.8 Ramsar criterion 2

[7] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6669000641609728 [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[8] http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11047.pdf [Accessed 12/02/2025]

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.

3.9 Ramsar criterion 3

The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. The invertebrate fauna of the site is important due to the concentration of rare and scare wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England.

SAC Conservation Objectives[9]

3.10 With regard to the SAC and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

3.11 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contribute to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- 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.

SPA Conservation Objectives[10]

3.12 With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

3.13 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;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features

[9] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5727577884852224 [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[10] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5816333400801280 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

- 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.

Environmental Vulnerabilities[11]

3.14 The threats and pressures likely to affect the SPA, SAC and Ramsar are listed below:

Pressure / Threat:

- Drainage
- Fish stocking
- Change in land management
- Water pollution
- Direct impact from 3rd party

Threat:

- Changes in species distributions

Pressure:

- Inappropriate scrub control
- Deer
- Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
- Public access / disturbance
- Forestry and woodland management
- Inappropriate ditch management
- Invasive species
- Vehicles
- Inappropriate cutting / mowing

Solent and Southampton Water SPA & Ramsar

Introduction

3.15 The Solent and Southampton Water are located on the south English coast. The area covered extends from Hurst Spit to Hill Head along the south coast of Hampshire and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises a series of estuaries and harbours with extensive mud-flats and saltmarshes together with adjacent coastal habitats including

[11] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5174614971908096 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reedbeds, damp woodland and grazing marsh. The mud-flats support beds of *Enteromorpha* spp. and *Zostera* spp. and have a rich invertebrate fauna that forms the food resource for the estuarine birds. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and four species of terns. In winter, the SPA holds a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds, including geese, ducks and waders. Dark-bellied brent goose *Branta b. bernicla* also feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.

SPA Qualifying Features[12]

3.16 The following features are reasons for designation as an SPA:

3.17 This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season;

- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 267 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997)
- Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 49 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997)
- Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1994-1998)
- Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 2 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997)
- Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 231 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997)

3.18 This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

Over winter;

- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,125 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7)
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 7,506 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7)
- Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 552 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7)

[12] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6224743971684352 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

- Teal *Anas crecca*, 4,400 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7)

3.19 Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.

Over winter, the area regularly supports 53,948 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including: Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

Ramsar Qualifying Features[13]

3.20 The following features are reasons for designation as a Ramsar:

3.21 Ramsar Criterion 1

The site is one of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland in European waters, exhibiting an unusual al 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.

3.22 Ramsar Criterion 2

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

Assemblages of international importance:

Species with peak counts in winter: 51,343 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

3.23 Ramsar Criterion 6

Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

[13] http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11063.pdf [Accessed 12/02/2025]

- Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa 397 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

- Dark-bellied Brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 6456 individuals, representing an average of 3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
- Eurasian teal, *Anas crecca*, NW Europe 5514 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
- Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe 1240 individuals, representing an average of 3.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

SPA Conservation Objectives[14]

3.24 With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

3.25 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;

- 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.

Environmental Vulnerabilities Relevant to the Plan[15]

3.26 The threats and pressures likely to affect the SPA and Ramsar are listed below:

Threat

- Public access/disturbance
- Coastal squeeze
- Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine

[14] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6567218288525312 [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[15] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4692013588938752 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

- Water pollution
- Changes in species distributions
- Climate change
- Change to site conditions
- Invasive species
- Direct land take from development
- Biological resource use
- Change in land management
- Inappropriate pest control
- Hydrological changes
- Direct impact from third party
- Extraction: Non-living resources
- Other

Pressure:

- Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

Introduction

3.27 The Solent on the southern coast of England encompasses a series of coastal lagoons, including percolation, isolated and sluiced lagoons. The site includes several lagoons in the marshes in the Keyhaven – Pennington area, at Farlington Marshes in Chichester Harbour, behind the sea-wall at Bembridge Harbour and at Gilkicker, near Gosport. The lagoons have a range of salinities and substrates, ranging from soft mud to muddy sand with a high proportion of shingle, which support a diverse fauna including large populations of three notable species, including the nationally rare foxtail stonewort (*Lamprothamnium papulosum*), the nationally scarce lagoon sand shrimp (*Gammarus insensibilis*), and the nationally scarce starlet sea anemone (*Nematostella vectensis*).

3.28 The lagoons in Keyhaven – Pennington Marshes are part of a network of ditches and ponds within the saltmarsh behind a sea-wall. Farlington Marshes is an isolated lagoon in marsh pasture that, although separated from the sea by a sea-wall, receives sea water during spring tides. The lagoon has a well-developed low-medium salinity, harbouring an insect-dominated fauna. Gilkicker Lagoon is a sluiced lagoon with marked seasonal salinity fluctuation and supports a high species diversity. The lagoons at Bembridge Harbour have formed in a depression behind the sea-wall and sea water enters by percolation. The species diversity in these lagoons is high and the fauna includes very high densities of *N. vectensis*.

SAC Qualifying Features[16]

3.29 The following features are reasons for designation as a SAC:

3.30 Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Coastal lagoons

Conservation Objectives[17]

3.31 With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

3.32 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;

- 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

Environmental Vulnerabilities Relevant to the Plan[18]

3.33 The threats and pressures likely to affect the SPA and Ramsar are listed below:

Threat:

- Hydrological changes
- Inappropriate weed control
- Coastal squeeze
- Invasive species
- Air pollution: Risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Solent Maritime SAC

Introduction

3.34 The Solent Maritime SAC encompasses a major estuarine system on the south coast of England with four coastal plain estuaries (Yar, Medina, King's Quay Shore, Hamble) and four bar-built estuaries (Newtown Harbour, Beaulieu, Langstone Harbour, Chichester Harbour). The site is the only one in the series

[16] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5821200185950208 [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[17] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5646122018144256 [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[18] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5670639268528128 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

to contain more than one physiographic sub-type of estuary and is the only cluster site. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime of four tides each day, and for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive estuarine flats, often with intertidal areas supporting eelgrass Zostera spp. and green algae, sand and shingle spits, and natural shoreline transitions. The mudflats range from low and variable salinity in the upper reaches of the estuaries to very sheltered almost fully marine muds in Chichester and Langstone Harbours. Unusual features include the presence of very rare sponges in the Yar estuary and a sandy 'reef' of the polychaete *Sabellaria spinulosa* on the steep eastern side of the entrance to Chichester Harbour.

SAC Qualifying Features[19]

3.35 Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Estuaries
- Cord-grass swards Spartinion maritimae
- Atlantic salt meadows Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae

3.36 Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Subtidal sandbanks
- Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- Coastal lagoons (*Priority Feature)
- Annual vegetation of drift lines
- Coastal shingle vegetation outside of the reach of waves
- Glasswort (Salicornia) and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- Shifting dunes with marram (*Ammophila arenaria*)

3.37 Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

- Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*.

Conservation Objectives[20]

3.38 With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

[19] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5064469629632512 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

[20] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5762436174970880 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

3.39 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;

- 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.

Environmental Vulnerabilities Relevant to the Plan[21]

3.40 The threats and pressures likely to affect the SAC are listed below:

Threat:

- Public access/disturbance
- Coastal squeeze
- Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine
- Water pollution
- Changes in species distributions
- Climate change
- Change to site conditions
- Invasive species
- Direct land-take from development
- Biological resource use
- Change in land management
- Inappropriate pest control
- Hydrological changes
- Direct impact from third party
- Extraction: non-living resources

[21] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4692013588938752 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

Pressure:

- Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar

Introduction

3.41 The Avon Valley SPA encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain on the south coast of England. The site extends for approximately 20 km between Bickton and Christchurch. The River Avon displays wide fluctuations in water level and parts of the valley are regularly flooded in winter. Consequently, the valley includes one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadows and grazing marsh under low–intensity agricultural systems. These extensive floodplain grasslands support wintering Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* in numbers of European importance, and Blashford Lakes Gravel Pits within the SPA are particularly important for wintering Gadwall *Anas strepera*.

SPA Qualifying Features[22]

3.42 The following features are reasons for designation as a SPA:

Over winter:

- Bewick's swan Cygnus columbianus bewickii, 135 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 – 1995/6)

3.43 This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

Over winter:

- Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 667 individuals representing at least 2.2% of the wintering North-western European population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 – 1995/6)

SPA Conservation Objectives[23]

3.44 With regards to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblages of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

3.45 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as a appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

[22] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5125976463769600 [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[23] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5741820348727296 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

- 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.

Ramsar Qualifying Features[24]

3.46 The following features are reasons for designation as a Ramsar:

3.47 Ramsar criterion 1

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.

3.48 Ramsar criterion 2

The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally rare species.

3.49 Ramsar criterion 6

Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying species/populations as identified at designation:

Species with peak counts in the winter:

- Gadwall, *Anas strepera strepera*, NW Europe. 537 individuals, representing 3.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9 – 2002/2003)

Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.

Species with peak counts in the winter:

- Northern pintail, *Anas acuta*, NW Europe. 715 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/1999 – 2002/2003)
- Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe. 1142 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/1999 – 2002/2003).

Environmental Vulnerabilities Relevant to the Plan[25]

3.50 The threats and pressures likely to affect the SPA and Ramsar are listed below:

[24] http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11005.pdf [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[25] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6133502894407680 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

Pressure / Threat:

- Water pollution
- Water abstraction
- Invasive species

Threat:

- Changes in species distribution
- Hydrological changes
- Inappropriate weed control
- Change in land management
- Habitat fragmentation

Pressure:

- Physical modification
- Siltation
- Public access / disturbance

River Avon SAC

Introduction

3.51 The Avon in southern England is a large, lowland river system that includes sections running through chalk and clay, with transitions between the two. Five aquatic *Ranunculus* species occur in the river system, but stream water-crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans* and river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans* are the main dominants. Some winterbourne reaches, where *R. peltatus* is the dominant water-crowfoot species, are included in the SAC.

SAC Qualifying Features[26]

3.52 The following features are reasons for designation as a SAC:

3.53 Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Rivers of plain to montane levels with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot (e.g. *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion*)

3.54 Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

[26] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4707016681455616 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

- Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus
- Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri
- Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*
- Bullhead Cottus gobio

SAC Conservation Objectives[27]

3.55 With regards to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

3.56 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;

- 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.

Environmental Vulnerabilities Relevant to the Plan[28]

3.57 The threats and pressures likely to affect the SAC are listed below:

Pressure / Threat:

- Water pollution
- Water abstraction
- Invasive species

Threat:

- Changes in species distribution
- Hydrological changes

[27] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6048472272732160 [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[28] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6133502894407680 [Accessed 12/02/2025]

- Inappropriate weed control
- Change in land management
- Habitat fragmentation

Pressure:

- Physical modification
- Siltation

4. Impact Pathways

Recreational Pressure and Disturbance

Introduction

4.1 Recreational use of a Habitats Site has the potential to:

- Prevent appropriate management or exacerbate existing management difficulties;
- Cause damage through erosion and fragmentation;
- Cause eutrophication as a result of dog fouling; and,
- Cause disturbance to sensitive species, particularly ground-nesting birds and wintering wildfowl.

4.2 Different types of Habitats Sites are subject to different types of recreational pressures and have different vulnerabilities. Studies across a range of species have shown that the effects from recreation can be complex.

4.3 It should be emphasised that recreational use is not inevitably a problem. Many Habitats Sites also contain nature reserves managed for conservation and public appreciation of nature. At these sites, access is encouraged and resources are available to ensure that recreational use is managed appropriately.

Mechanical/Abrasive Damage and Nutrient Enrichment

4.4 Most terrestrial Habitats Sites can be affected by soil compaction and erosion, which can arise as a result of visits by walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and users of off-road vehicles. Walkers with dogs contribute to pressure on sites through nutrient enrichment via dog fouling and also have potential to cause greater disturbance to fauna as dogs are less likely to keep to marked footpaths and move more erratically. Motorcycle scrambling and off-road vehicle use can cause serious erosion, as well as disturbance to sensitive species.

4.5 Lymington and Pennington Parish lies within 1km of a Habitats Site (The New Forest SAC, SPA & Ramsar site), which is designated for habitats and species that could be adversely affected by excessive trampling and erosion to their supporting habitats.

Disturbance

4.6 Concern regarding the effects of disturbance on birds stems from the fact that they are expending energy unnecessarily and the time they spend responding to disturbance is time that is not spent feeding[29]. Disturbance therefore risks increasing energetic output while reducing energetic input, which can adversely affect the 'condition' and ultimately survival of the birds. In addition, displacement of birds from one feeding site to others can increase the pressure on the

[29] Riddington, R. *et al*. 1996. The impact of disturbance on the behaviour and energy budgets of Brent geese. *Bird Study* 43:269-279

resources available within the remaining sites, as they have to sustain a greater number of birds[30].

4.7 Human activity can affect birds either directly (e.g. through causing them to flee) or indirectly (e.g. through damaging their habitat). The most obvious direct effect is that of immediate mortality such as death by shooting, but human activity can also lead to behavioural changes (e.g. alterations in feeding behaviour, nest abandonment, avoidance of certain areas etc.) and physiological changes (e.g. an increase in heart rate) that, although less noticeable, may ultimately result in major population-level effects by altering the balance between immigration/birth and emigration/death.[31]

4.8 The factors that influence a species response to a disturbance are numerous, but the three key factors are species sensitivity, proximity of disturbance sources and timing/duration of the potentially disturbing activity. Visitor survey work has been undertaken for both the Solent coast and the New Forest. The issue at the Solent Coast is addressed in the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy[32] and on the website http://www.birdaware.org/. The surveys undertaken to identify the mitigation strategy identified that all net new housing within 5.6km of the Solent Habitat sites would result in recreational pressure that required mitigation.

4.9 For New Forest an analysis undertaken by Footprint Ecology in 2008[33] identified that 75% of regular visitors to the New Forest live within 10km of the SAC/SPA. However, in 2020 Footprint Ecology updated the evidence base on recreational patterns within the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar with relevant reports being published in May 2020[34]. A report published by Footprint Ecology in 2020[35] establishes a new Zone of Influence (ZoI) for these New Forest sites. The updated ZoI is based on home postcodes collected in visitor interviews. The approach recommended by Footprint Ecology was to base the core catchment on visitors travelling directly from home only and excluding tourists (which only contribute to the recreational burden on occasion and would distort any buffer applied to the site boundary). This updated study identified a core recreational catchment of 13.8km around the SAC/SPA/Ramsar, based on the 75th percentile of postcodes. These data indicate that between the years of 2008 and 2020, the recreational draw of the New Forest has increased considerably. This is likely to

[30] Gill, J.A., Sutherland, W.J. & Norris, K. 1998. The consequences of human disturbance for estuarine birds. *RSPB Conservation Review* 12: 67-72

[31] Riley, J. 2003. Review of Recreational Disturbance Research on Selected Wildlife in Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage.

[32] Bird Aware Solent. (2017) Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy. December 2017.

[33] Sharp, J., Lowen, J.& Liley, D. (2008). Changing patterns of visitor numbers within the New Forest National Park, with particular reference to the New Forest SPA. Unpublished report by Footprint Ecology for the New Forest National Park Authority

[34] Available at https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/conservation/managing-recreation/managing-recreation/research-into-recreational-use-of-the-new-forests-protected-habitats-footprint-ecology-2020/ [Accessed 11/02/2025]

[35] Liley, D. & Caals, Z. (2020). Discussion and analysis relating to the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar and a zone of influence for recreation. Unpublished report by Footprint Ecology. 31pp. Available at: https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2021/08/New-Forest-zone-of-influence-report-2021.pdf [Accessed 22 January 2025]

put an increasing pressure on the sensitive qualifying features of these Habitats Sites. Lymington and Pennington Parish lies within 10km of the New Forest and within 5.6km of the Solent Maritime SAC and Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site, suggesting that any residential development allocated in the parish would significantly contribute to the recreational impacts in the relevant Habitats Sites.

4.10 The following Habitats Sites are vulnerable to recreational pressure and/or disturbance resulting from the LPNP, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects:

- The New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar
- Solent Maritime SAC

4.11 The following Habitats Site has been scoped out of the HRA due to its low vulnerability to recreational pressure:

- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

Loss of Functionally Linked Land

4.12 While most Habitats Sites have been geographically defined in order to encompass the key features that are necessary for the coherence of their structure and function, this is not the case for all sites. Due to the highly mobile nature of waterfowl, it is inevitable that areas of habitat of crucial importance to the maintenance of qualifying populations lie outside the physical limits of Habitats Sites. However, this area is considered essential supporting habitat and land use plans with the potential to affect such functionally linked land must be subject to further assessment.

4.13 The Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar is notified partly for their over-wintering populations of dark-bellied Brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*). However, studies have identified that many feeding sites for this species around the Solent fall outside of the statutory nature conservation site boundaries. The majority of Brent goose feeding sites are amenity/recreation grasslands with little intrinsic nature conservation interest, and therefore are vulnerable to loss or damage from development. This also applies to some high-tide wader roosts in the Solent. Sites that support Brent goose and waders are presented as interactive maps at this link: https://solentwbgs.wordpress.com/page-2/. If any sites proposed for development are also used by Brent goose or waders (particularly if Core Areas, Primary Support Areas or Secondary Support Areas are affected) mitigation would be required. Mitigation recommendations for the loss of such sites are provided in the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy: Interim Guidance on Mitigation and Off-setting Requirements[36].

[36] Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy Steering Group. (2018) Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy: Interim Guidance on Mitigation and Off-setting Requirements. March 2018.

4.14 The following Habitats Sites are potentially vulnerable to loss of functionally linked land resulting from the LPNP, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects:

- The New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar; and
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar

Increased Water Demand

4.15 The Lymington and Pennington Parish lies within the area serviced by South West Water -Bournemouth Water (potable water supply) and Southern Water (sewerage and wastewater provision). Bournemouth Water provides drinking water to a population of 450,000 across parts of Dorset and Hampshire. Most of the water supply comes from abstraction from the River Stour and River Avon with the rest being made up by ground water. Southern Water supplies water and treats wastewater for parts of Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, covering a total of 10,530km^2.

4.16 Lymington is located within Bournemouth Water's Bournemouth Water Resource Zone (WRZ). The WRZ is isolated from other Bournemouth Water WRZs, however a link exists to Wessex Water to allow some flow balancing in both directions, although there is a net benefit of 0ML/d. Bournemouth WRZ is dependent on river abstraction from the River Stour and River Avon, with a small amount from ground water abstractions. The WRZ has limited storage capacity [37].

4.17 It can be seen from Box 4, the Environment Agency has classified the area surrounding Lymington and Pennington Parish as being under serious water stress (coded red). This part of England encompasses the areas covered by Bournemouth Water and Southern Water. .

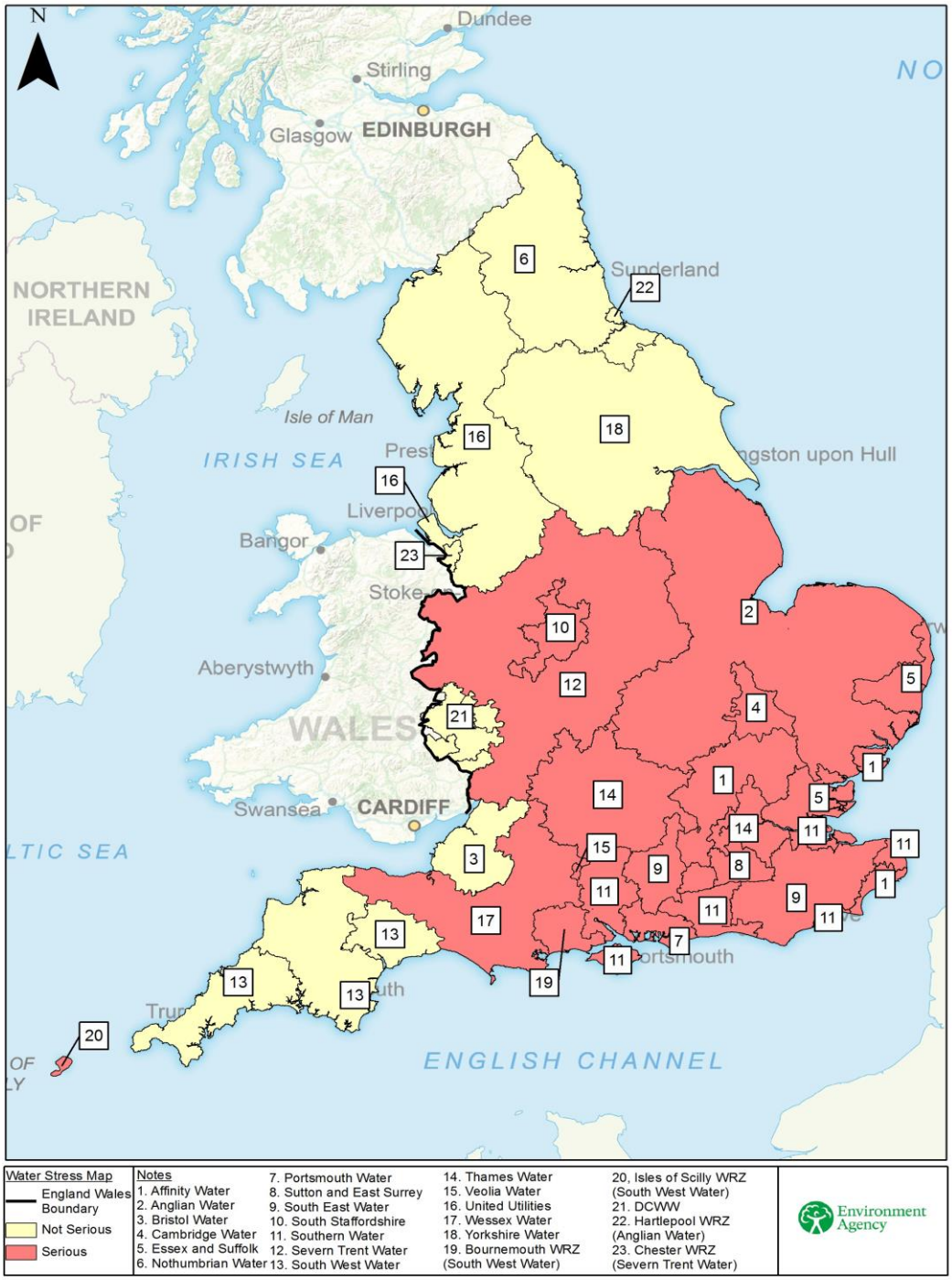
4.18 Policy DB8 (Safeguarding and Improving Water Resources) of the overarching adopted New Forest National Park Local Plan[38] (which all development within the Lymington and Pennington Neighbourhood Plan will accord), states that development will not be permitted if it would risk harm to the quality and yield of water resources. It also identifies that all new residential development should be designed to achieve a maximum daily water allowance of 110 litres per person which is in line with the Government's Housing Operational Technical Standards for water efficiency.

4.19 The HRA of Bournemouth Water's draft WRMP24[39] was unable to draw a conclusion of no adverse effects on the integrity so further work is being

[37] Bournemouth Water draft Water Resources Management Plan (October 2023) https://www.bournemouthwater.co.uk/siteassets/documents/about-us/wrmp/sww-dwrmp-main-technical-report-v2.pdf [Accessed 12/02/2025]
[38] New Forest National Park Local Plan (2016 – 2036). Available at NFNPA_536_17___Local_Plan_consolidated-1.pdf [Accessed 11/02/2025]
[39] Mott Macdonald (2023) SEA Environmental Report Annex 2: Appendix H. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). South West Water: Updated Draft Water Resource Management Plan 2024 (WRMP24) available at sww-dwrmp24-appendix-7-sea-report-dec23-annex-h-hra.pdf [Accessed 13/02/2025]

undertaken to support the WRMP24 development. However, the Lymington and Pennington Neighbourhood Plan does not in itself provide for any net new development, and as such the Neighbourhood Plan will not result in an increase to water demand. This impact pathway will not be discussed further.

4.20



Box 4. Areas of water stress within England. [40]

Water Quality

4.21 Increased amounts of housing or employment development can lead to reduced water quality in rivers and estuarine environments. Sewage and industrial effluent discharges can contribute to increased nutrients and toxic pollutants in Habitats Sites leading to unfavourable conditions. In addition, diffuse pollution, partly from urban run-off from impermeable surfaces, has been identified during an Environment Agency Review of Consents process as being a major factor in causing unfavourable condition of Habitats Sites.

4.22 The quality of the water that feeds Habitats Sites is an important determinant of the nature of their habitats and the species they support. Poor water quality can have a range of environmental impacts:

- At high levels, toxic chemicals and metals can result in immediate death of aquatic life, and can have detrimental effects even at lower levels, including increased vulnerability to disease and changes in wildlife behaviour. Eutrophication, the enrichment of plant nutrients in water, increases plant growth and consequently results in oxygen depletion. Algal blooms, which commonly result from eutrophication, increase turbidity and decrease light penetration. The decomposition of organic wastes that often accompanies eutrophication deoxygenates water further, augmenting the oxygen depleting effects of eutrophication. In the marine environment, nitrogen is the limiting plant nutrient and so eutrophication is associated with discharges containing available nitrogen; in the freshwater environment, phosphorus is usually a principal cause of eutrophication.
- Some pesticides, industrial chemicals, and components of sewage effluent are suspected to interfere with the functioning of the endocrine system, possibly having negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life, and subsequently bird life.
- Increased discharge of treated sewage effluent can result both in greater scour (as a result of greater flow volumes) and in high levels of macroalgal growth, which can smother the mudflats of value to SPA birds.

4.23 For sewage treatment works close to capacity, further development may increase the risk of untreated effluent escape into aquatic environments. In many urban areas, sewage treatment and surface water drainage systems are combined, and therefore a predicted increase in flood and storm events could increase pollution risk.

4.24 The New Forest District Council has brought forward guidance on how development within the district, including Lymington and Pennington Parish,

[40] Figure from: Environment Agency. July 2021. Water stressed areas – final classification 2021 Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification [Accessed 22 January 2025]

should account for the requirement that development be net neutral in terms of nutrient and water quality.[41]

4.25 The following Habitats Sites are potentially vulnerable to impacts on water quality resulting from the LPNP, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects:

- Solent & Southampton Water SPA & Ramsar
- Solent Maritime SAC
- Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar
- River Avon SAC

Atmospheric Pollution

4.26 The main pollutants of concern for Habitats Sites are oxides of nitrogen (NOx), ammonia (NH_3) and sulphur dioxide (SO_2; see Table 1 for an overview of these). NOx can have a directly toxic effect upon vegetation. In addition, greater NOx or NH_3 concentrations within the atmosphere will increase the total nitrogen (N) deposition to soils. An increase in N deposition is generally regarded to lead to an increase in soil fertility, which can have a serious deleterious effect on the quality of semi-natural, nitrogen-limited terrestrial habitats.

Table 1: Main sources and effects of air pollutants on habitats and species

Pollutant	Source	Effects on habitats and species
Acid deposition	SO_2, NOx and ammonia all contribute to acid deposition. Although future trends in sulphur emissions and subsequent deposition to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems will continue to decline, it is likely that increased nitrogen emissions may cancel out any gains produced by reduced sulphur levels.	Can affect habitats and species through both wet (acid rain) and dry deposition. Some sites will be more at risk than others depending on soil type, bed rock geology, weathering rate and buffering capacity.
Ammonia (NH_3)	Ammonia is released following decomposition and volatilisation of animal wastes. It is a naturally occurring trace gas, but levels have increased considerably with expansion in numbers of agricultural livestock. Ammonia reacts with acid pollutants such as the products of SO_2 and NO_X emissions to produce fine ammonium (NH_4+)- containing	Adverse effects are as a result of nitrogen deposition leading to eutrophication. As emissions mostly occur at ground level in the rural environment and NH_3 is rapidly deposited, some of the most acute problems of NH_3 deposition are for small relict nature reserves located in intensive agricultural landscapes.

[41] Nutrient neutral development - New Forest District Council https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/2714/Nutrient-neutral-development

	aerosol which may be transferred much longer distances (can therefore be a significant trans-boundary issue.)	
Nitrogen oxides NO_x	Nitrogen oxides are mostly produced in combustion processes. About one quarter of the UK's emissions are from power stations, one-half from motor vehicles, and the rest from other industrial and domestic combustion processes.	Deposition of nitrogen compounds (nitrates (NO_3), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and nitric acid (HNO_3)) can lead to both soil and freshwater acidification. In addition, NO_x can cause eutrophication of soils and water. This alters the species composition of plant communities and can eliminate sensitive species.
Nitrogen (N) deposition	The pollutants that contribute to nitrogen deposition derive mainly from NO_X and NH_3 emissions. These pollutants cause acidification (see also acid deposition) as well as eutrophication.	Species-rich plant communities with relatively high proportions of slow-growing perennial species and bryophytes are most at risk from nitrogen eutrophication, due to its promotion of competitive and invasive species which can respond readily to elevated levels of nitrogen. Nitrogen deposition can also increase the risk of damage from abiotic factors, e.g. drought and frost.
Ozone (O_3)	A secondary pollutant generated by photochemical reactions from NO_x and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These are mainly released by the combustion of fossil fuels. The increase in combustion of fossil fuels in the UK has led to a large increase in background ozone concentration, leading to an increased number of days when levels across the region are above 40ppb. Reducing ozone pollution is believed to require action at international level to reduce levels of the precursors that form ozone.	Concentrations of O_3 above 40 ppb can be toxic to humans and wildlife, and can affect buildings. Increased ozone concentrations may lead to a reduction in growth of agricultural crops, decreased forest production and altered species composition in semi-natural plant communities.
Sulphur Dioxide SO_2	Main sources of SO_2 emissions are electricity generation, industry and domestic fuel combustion. May also arise from shipping and increased atmospheric concentrations in busy ports. Total SO_2 emissions have decreased	Wet and dry deposition of SO_2 acidifies soils and freshwater, and alters the species composition of plant and associated animal communities. The significance of impacts depends on levels of deposition and the buffering capacity of soils.

substantially in the UK since the 1980s.

4.27 SO_2 emissions are primarily determined by the output of power stations and industrial processes that require the combustion of coal and oil, as well (particularly on a local scale) as shipping. NH_3 emissions are dominated by agriculture, with some chemical processes also making notable contributions. As such, it is unlikely that material increases in SO_2 or NH_3 emissions will be associated with Neighbourhood Plans.

4.28 NOx emissions, however, are dominated by the output of vehicle exhausts. Within a 'typical' housing development, by far the largest contribution to NOx (92%) will be made by the associated road traffic. Other sources, although relevant, are of minor importance (8%) in comparison[42]. Emissions of NOx could therefore be reasonably expected to increase as a result of greater vehicle use as an indirect effect of the LPNP. According to the World Health Organisation, the critical NOx concentration (critical level) for the protection of vegetation is 30 μgm^{-3}. In addition, ecological studies have determined 'critical loads'[43] of overall atmospheric N deposition.

4.29 The following Habitats Sites are potentially vulnerable to atmospheric pollution resulting from the LPNP, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, where they lie within 200m[44] of significant journey-to-work routes (where changes in traffic movements are most likely to arise due to housing and employment growth):

- The New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar site;
- Dorset Heaths SAC;
- Solent Maritime SAC;
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site: and,
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC.

[42] Proportions calculated based upon data presented in Dore CJ et al. 2005. UK Emissions of Air Pollutants 1970 – 2003. UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory. http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/index.php

[43] The critical load is the rate of deposition beyond which research indicates that adverse effects can reasonably be expected to occur

[44] 200m being the typical maximum distance by which the road influence on local NOx concentrations ceases to be observed above background concentrations

5. Screening for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)

5.1 In carrying out HRA, it is important to determine the various ways in which a Neighbourhood Plan can impact Habitats Sites by considering impact pathways that may link policies or site allocations to said sites. Briefly defined, pathways are routes by which a change in activity associated with a policy can lead to an effect upon a Habitats Site. The full LSEs test of each policy in the LPNP is contained within Appendix A. The results of the LSEs screening are summarised below.

5.2 The LPNP does not allocate specific quanta of residential or employment growth. However, five key regeneration areas are identified in Policy LP3. Regeneration in these areas will contribute to the delivery of the 200 dwellings allocated for Lymington and Pennington Parish in the overarching New Forest District Local Plan Part 1. As such, any potential effect from the LPNP is only likely to cause effects in-combination with other plans and projects, with the exception of potential loss of functionally linked land. This is because the latter impact is associated with a specific development site footprint, while other impact pathways (recreation, water quality, water resources, air quality) are more associated with the overall amount of planned development in a given area.

5.3 When looking at in-combination effects, each impact pathway or Habitats Site may have a different Zone of Influence (ZoI). For recreational pressure in the Solent Habitats Sites, research data indicate that the zone within which 75% of coastal visitors lived was 5.6km[45]. For the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar the ZoI has been identified to be 13.8km. These are the spatial zones from which the majority of regular users of the Habitats Sites come from and therefore the areas in which mitigation would need to be provided. As growth within Lymington and Pennington Parish falls into this category for the New Forest, growth here should be considered in-combination with all other growth within the ZoI. Therefore the assessment that follows is inherently in-combination with other plans and projects.

5.4 The following Habitats Sites and impact pathways have been identified as being relevant to this assessment in combination with other plans and projects:

- New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar site;
  - The New Forest is vulnerable to recreational pressure on its habitats through mechanical/abrasive damage from increased walkers as well as through nutrient enrichment caused by an increase in dog fouling. SPA protected bird species are also vulnerable to increased recreational pressure through an increase in stimulus response events e.g. flushing by dogs. Allowing for more growth and tourism within the area could create higher recreational pressures within the neighbouring New Forest.

[45] Liley D & Tyldesley D (2013) Solent Disturbance & Mitigation Project Phase III

  - The New Forest is vulnerable to air quality impacts from changes in traffic flows on roads within 200m of the SAC through increased NOx emissions and nitrogen deposition.
  - The New Forest is also vulnerable to any direct loss of habitat outside the SPA boundary that supports species for which the SPA is designated.
- Solent Maritime SAC;
  - The Solent Maritime SAC is vulnerable to recreational pressure on its habitats through mechanical/abrasive damage from increased walkers as well as through nutrient enrichment caused by an increase in dog fouling.
  - In addition the SAC habitats and species are also vulnerable to water pollution which can occur through increased discharge from water treatment facilities supplying the increased growth. Increased growth within Lymington and Pennington may cause increased nitrogen and phosphates to be released back into the river systems from waste water treatment works (WWTW) which could cause an impact on the SAC dependent on the locations of the WWTW which supply the area.
  - The Solent Maritime SAC is vulnerable to air quality impacts from changes in traffic flows on roads within 200m of the SAC through increased NOx emissions and nitrogen deposition.
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site;
  - The Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar Site is vulnerable to recreational pressure on its habitats through mechanical/abrasive damage from increased walkers as well as through nutrient enrichment caused by an increase in dog fouling. SPA protected bird species are also vulnerable to increased recreational pressure through an increase in stimulus response events e.g. flushing by dogs.
  - In addition the SAC & Ramsar habitats and species are also vulnerable to water pollution which can occur through increased discharge from water treatment facilities supporting increased growth.
  - The SPA/Ramsar is also vulnerable to loss of functionally linked land, Some species such as dark-bellied Brent goose, for which the SPA and Ramsar are designated for may use land outside of the SPA/Ramsar boundaries for foraging and/or roosting for example during high tides. This means that this land although is not within the SPA/Ramsar boundary it is linked by performing a function for SPA/Ramsar species and therefore loss of this land may cause a likely significant effect.
- River Avon SAC
  - The River Avon and its habitats are vulnerable to water abstraction. The majority of water supplied by Bournemouth Water is sourced from the River Stour and the River Avon. An increase in growth in this area could lead to an increase in abstraction from this river, which can lead to alteration in the natural flow regime of the river and cause impacts such as; loss of habitats and species, exaggerated impacts of barriers to fish, and increases in sedimentation rates to name a few.

  - In addition the SAC habitats and species are also vulnerable to water pollution which can occur through increased discharge from water treatment facilities supplying the increased growth. Increased growth within Lymington and Pennington may cause increased nitrogen and phosphates to be released back into the river systems from waste water treatment works (WWTW) which could cause an impact on the SAC dependent on the locations of the WWTW which supply the area.

- Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar
  - The Avon Valley and its habitats are vulnerable to water abstraction. The majority of water supplied by Bournemouth Water is sourced from the River Stour and the River Avon. An increase in growth in this area could lead to an increase in abstraction from this river, which can lead to alteration in the natural flow regime of the river and cause impacts such as; loss of habitats and species, exaggerated impacts of barriers to fish, and increases in sedimentation rates to name a few.
  - In addition the SAC habitats and species are also vulnerable to water pollution which can occur through increased discharge from water treatment facilities supplying the increased growth. Increased growth within Lymington and Pennington may cause increased nitrogen and phosphates to be released back into the river systems from waste water treatment works (WWTW) which could cause an impact on the SAC dependent on the locations of the WWTW which supply the area.
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC
  - The SAC is vulnerable to air quality impacts from changes in traffic flows on roads within 200m of the SAC through increased NOx emissions and nitrogen deposition.

Where policies have been coloured green in the ‘Likely Significant Effects’ column, this indicated that the policies do not contain potential impact pathways linking to Habitat sites and have been screened out from further consideration alone. Where policies have been coloured orange in the ‘Likely Significant Effects’ column, this indicates that the policies have potential impact pathways linking to Habitat sites and were not able to be screened out and as such subject to Appropriate Assessment in this report.

Loss of Functionally Linked Land

5.5 The LPNP does not make any specific housing or employment allocations. The plan encourages development to be within existing settlement boundaries, and in particular highlights five regeneration areas.

5.6 None of the regeneration areas are on parcels of land likely to support nesting territories of breeding birds, or significant congregations of non-breeding birds for which habitat sites in the area are designated. Based on aerial photography the habitat on each site is unsuitable for these species to nest (being primarily hardstanding areas within, or in close proximity to Lymington Town Centre).

5.7 Similarly, none of the regeneration areas are on land identified as being of value for wintering Brent goose and waders associated with the Solent Habitat sites, based on the latest mapping provided on the Solent Waders and Brent Goose

Strategy website (https://solentwbgs.wordpress.com/page-2/). The nearest location identified in the network is NF230, on the far side on Lymington River to the regeneration areas and is currently only a candidate site.

5.8 Based on available information, the impact pathway loss of functionally linked land can therefore be screened out from AA. No LSEs will occur due to the LPNP, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Recreational Pressure

5.9 The LPNP does not make any allocation for either domestic or tourist accommodation. While it does identify five key regeneration areas, it does not specify a quantum of housing in any of these, other than suggesting that any housing would contribute to the overall target of 200 dwellings for the parish set out in the overarching Local Plan. By inference, any negative recreational pressure implications arising from the parish would, therefore, occur due to development allocated in the adopted Local Plan (and dealt within the accompanying HRA).

5.10 In accordance with the New Forest District Local Plan, Individual planning applications will be required to contribute to Bird Aware Solent[46] and to the mitigation of recreational impacts on New Forest European Sites[47]. Furthermore, the New Forest National Park Authority has also published a Revised Habitat Mitigation Scheme Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)[48] for addressing in combination recreational impacts in the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar. The SPD encompasses the following key mitigation pillars:

- Access management within the SPA/Ramsar/SAC, such as through changes to focal points, signage and waymarkers;
- Alternative recreational greenspace sites and routes outside the SPA/Ramsar/SAC, primarily in the form of improvements to existing sites close to where new residents live;
- Education, awareness and promotion, such as through ranger activities, events, exhibitions, web-based information and social media campaigns;
- Monitoring and research, such as through collecting data/evidence on the condition of qualifying features to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures; and

[46] Bird Aware Solent - New Forest District Council https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/3265/Bird-Aware-Solent

[47] Mitigation for Recreational Impacts On New Forest European Sites - New Forest District Council https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/2003/Mitigation-for-Recreational-Impacts-On-New-Forest-European-Sites

[48] New Forest National Park. (July 2020). Revised Habitat Mitigation Scheme – Mitigating recreational impacts on New Forest designated sites Supplementary Planning Document. 24pp. Available at: https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2020/07/Revised-Habitat-Mitigation-Scheme-SPD-.pdf [Accessed 22 January 2025]

- In-perpetuity funding (developer monies should be collected to ensure that mitigation is provided over the lifetime of new housing developments).

5.11 The Neighbourhood Plan does not make reference to any of the above listed mitigation schemes.. Therefore, **while these requirements have been established previously, it is recommended that these mitigation schemes and requirements for developers are highlighted within the Neighbourhood Plan. It is recommended that the following policy wording is inserted to Policy LP3 (Key Regeneration Opportunities in the Town Centre) of the Neighbourhood Plan as a precautionary measure and for completeness: '*For any housing developments that may come forward in the core catchment of the Solent Habitats Sites (5.6km) and/or New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar (13.8km) under this policy in the future, developers must ensure that they provide adequate funding in line with the requirements set out in the Bird Aware Solent and New Forest Revised Habitat Mitigation Scheme Supplementary Planning Document.*'**

5.12 Based on the fact that the LPNP does not allocate any quantum of residential development, the impact pathway recreational pressure can therefore be screened out from AA. No LSEs on any Habitats Sites will occur, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

Air Quality

5.13 The policies within the LPNP make no specific allocation for quanta of additional housing or employment floorspace. As a result of this, it can be concluded that the LPNP will not result in LSEs on any Habitats Sites regarding air quality, both alone and in-combination. While 200 dwellings have been set as a target for the parish in the overarching Local Plan, strategic traffic and air quality impacts are an issue that has been investigated in the HRA accompanying the Local Plan. Policies LP5 and LP10, which encourage walkable neighbourhoods and sustainable travel, are likely to have a positive effect in terms of air quality.

Water Quality

5.14 Growth within Lymington and Pennington Parish would contribute to increased treated wastewater discharge to the Solent Habitat sites. This is relevant because increased nitrogen loading in the Solent results in eutrophication (including the growth of smothering macroalgae) which, among other effects, contributes to the deoxygenation of intertidal mudflats and the decline of invertebrate populations.

5.15 However, the LPNP does not make any allocation for growth within its policies. While it does identify five key regeneration areas, it does not specify any quanta of development, other than that any growth would contribute to the overall target of 200 dwellings for the parish (which is set in the overarching Local Plan). Therefore, it can be concluded that the LPNP will not result in LSEs on any Habitats Sites regarding water quality, both alone and in-combination.

5.16 In accordance with the New Forest District Local Plan, individual planning applications will be required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality or provide an

appropriate level of mitigation for increased nutrient load.[49] The LPNP does not currently mention this requirement. **While this approach has already been established, it is recommended that this requirement on developers is highlighted with the LPNP.**

[49] Nutrient neutral development - New Forest District Council
https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/2714/Nutrient-neutral-development

6. Conclusion

6.1 This report undertook the HRA of policies contained within the LPNP.

6.2 The Habitats Sites considered within this report were:

- New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar
- Solent Maritime SAC
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar
- Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar
- River Avon SAC
- Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC

6.3 The impact pathways that were taken forward to the LSEs screening stage included loss of functionally linked land, recreational pressure, air pollution and water quality.

6.4 Overall, it was concluded that the LPNP will not result in any LSEs on Habitats Sites in relation to the identified impact pathways, both alone and in-combination. This is because the LPNP does not make specific allocations or propose quanta of growth.

6.5 With the current policies included in the LPNP (while noting the precautionary addition to wording of Policy LP3), it can be concluded that there will be no requirement for undertaking an AA.

Appendix A Screening Table

Table 2: LSEs screening assessment of all policies contained within the LPNP.

Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effects Screening Outcome
Policy LP1: A Spatial Strategy for the Town	This policy focuses new development on brownfield land and other suitable sites within the settlement boundary. The intent is for this to reduce the need for land to be released from the greenbelt and to contribute to bolstering and sustaining the Lymington town centre's vitality and viability. The local centres at Pennington will continue to help meet the day-to-day needs of the local community in line with '20-minute neighbourhood' principles. Beyond the settlement boundary the focus will be on enhancing the natural environment, contributing to nature recovery, protecting and enhancing the National Park landscape and maintaining the essential characteristics of openness and permanence of the Green Belt in accordance with national policies, avoiding inappropriate development.	No Impact Pathways This policy is an overall spatial management policy which does not provide quantum of development merely directs the appropriate areas of the Parish.
Policy LP2: Lymington Town Centre	This policy supports proposals for redevelopment within and adjacent to the key elements of the Spatial Framework that contribute to the Town Centre Vision. Development proposals will be required to make a direct and proportionate contribution to projects and town centre improvements which deliver the objectives of the Lymington Town Centre Vision.	No Impact Pathways This policy is a spatial and development management policy concerning development in and around lymington town centre. It does not provide quantum of development merely directs the appropriate areas of the Town Centre.
Policy LP3: Key Regeneration Opportunities in the Town Centre	This policy supports redevelopment of 5 key regeneration sites provided that they adhere to the Town Centre Vision and the other plan policies. These regeneration sites are:	No Impact Pathways While this policy provides general support to the redevelopment of five key regeneration areas, the policy wording is kept very broad. It

Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effects Screening Outcome
	• Bridge road • Gosport/Cannon Street • Civic Offices • Post Office Sorting Site • Solent Mead	does not allocate any specific types or quanta of development growth.
Policy LP4: Pennington Shopping Parades	The policy states that proposals for a change of use that will result in the loss of an active commercial, business or service use of a ground floor frontage in a Local Shopping Frontage will not be supported.	No Impact Pathways This is a development management policy, which prevents redevelopment in certain areas if this would result in the loss of an active ground floor frontage. It does not set any quantum from development.
Policy LP5: Walkable Neighbourhoods	This policy identifies Buckland, Woodland, South Pennington and North Pennington as walkable communities and supports development of local facilities at these locations, including: convenience food retail, café, indoor sport and recreation, medical services, day centre or nursery, learning and non-residential institutions, and/or local community use. Proposals that comprise one or more of these uses may incorporate housing on upper floors. Schemes must strengthen the mix and balance of uses which provide for the day-to-day needs of local people. Within this context clustering of one or more uses defined in clause B in each broad location is preferred. Proposals that comprise one or more uses defined in Clause B must demonstrate that the site is located and accessible by walking, cycling and/or public transport from established residential areas in a walkable community area in safe, convenient and pleasant ways.	No Impact Pathways This is a development management policy which supports the development of facilities

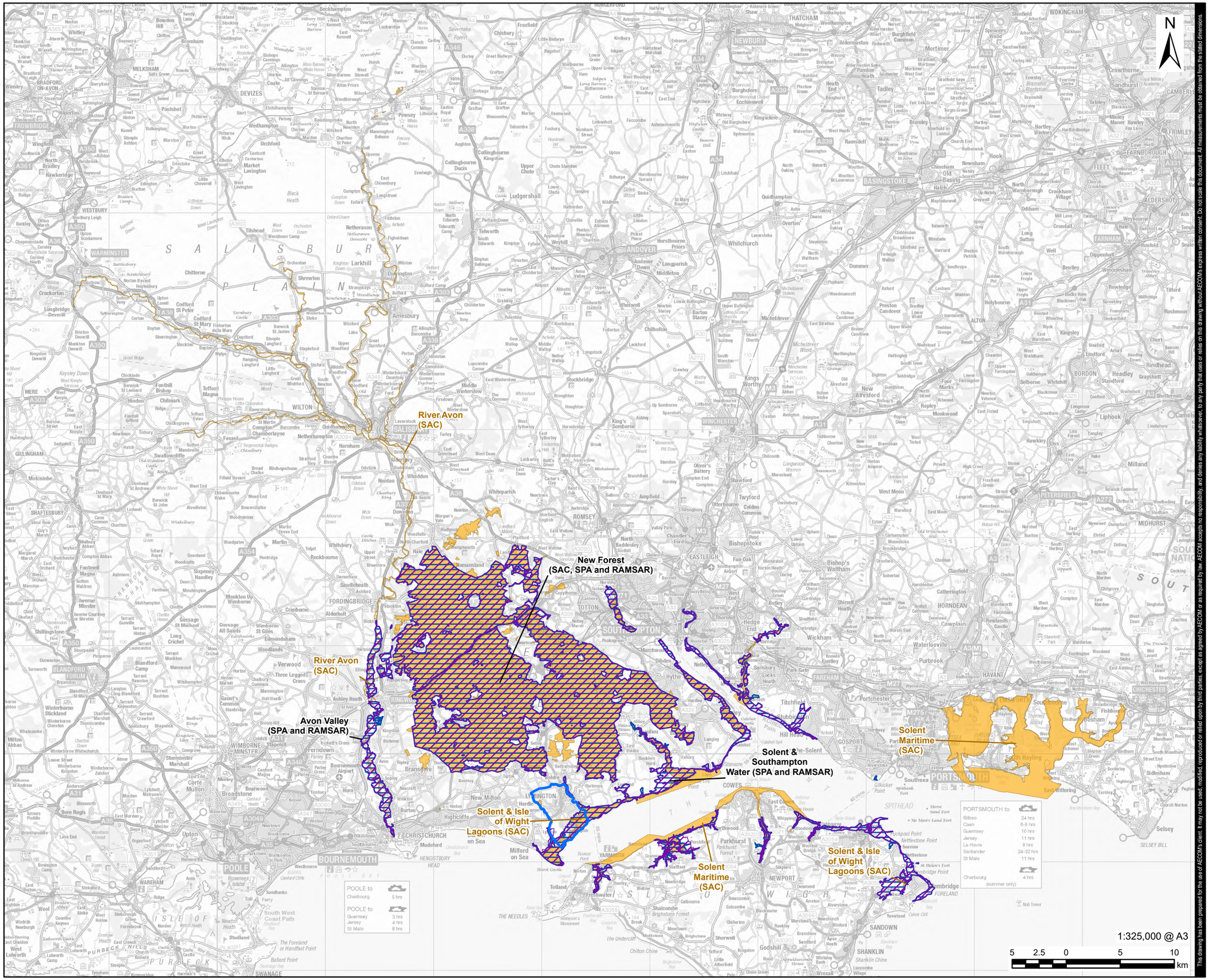
Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effects Screening Outcome
	Proposals to change the use of land or premises in a walkable community area that is in an established use defined in Clause B to another use will not be supported.	
Policy LP6: High Quality Design	This policy requires development proposals to have regard to the Lymington and Pennington Design Guidance and Code and the Lymington Local Distinctiveness SPD.	No Impact Pathways This is a design management policy that requires development to adhere to local design guidance. It does not set any quanta for development
Policy LP7: Meeting the Needs of Local Young People	This policy expects residential development to provide a mix of dwelling types and sizes including at least 50% small dwellings in developments of 5 or more dwellings. This policy also encourages schemes to deliver some of the affordable housing element through a Community Land Trust, or equivalent body.	No Impact Pathways This policy does not provide for a quantum of housing, it is a development management policy ensuing a diversity of housing where housing will be provided.
Policy LP8: Green Infrastructure and Nature Recovery Network	This policy designates a green infrastructure and Nature Recovery Network to promote ecological connectivity, outdoor recreation, and sustainable movement through the parish. Developments proposals within this network are required to maintain and improve the functionality of the network. This policy also states that development should embed Green Infrastructure and result in biodiversity net gain. Development proposals that will lead to an extension of the network will be supported, provided they are consistent with all other relevant policies of the development plan. Proposals that require off-site compensation to mitigate for biodiversity loss must follow a sequential approach to its delivery. The gain should be delivered within or adjoining the nature recovery network.	No Impact Pathways This is a positive policy which requires development to support the Nature Recovery Network and sets a priority that, if offsite mitigation is required, it be directed towards the nature recovery network.

Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effects Screening Outcome
Policy LP9: Safer Lanes Network	This policy identifies a Safer Lanes Network to protect the characteristics of the lanes and promote the lanes as shared spaces. Proposals should where possible enhance these lanes in line with the key objectives. Safer Lanes Network Key Objectives include: Retaining the key rural characteristics of the lanes including tree and hedgerow lined frontages; Avoiding urbanising highway infrastructure, including reducing unnecessary lighting pollution Prioritising non-motorised users of the lanes.	No Impact Pathways This is a development management policy aiming to protect the rural and historic character of certain lanes within the plan area. This policy does not set any quanta for development.
Policy LP10: Active and Healthy Travel	This policy identifies the existing Sustainable Travel Network and opportunities for improvements, as shown on the Lymington and Pennington Active Travel Plan, for the purpose of supporting healthy and safe active travel opportunities in the Parish. This policy states that development proposals on land that lies within or adjacent to the Network should sustain and enhance the functionality of the Network by virtue of their layout and means of access and landscape treatment.	No Impact Pathways This is a development management policy which protects areas identified for active and healthy travel. This policy encourages active travel, potentially reducing air pollution by encouraging residents to travel by methods other than private car. This policy does not set any quanta for development.
Policy LP11: Net Zero Carbon Building Design	This policy states that all development should be 'zero carbon ready' by design to minimise the amount of energy needed to heat and cool buildings. Consideration should be given to efficiency and potential re-use of existing buildings. Where feasible, buildings should be certified to a Passivhaus or equivalent standard. All planning applications for major development are also required to be accompanied by a Whole Life-Cycle Carbon Emission Assessment to demonstrate actions taken to reduce embodied carbon	No Impact Pathways This is a development management policy requiring new development to be 'zero carbon ready'. This policy ensures that new development will take measures to minimise their energy demand. This policy does not set any quanta for development.

Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effects Screening Outcome
	A Climate Change Statement will be submitted to demonstrate compliance with the policy. The statement will include a passive design capacity assessment to demonstrate how opportunities to reduce the energy use intensity of buildings over the plan period have been maximised.	
Policy LP12: Urban Greening and Canopy Cover	This policy requires proposals over 0.5ha outside of Lymington Town Centre to achieve a future canopy cover of at least 25% of the site. Where impractical similar green infrastructure should be used where they can offer similar benefits. Other proposals should maximise available canopy cover.	No Impact Pathways This is a design management policy requiring new development to maximise canopy cover. It does not set any quanta for development.
Policy LP13: Digital Communication Infrastructure	This policy requires proposals to be sensitively located and minimise harm to heritage assets and the character of the national park.	No Impact Pathways This is a development management policy, requiring digital communication infrastructure developments to minimise harm to heritage assets and the national park. It does not set any quanta for specific development

Appendix B Maps

Figure 1: Habitats Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Lymington and Pennington Parish boundary.



Revision: 0 Drawn: KH Checked: AG Approved: JR Date: 2024-07-09

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AECOM

PROJECT

Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment

CLIENT

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LEGEND

- Lymington and Pennington Parish Council Boundary
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

NOTES

ISSUE PURPOSE

FINAL

PROJECT NUMBER

60571087

FIGURE TITLE

Location of Lymington and Pennington Parish and Habitats Sites

FIGURE NUMBER

Appendix B

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