

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY, PORTSMOUTH CITY  
COUNCIL, SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY & SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

# Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan: Partial Update

## Habitats Regulations Assessment Revised Baseline and Methodology Report

September 2021



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# 1. Introduction

## Scope

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the methodology and baseline evidence that will be used to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the partial update of the adopted Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (HMWP). The objective of the HRA is to identify any aspects of the Plan that would have the potential to have a likely significant effect on National Site Network (NSN) sites (formerly known as ‘European sites’) and Ramsar sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, thereby potentially affecting the integrity of those sites, and undertake an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ where such effects are identified.
- 1.2 The HRA Baseline and Methodology Report was provided to the Statutory Consultee - Natural England in June 2021, to allow the agency to provide its view on the scope of the HRA for the emerging HMWP Partial Update. Following the consultation, Natural England’s response was considered and this Revised HRA Baseline and Methodology Report completed. Natural England’s response to the consultation is presented in Appendix F.

## Legislation

- 1.3 The need for HRA is set out in the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)<sup>1</sup>, commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations. The Regulations transposed two pieces of retained European law – Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive) and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna (the Habitats Directive) – into domestic law.
- 1.4 On 31st December 2020, the implementation Period following the UK’s departure from the European Union in January 2020 came to a close. As such the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are now amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and collectively referred to as ‘the Habitats Regulations’.
- 1.5 The Habitats Regulations requires that:
  - any plan or project, which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a National Site Network (NSN) site,
  - but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site,
  - either individually or in combination with other plans or projects,
  - shall be subject to an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of its implications for the NSN site,

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<sup>1</sup> Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made>

- in view of the site's Network objectives<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.6 Regulations 105 to 109 of the Habitats Regulations require competent authorities to assess the effects of 'land use plans' on International sites where the plans are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of those sites. This requirement applies to Local Development Documents (LDD) including Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and, as such, this requirement applies to the HMWP Partial Update.
  - 1.7 Under Regulation 105, the assessment must determine whether or not a plan will adversely affect the integrity of the International site(s) concerned, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Plans can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) in question.
  - 1.8 Where effects on ecological integrity are identified, plan-makers must first consider alternative ways of achieving the plan's objectives that avoid significant effects entirely. Where it is not possible to meet objectives through other means, mitigation measures that allow the plan to proceed by removing or reducing significant effects may be considered. If it is impossible to avoid or mitigate the adverse effect, the plan-makers must demonstrate, under the conditions of Regulation 107, that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) to continue with the proposal. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network. This is widely perceived as an undesirable position and should be avoided if at all possible.
  - 1.9 HRA is undertaken by the Competent Authority, which is the authority that has legally delegated powers of authority under Regulation 7 of the Habitats Regulations. In the case of the HMWP Partial Update, Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, South Downs National Park Authority and Southampton City Council are the minerals and waste planning authorities (MWPA) for their respective parts of the Plan area, and as such are the competent authorities for this HRA.
  - 1.10 Sites which are to be considered in the HRA process include Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) (both part of the NSN) designated under the Habitats Regulations. 'Potential' or 'Possible' SACs (pSACs), 'Candidate' SACs (cSACs) and 'Potential' SPAs (pSPAs) (i.e., sites that have yet to be formally 'classified' as SPAs or 'designated' as SACs but are proposed as such) are also considered as NSN sites.
  - 1.11 In addition, Ramsar sites (internationally important wetland habitats recognised under the Ramsar Convention) mostly overlie SPA classifications and SAC designations in the UK. The criteria for listing a site as a Ramsar site are different to those used for SPAs and SACs, but the Ramsar criteria are of equal importance for the ecological

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<sup>2</sup> Management objectives for the national site network which contribute to the conservation of UK habitats and species that are also of pan-European importance, and to the achievement of their Favourable Conservation Status within the UK.

functioning and integrity of the relevant site. National planning policy<sup>3</sup> requires that Ramsar sites are also assessed within HRA.

- 1.12 For the purposes of this report, the NSN sites considered in the assessment, together with Ramsar sites, are collectively referred to as 'International sites'. Additionally, while the terminology relating to the designation, classification or listing of an International site varies depending on whether it is an SPA, SAC or Ramsar site, for the purposes of this report, 'designations' and 'designated' will be used to refer collectively to these terms.

## **The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Partial Update**

- 1.13 Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, South Downs National Park Authority and Southampton City Council are working in partnership to undertake a partial update of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (HMWP), which will guide minerals and waste decision-making in the Plan area.
- 1.14 The current HMWP was adopted in October 2013<sup>4</sup>. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that Local Plans should be reviewed to assess whether they require updating at least once every five years<sup>5</sup>.
- 1.15 A review of the 2013 HMWP in 2020 concluded that a partial update of the HMWP was required to reflect national policy changes, the Hampshire 2050 Vision for the Future, and to ensure that the Plan is delivering a steady and adequate supply of minerals and enabling sustainable waste management provision. It was subsequently decided by all partners that the HMWP would be subject to partial update.
- 1.16 This is important as out of date plans limit the ability for planning authorities to enable the right development, in the right location, at the right time, and may lead to a greater number of planning applications determined at appeal.
- 1.17 Minerals and waste planning issues are most appropriately addressed jointly so that strategic issues can be satisfactorily resolved. The HMWP will cover those geographical parts of the MWPA listed in paragraph 1.13 that are within the Plan boundary (see Figure 1.1).

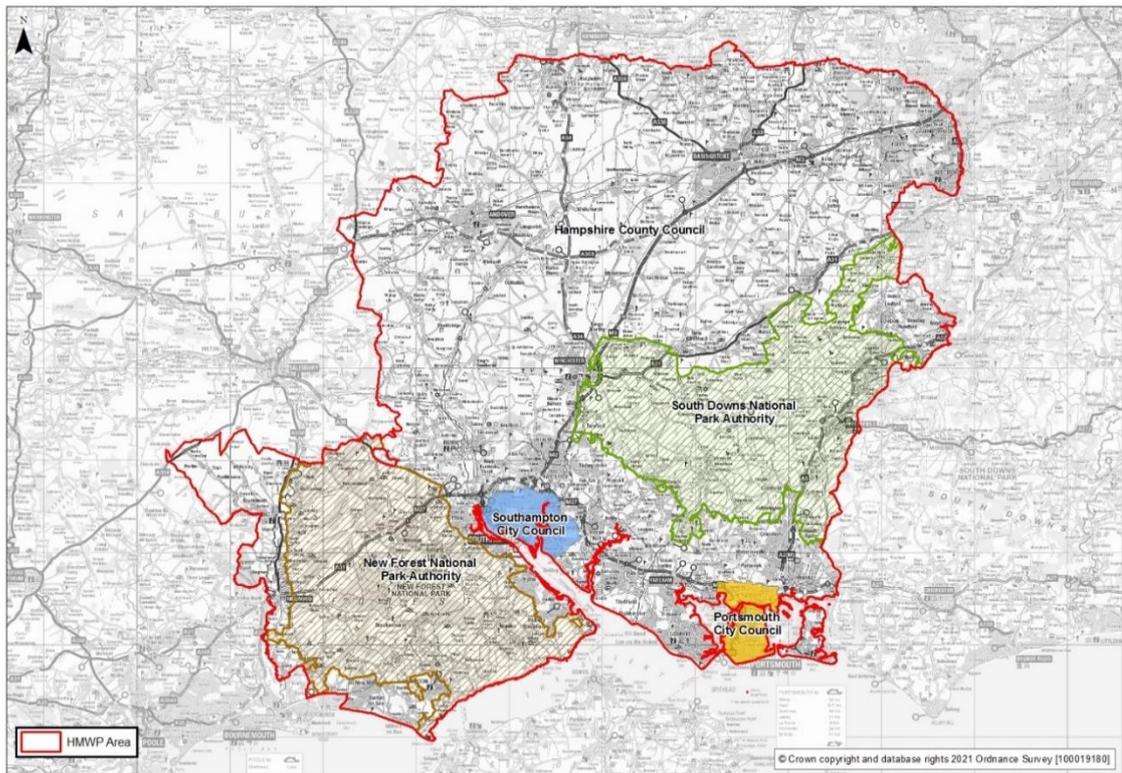
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<sup>3</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>4</sup> Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (2013) - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan>

<sup>5</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (Para. 33) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Figure 1.1: Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Area and constituent MWPA



## 2. HRA Methodology

- 2.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook<sup>6</sup> has been referred to during the preparation of this document. The handbook is updated regularly and therefore provides the most up-to-date guidance on interpretation of the Habitats Regulations and the process of HRA. This guidance is non-statutory, but *'based on experience, good practice and authoritative published guidance'*.
- 2.2 As the HMWP Partial Update is not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of International sites and as it is a land use plan, it will be subject to HRA. This conclusion will be confirmed and recorded as part of the initial 'screening' process.

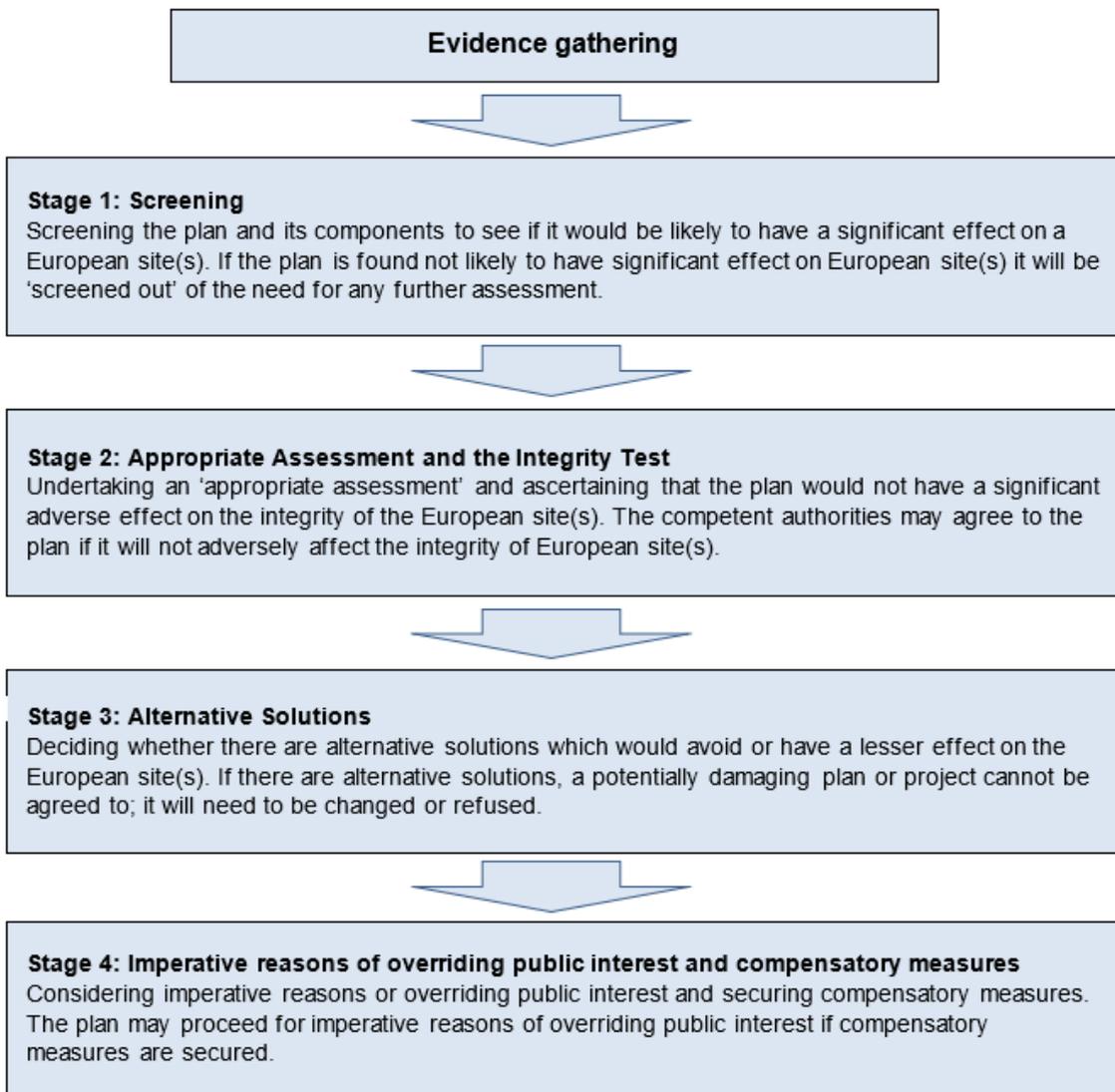
### The HRA Process

- 2.3 The four stage approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment set out in 'The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook' is summarised in Figure 2.1.
- 2.4 Further detail about the four stage approach to the assessment of plans under the Habitats Regulations is provided in Figure 2.2.

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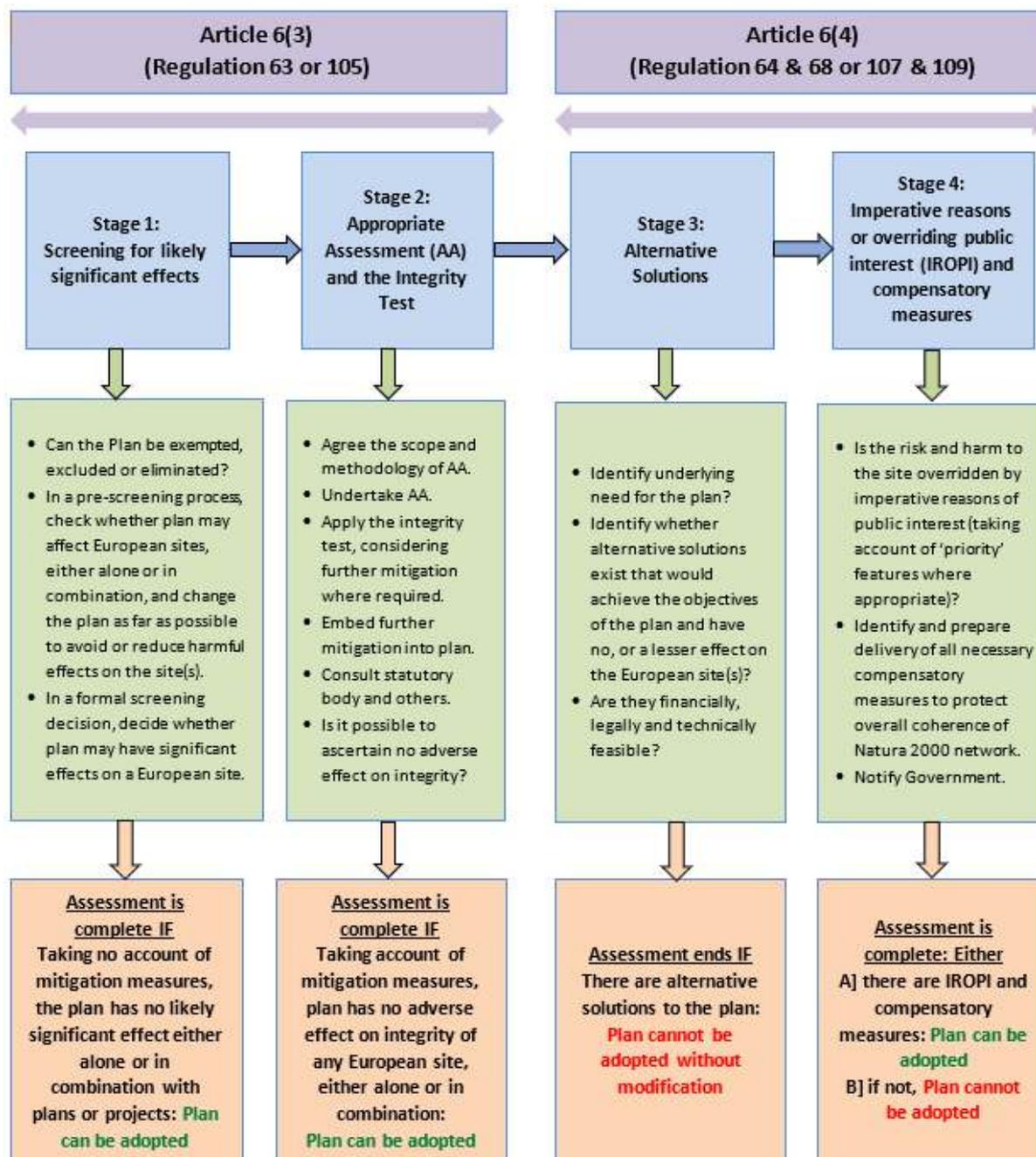
<sup>6</sup> Tyldesley, D. and Chapman, C., (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, May 2018 edition (DTA Publications Ltd: Berkshire) - [www.dtapublications.co.uk](http://www.dtapublications.co.uk)

Figure 2.1: Four stage approach to HRA



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Figure 2.2: Outline of the four stage approach to the assessment of Plans under the Habitats Regulations



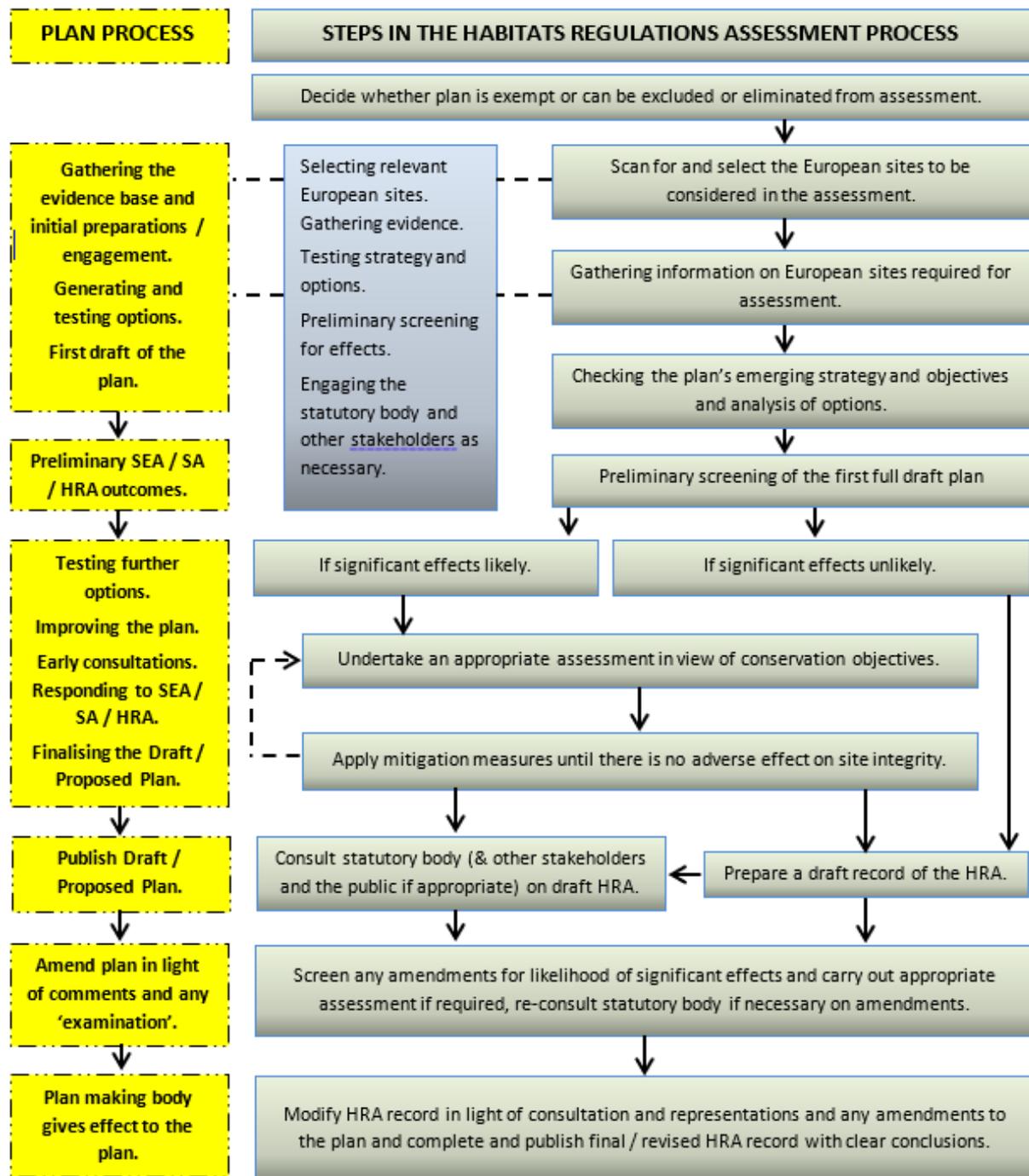
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- 2.5 If the screening stage concludes that there are likely to be no significant effects on International sites then there is no need to progress to the stage of Appropriate Assessment.
- 2.6 Judgement of the significance of effects on International sites should be undertaken in relation to the designated interest features and conservation objectives of the site in question using sound judgement and with a scientific basis, where available. If insufficient information is available to make a clear judgement, it should be assumed that a significant effect is possible in line with the precautionary principle.
- 2.7 Natural England will be consulted to ensure that the HRA process is considering all the potential impacts that may affect the sites (and the conservation objectives for each site).

### **Timing of HRA and integration with plan preparation**

- 2.8 The HRA assessment process will be undertaken in parallel with the preparation of the partial update of the HMWP in order that the HRA can inform the development of the Plan and ensure that it does not include general or specific proposals which may fail the Habitats Regulations tests at the project application stage. Regulation 105(1) provides that, where necessary, an appropriate assessment must be made 'before the plan is given effect' and Regulation 63(1) requires a competent authority to make an appropriate assessment before deciding to undertake or agree to a Plan that is likely to have a significant effect on an International site. Natural England and other relevant stakeholders will be consulted throughout the HRA assessment process.
- 2.9 The HRA assessment process will also be undertaken concurrently with the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which incorporates Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), of the HMWP Partial Update. The HRA process will feed into the SA and will help inform the assessment and its conclusions that relate to biodiversity. The Hampshire Authorities will document the initial 'screening' of policy options under the Habitats Regulations Assessment in parallel with the SA. Natural England and the Environment Agency are key consultees for the SA process and will, therefore, be engaged as the policy options are generated and assessed under SA, and then screened as part of the HRA process. The findings from the screening stage will be documented alongside the relevant SA Report.
- 2.10 Figure 2.3 sets out how the main stages of Plan preparation and HRA assessment will integrate.

Figure 2.3: Relationship of steps in the HRA with a typical plan-making process



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## Scale and level of detail

- 2.11 It is recognised by the UK courts that the assessment of a plan may not be as precise and detailed as that of a project at application stage. The method and level of detail required of this HRA is dependent on the scale and geographic area of the Plan, the nature of its policies, and how International sites may be affected as a result. The competent authority is responsible for ensuring the assessment is appropriate and compliant.
- 2.12 The method selected for assessing the HMWP Partial Update is a judgement which may be limited or refined by the information available. Such limitations are outlined below. Natural England will be consulted following completion of the screening report and subsequently engaged throughout the stages of HRA with regard to appropriate method, scale and level of detail of the assessment. Any detailed minerals and waste development proposals that are brought forward as a result of the Plan, which may have a likely significant effect on International sites will be subject to detailed HRA to ensure that their effects on those sites are fully assessed.

## Limitations and assumptions

- 2.13 There will usually be limitations on the prediction of effects, and the degree of risk that can then be forecast, for example, those relating to:
- the level of detail and stage of the Plan;
  - the information available at the time about the qualifying features, including habitat composition, distribution or extent, or species' population, abundance, distribution, mobility or behaviour etc;
  - the age, type or format of data;
  - availability or accessibility of data;
  - timescales and seasonal restrictions;
  - scientific know-how or techniques;
  - scientific understanding of natural processes and ecosystems;
  - ecological understanding of likely responses;
  - experience and prior knowledge about the particular effects;
  - outcomes of trials or experiments; and
  - the availability of information from monitoring the effects of past plans and projects.
- 2.14 These limitations may need to be overcome by additional surveys, investigations or research. It follows that there are likely to be differing levels of certainty or confidence in the predictions as to both the characteristics of the effects and the risk of them occurring. If assumptions, which strongly influence the outcome of the assessment, need to be made about the Plan or the qualifying features, or the effects of risks, they should be stated in the assessment record. In cases where effects on a sites' integrity are uncertain, the assessment should consider how adopting different assumptions might vary the outcome of the assessment. This will test the sensitivity of the assessment outcomes to the use of different assumptions.

## Other Plans and Projects

- 2.15 It is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed are not considered in isolation but in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the International site(s) in question. It is neither practical nor necessary to assess the 'in combination' effects of the Draft Plan within the context of all other plans and projects within the region. Principal plans and projects, including relevant National Infrastructure Projects, will be considered as part of the screening of minerals and waste sites.

## Recent European Court Judgements

- 2.16 The HRA has paid proper regard for relevant and recent caselaw regarding the process. Until recently, the 2008 'Dilly Lane' judgement (*R on the application of Hart DC v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*) clarified that measures that were incorporated into a project or which formed part of a project could properly be taken into account when screening for Likely Significant Effect during HRA.
- 2.17 However, the 2017 *People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* judgement has ruled that this approach is not compliant with the Directives. Instead, any measures that are incorporated into a project to address impacts to International sites can no longer be considered to avoid or reduce (mitigate) a Likely Significant Effect, unless the avoidance effects of a particular feature of the development are essential for the delivery of that project regardless of any effect that feature may have in avoiding or mitigating impacts to the International site.
- 2.18 This has resulted in a change in the approach to HRA; before, if a scheme incorporated and embedded measures within its design to specifically address impacts to an International site, then these measures may have been sufficient for the competent authority to conclude no Likely Significant Effect and for there to be no need to proceed to Appropriate Assessment. However, the new judgement has ruled that such features cannot be taken as ruling out a Likely Significant Effect, because those features are not essential for the delivery of the purpose of the development and therefore should not be included in the consideration of Likely Significant Effect.

## Likely Significant Effect

- 2.19 The HRA Screening process requires the competent authority to identify whether a 'project' is *likely* to have a *significant effect* on any International site (NSN site or Ramsar site).
- 2.20 *Likelihood*: A likely effect is one that cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information. Ordinarily, '*likely*' might be considered to mean that an effect is *probable* or *might well happen*. However, the Waddenzee case (ECJC-127/02) in the European Court ruled that a project should be the subject of an Appropriate Assessment '*if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site either individually or in combination with other plans and projects*'.

- 2.21 ***Significance:*** Where a plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could undermine the site's *Network Objectives*<sup>7</sup>, the effects on the site must be considered to be significant. The relevant consideration is the potential effect on the ecological functioning of the site, rather than consideration solely on proportion or area of the habitats or species affected on a site. In the Waddenzee ruling the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that a significant effect is one which undermines the conservation objectives of the International site, for example displaces the species for which the site is designated. An effect which does not undermine the conservation objectives of a site, such a low-impact temporary effect, or trivial or inconsequential effects cannot be deemed significant.
- 2.22 ***Effect:*** The first task, therefore, is to identify the effects that could flow from the implementation of the project, and how they might affect any given International site.
- 2.23 ***Alone or in-combination:*** In some cases, a plan or project may have a Likely Significant Effect on its own merits – for example a major infrastructure project immediately adjacent to a SAC. It must be recognised however that in some cases, the effects of a project on its own would be either unlikely or insignificant, but that there may be a number of plans or projects (each of which would be unlikely to have a significant effect alone), which may be likely to have a significant effect if their individual effects were to be added together, by them all coming forward over time.

### **Precautionary Principle**

- 2.24 HRA is underpinned by the precautionary principle, which is embedded in the Habitats Regulations and supported in case law, whereby the Competent Authority acts to avoid potential harm in the face of scientific uncertainty. If it is not possible in a 'likely significant effect' test to rule out a risk of significant effect on an International site on the basis of available evidence, then it should be assumed a risk may exist and needs to be addressed at the next stage of HRA. The precautionary approach should be exercised at all stages of the assessment.

### **Stage 1: Screening for significant effects**

- 2.25 In order to assess the effects of the HMWP Partial Update on International sites, the overall scale, location, timing and nature of development proposed by the Plan will need to be considered. Guidance suggests assessment should be confined to the development and land use changes proposed in the Plan.
- 2.26 The objective of this stage of the HRA is to 'screen out' elements of the plan that cannot have any significant effect on any International site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; and to identify any aspects of the plan which could have such an effect and will, therefore, require further consideration in an Appropriate

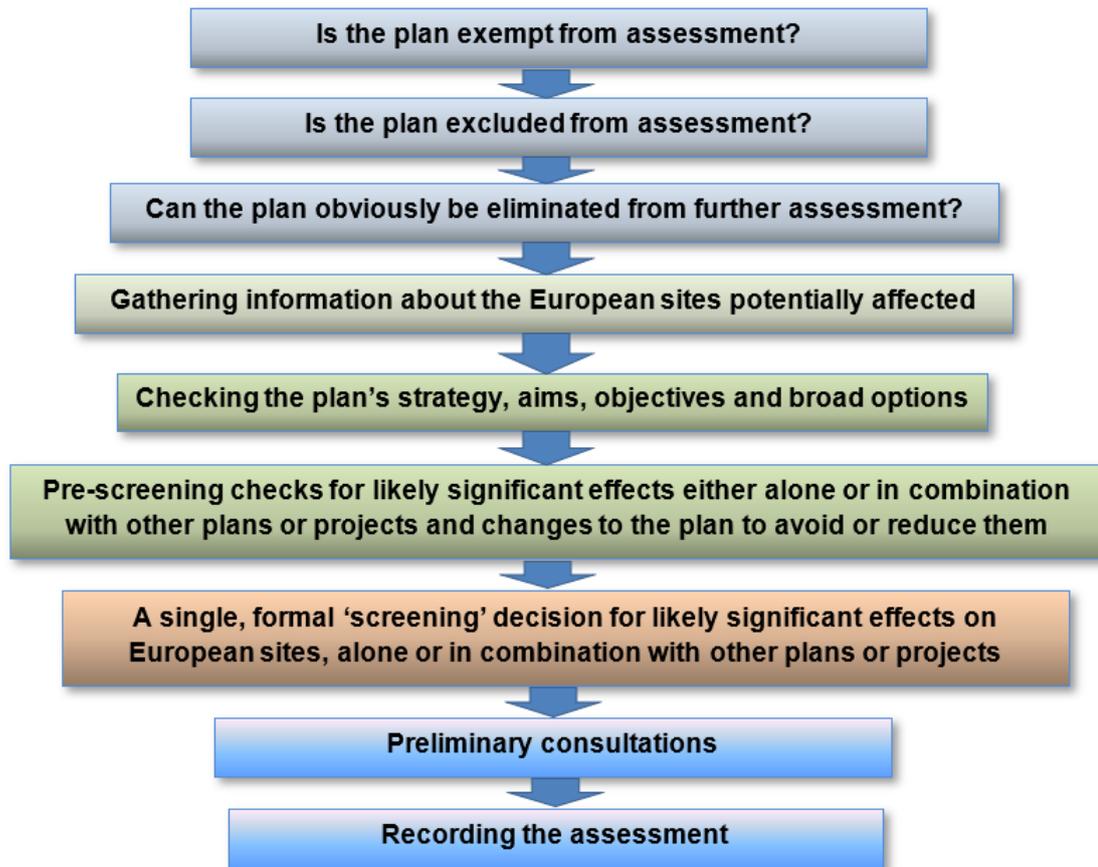
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<sup>7</sup> Management objectives for the National Site Network which contribute to the conservation of UK habitats and species that are also of pan-European importance, and to the achievement of their Favourable Conservation Status within the UK.

Assessment. It may be that the whole of the plan can be screened out and no further assessment is required.

- 2.27 A screening schedule and matrix will be used to systematically screen each relevant component of the plan, including vision, goals, objectives, policies, proposals and supporting text, where necessary and dependent on how the plan is set out. The screening schedule will be agreed with Natural England.
- 2.28 To determine if the proposals are likely to have any significant effects on International sites the following issues are considered:
- could the proposals affect the qualifying interest of the International site and is the site sensitive to the effect;
  - the probability of the effect happening;
  - the likely consequences for the site's Conservation Objectives (as defined by Natural England) if the effect occurred; and
  - the magnitude, duration and reversibility of the effect.
- 2.29 In the context of minerals and waste planning, plans may adversely affect an International site due to the location of change. It may also contain policies or proposals that provide for, or steer, development within the boundary of, or within close proximity of an International site. Minerals and waste operations may have direct or indirect effects on International sites (see Tables 6.1 and 6.2). Indirect effects may be caused by ecological, hydrological or physical links between operations and International sites (impact pathways).
- 2.30 The key steps for Stage 1 (screening) are set out in the flow chart in Figure 2.4.

Figure 2.4: Outline of the steps in HRA Screening



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### Categorising Potential Effects

2.31 In order to compile the screening matrix, each element of the plan will be categorised on its likely effects on each interest feature of each International site identified in the evidence base. There are four categories of potential effects as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of the plan/options that would have <b>no negative effect</b> on an International site at all.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of the plan/options that could have an effect, but the <b>likelihood is there would be no significant negative</b> effect on an International site either alone or in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of the plan/options that could or would be <b>likely to have a significant effect</b> alone and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of the plan/options that would be likely to have a <b>significant effect in combination</b> with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted.</li> </ul>

2.32 Categories A, C and D are further subdivided (Tables 2.1 – 2.3) to provide transparency in relation to the decision making process, and more directly relate to the ways in which the plan may affect the International site(s).

**Table 2.1: Potential effects of components of the plan: Category A and B (No negative effect/ significant effects)**

Category A1	Options / policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.
Category A2	Options / policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
Category A3	Options / policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on an International site (e.g. restoration).
Category A4	Options / policies that positively steer development away from International sites and associated sensitive areas.
Category A5	Options / policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on International sites and associated sensitive areas.
Category B	Options/ policies could have an effect but the effect would not be likely to have a significant (negative) effect on an International sites (i.e. trivial or ' <i>de minimis</i> ' effects).

**Table 2.2: Potential effects of components of the plan: Category C (Likely significant effect alone)**

Category C1	The option, policy or proposal could <b>directly affect</b> an International site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto an International site, or adjacent to it.
Category C2	The option, policy or proposal could <b>indirectly affect</b> an International site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressures.
Category C3	Proposals for a <b>magnitude of development</b> that, no matter where it was located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on an International site.
Category C4	An option, or policy that makes provision for a quantity / type of development (and may indicate one or more broad locations), but the effects are uncertain because the detailed location of the development is to be selected following <b>consideration of options in a later, more specific plan</b> . (This does not apply to the HMWP Partial Update because lower-tier 'site allocation plans' are not being prepared).

Category C5	Options, policies or proposals for developments or infrastructure projects that could <b>block options or alternatives</b> for the provision of other development or projects in the future, which will be required in the public interest, that may lead to adverse effects on International sites, which would otherwise be avoided.
Category C6	Options, policies or proposals which <b>depend on how the policies etc are implemented</b> in due course, for example, through the development management process. There is a theoretical possibility that if implemented in one or more particular ways, the proposal could possibly have a significant effect on an International site.
Category C7	Any other options, policies or proposals that would be <b>vulnerable to fail the assessment</b> under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage.
Category C8	Any other proposal that may have an adverse effect on an International site, which might try to pass the tests of the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage by arguing that the <b>plan provides the imperative reasons of overriding public interest</b> to justify its consent despite a negative assessment. (This does not apply to the HMWP Partial Update as there are no reserves of national importance in the plan area, and waste management is a local matter).

**Table 2.3: Potential effects of components of the plan: Category D (Likely significant effect in combination)**

Category D1	The option, policy or proposal alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other policies or proposals provided for by the plan the <b>cumulative effects</b> would be likely to be significant.
Category D2	Options, policies or proposals that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are combined with the effects of other plans or projects, the <b>combined effects</b> would be likely to be significant.
Category D3	Options or proposals that are, or could be, part of a <b>programme or sequence of development</b> delivered over a period, where the implementation of the early stages would not have a significant effect on International sites, but which would dictate the nature, scale, duration, location, timing of the whole project, the later stages of which could have an adverse effect on such sites.

- 2.33 A summary schedule will be prepared to justify and record the reasons for a plan element or option being placed into one of the categories above, and to provide steer for further iterations of the screening stages or further appropriate assessment.
- 2.34 Table 2.4 provides a template of the screening matrix which will be completed for the HMWP Partial Update.

**Table 2.4: Screening Matrix template**

Reference (option or policy etc)	Brief description of the option/ policy	Assessment Category	Can the element be changed at screening stage to avoid likely significant effect	Is an Appropriate Assessment required?
[Name and reference of plan element being assessed]	[Brief description of option/ proposal/ policy]	[Select from categories A1-D3 listed above]	['Yes', 'No' or N/A'. Explain if and how the plan element could be changed to avoid effects (see 'Amending the plan/ option' section, below)	['Yes' or 'No' and explain why]. Completed later in the process following the consideration of counter-acting measures applied at the screening stage (see 'Amending the plan/ option' section, below)

Amending the plan/option

- 2.35 It may be clear during the preliminary screening assessment that a relatively minor change to an option, policy or proposal in the Plan would allow the assessment to conclude that the option, policy or proposal (or indeed the whole plan) would not have a significant effect (either alone or in combination with other aspects of the plan, or other plans or projects). If this change is or can be implemented, the relevant policy or proposal should be changed as part of the iterative process of screening. This does not conflict with the Sweetman Ruling<sup>8</sup>.

In combination effects

- 2.36 'Category D effects' highlight any options, policies or proposals that would be likely to have a significant effect in combination.
- 2.37 The in-combination effect could be the cumulative effects of proposals, in the plan itself, and/or in other plans or projects. Any element of the plan that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant effect alone should be assessed in combination with other elements of the plan (internally) for cumulative effects and other relevant plans and projects (externally).
- 2.38 It is important to identify the other plans or projects in a targeted way, identifying all those that are relevant. To be relevant to the in-combination effect the residual effects of other plans or projects will need to either make the unlikely effects of the plan likely, or insignificant effects of the plan significant.
- 2.39 The in-combination assessment should include a range of different types of other plans and projects. These types are listed in Table 2.5 with examples of plans and projects that will be considered. A definitive list of relevant plans and projects will be developed at the outset of Stage 1: 'screening'.

<sup>8</sup> Court of Justice of the European Union - 12 April 2018 (Case C323/17)

**Table 2.5: Types of plans and projects to be considered in-combination with the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (following Natural England guidance)**

Type of plans and projects	Examples of relevant plans and projects which could be considered
Incomplete projects started but yet to be completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mineral workings in the Plan area currently operational</li> <li>• Waste operations in the Plan area currently under construction.</li> </ul>
Projects given consent but not yet started.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minerals and waste sites with planning permission but not yet implemented.</li> <li>• Any major infrastructure project (e.g. transport, recreation etc.).</li> </ul>
Projects that are subject to applications for consent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping and Screening Opinions for relevant minerals and waste development projects.</li> <li>• Operations requiring blasting consents from the HSE.</li> <li>• Operations requiring permits to receive low level (radioactive) waste.</li> </ul>
Projects that are subject to outstanding appeal procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various appeals relating to planning applications (see relevant local planning authorities).</li> </ul>
Any known projects that are not subject to any consent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations with significant Permitted Development rights.</li> <li>• Waste sites exempt from EA licensing.</li> </ul>
Ongoing projects subject to regulatory reviews, such as discharge consents or waste management licences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minerals operations subject to ROMPs (Review of Old Mineral Permissions).</li> <li>• Operations subject to the EA's review of consents.</li> <li>• Ongoing projects subject to regulatory reviews, such as discharge consents, abstraction licences, or waste management licences.</li> </ul>
Policies and proposals that are not yet fully implemented in plans, which are still in force.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preferred areas for sand and gravel in the Local Plan ('saved' policy).</li> <li>• Preferred areas for waste in the Local Plan ('saved' policy).</li> </ul>
Draft plans that are being brought forward by other public bodies and their relevant policies and proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Plans in the HMWP area and neighbouring authorities.</li> <li>• Neighbouring authority emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plans.</li> <li>• Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies.</li> <li>• Water Resource Management Plans.</li> <li>• Water Cycle Studies (where available).</li> <li>• Relevant Neighbourhood Plans.</li> </ul>

Consulting on the results of the screening stage

2.40 Although public consultation is a discretionary requirement in relation to Habitats Regulations Assessment, indeed, under the provisions of regulation 102(3) it is for the planning authority to consider if wider public consultation is appropriate, relevant stages of the HRA will be provided for public consultation during formal Plan consultation stages.

- 2.41 Natural England, the Environment Agency and other nature conservation bodies will be invited to comment on the initial screening findings. This will inform the assessment of any likely significant effects of the plan on International sites.
- 2.42 The Habitats Regulations Assessment Record will be available to the public as a supporting document as the plan is published and submitted to Government for examination.

## **Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment**

- 2.43 Elements of the plan identified through screening as having likely significant effects need to be assessed against the conservation/network objectives of International sites to demonstrate whether they would adversely affect the 'integrity' of those International sites. This is addressed through the further stages of the HRA known as Appropriate Assessment (AA).
- 2.44 Site integrity is defined as follows:  
*'the coherence of its structure and function across its whole area that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified'*<sup>9</sup>.
- 2.45 The decision on whether site integrity could be adversely affected by plan elements should focus on and be limited to the site's Conservation/Network Objectives.
- 2.46 All policies and proposals assigned to category A and B (see above) will require no further assessment. Those in categories C or D may have a significant effect on an International site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects and will proceed to Appropriate Assessment if their possible effects have not been eliminated by changes to the Plan during the screening process.

### Consulting on the scope of the Appropriate Assessment

- 2.47 The first step in undertaking the Appropriate Assessment (AA) is agreeing its scope. The scope and method of an appropriate assessment will be agreed with Natural England (including agreeing assumptions and the time period for consultation with nature conservation consultees).

### Amending the plan/option

- 2.48 As with the earlier screening stage, the AA can be undertaken in an iterative way alongside the preparation and finalisation of the Plan. Potentially harmful policies and proposals should be removed from the plan or modified to include measures (see below) to ensure that all development flowing from, or controlled by the Plan would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of an International site.

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<sup>9</sup> European Communities (2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/CEE. EC

2.49 An International site's integrity depends on it being able to sustain its 'qualifying features' and to ensure their continued viability. A high degree of integrity is considered to exist where the potential to meet a site's conservation objectives is realised and where the site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management.

Measures to ensure no adverse effects

2.50 The following measures may be necessary in order for the HRA to conclude no adverse effects on the integrity of an International site:

- deletion of the policy or proposal that may cause the adverse effect;
- reduction in the scale of the potentially damaging provision;
- relocation or alteration of the spatial distribution of the potentially damaging provision; and
- introduction of counter-acting measures, especially of a strategic nature, including the addition of appropriate caveats to policies.

2.51 Examples of measures are provided in Table 2.6.

**Table 2.6: Examples of measures that may be utilised in order to ascertain no adverse effects**

Measures	Examples that may apply to the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan
Deletion of the policy or proposal that may cause the adverse effect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclude the identified policy from the plan.</li> </ul>
Reduction in the scale of the potentially damaging provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict the amount of material to be extracted (depth or volume, surface area).</li> <li>• Caveat policies to prevent changes to hydrological regime.</li> <li>• Restrict number or location of lorry movements.</li> </ul>
Relocation or alteration of the spatial distribution of the potentially damaging provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create zones within each area of search which restrict the type of development.</li> <li>• Allow for seasonal restrictions to the spatial development of projects i.e. phasing.</li> <li>• Restrict the area that can be developed.</li> <li>• Modify boundaries of allocated sites to avoid or restrict levels of impact.</li> </ul>
Introduction of counter-acting measures (avoidance, cancellation and reduction) including addition of appropriate caveats and policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of development criteria to support any identified Areas of Search/ strategic sites.</li> <li>• Code of good practice to avoid or reduce intrusion and disturbance.</li> <li>• Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA), Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP), conservation objectives etc, used to devise restoration proposals.</li> <li>• Require seasonal restriction to operating hours.</li> <li>• Require provision of off-site mitigation provision.</li> </ul>

### Consulting on the HRA Record

- 2.52 The competent authorities will consult and reach agreement with Natural England before concluding that the plan would have no adverse effect on the integrity of an International site. The Appropriate Assessment includes formal consultation with Natural England<sup>10</sup>.
- 2.53 The competent authorities will prepare a draft record of the HRA, including:
- a draft of the appropriate assessment; and
  - the initial conclusions as to whether it can ascertain that, with the proposed changes, and other counter-acting measures in the plan there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of any International site.
- 2.54 The draft HRA Record will contain information describing the plan being assessed; any likely significant effects of the plan on International sites identified; and measures identified for avoiding adverse effects on site integrity. The format and structure of the HRA Record will be agreed with Natural England.
- 2.55 Regulation 105(2) requires plan-making authorities to consult the appropriate nature conservation body regarding the assessment 'within such reasonable time as the plan-making authority may specify'. Natural England, Environment Agency and other relevant stakeholders will be consulted on the draft HRA Record, with the consultation period being agreed with Natural England.
- 2.56 The final HRA Record will be available to the public as a supporting document as the Plan is published.

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<sup>10</sup> Under the provisions of regulation 105(2) the planning authority must consult the nature conservation body (Natural England) and have regard to any representations made.

### 3 International Sites Relevant to the Plan Area

- 3.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) needs to be underpinned by a robust evidence base. In summary, the key areas of information gathering are:
- Identification of relevant International sites;
  - Identification of potential relevant hydrological and ecological links between sites;
  - information about the International sites;
  - conservation objectives of the interest feature of each site;
  - condition and conservation status of each site;
  - pressures upon the sites; and
  - ways in which the sites may be vulnerable to changes brought about by the plan.

#### International sites - locations

- 3.2 The first step is to identify the International sites that may be affected by the HMWP Partial Update. The Plan area boundary is illustrated in Figure 1.1. All International sites within the plan area will be assessed for their potential to be affected by the Plan.
- 3.3 In addition, it is necessary to look beyond the Plan area boundary to understand how the Plan may affect land outside the Plan's area of operation. For instance, International sites may be directly affected because they are connected through ecological linkage or infrastructure (such as habitat corridors, discharge streams and water treatment works). International sites may also experience indirect effects, such as increased air or noise pollution.
- 3.4 In line with similar assessments, a buffer of 10km has been applied around the Plan area to help identify International sites that may be affected by the HMWP. International sites lying partially or wholly within 10km of the Plan boundary will be included in the list of potentially affected sites.
- 3.5 Using this applied buffer, it is evident that 30 International sites lie partially or wholly within Plan boundary and 13 International sites lie outside the Plan area but wholly or partially within the 10km buffer. An additional International site outside the 10km buffer area is also considered based on the screening requirements of relevant local plan policy. Table 3.1 lists all relevant sites. Sites will be reviewed as further evidence on site linkages and connections becomes available. The identified International sites are shown geographically in Figures 3.1 – 3.4.

**Table 3.1: Relevant International sites**

<b>The following International sites have been identified as being wholly or partly within the Plan area boundary:</b>
<p><u>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Butser Hill</li> <li>• Dorset Heaths</li> <li>• East Hampshire Hangers</li> <li>• Emer Bog</li> <li>• Mottisfont Bats</li> <li>• River Avon</li> <li>• River Itchen</li> <li>• Salisbury Plain</li> <li>• Shortheath Common</li> <li>• Solent &amp; Isle of Wight Lagoons</li> <li>• Solent Maritime</li> <li>• The New Forest</li> <li>• Woolmer Forest</li> </ul> <p><u>Special Protection Area (SPA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avon Valley</li> <li>• Chichester and Langstone Harbours</li> <li>• Dorset Heathlands</li> <li>• New Forest</li> <li>• Porton Down</li> <li>• Portsmouth Harbour</li> <li>• Salisbury Plain</li> <li>• Solent and Dorset Coast</li> <li>• Solent &amp; Southampton Water</li> <li>• Thames Basin Heaths</li> <li>• Wealden Heaths Phase II</li> </ul> <p><u>Ramsar Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avon Valley</li> <li>• Chichester and Langstone Harbours</li> <li>• Dorset Heathlands</li> <li>• New Forest</li> <li>• Portsmouth Harbour</li> <li>• Solent &amp; Southampton Water</li> </ul>
<b>The following International sites have been identified as being outside the Plan area but wholly or partly within a 10km buffer zone of the Plan area boundary:</b>
<p><u>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briddlesford Copses</li> <li>• Great Yews</li> <li>• Isle of Wight Downs</li> <li>• Kennet Valley Alderwoods</li> <li>• Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain</li> <li>• Kingley Vale</li> <li>• Prescombe Down</li> <li>• River Lambourn</li> <li>• Rook Clift</li> </ul>

- South Wight Maritime
- Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham

Special Protection Area (SPA)

- Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Common

Ramsar Sites

- Thursley & Ockley Bogs

**The following International site has been identified as being outside both the Plan area and 10km buffer zone of the Plan area boundary, but which requires consideration:**

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

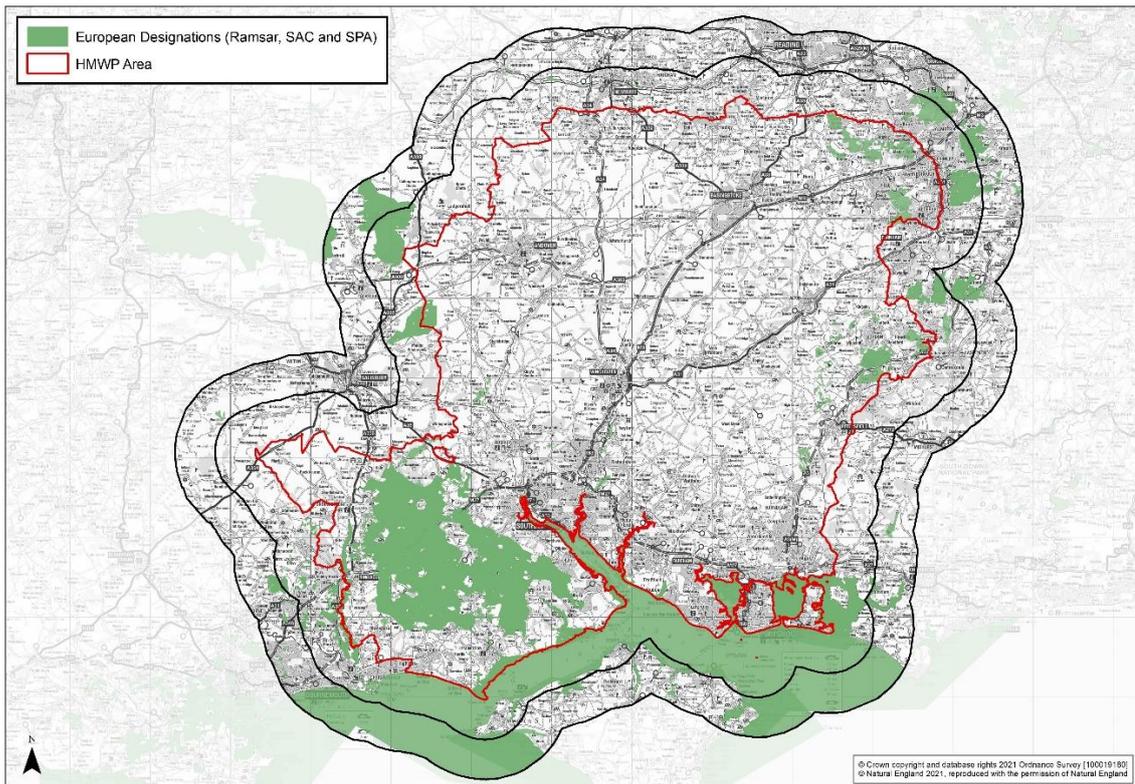
- Singleton and Cocking Tunnels

This SAC, designated for its bat populations, is 11.5km from the Plan area boundary. Policy SD10 of the South Downs National Park Local Plan includes the requirement to consider impacts up to 12km from the SAC, to protect both the SAC and the functionally-linked habitat around it. This is set out in more detail in the Draft Protocol<sup>11</sup>.

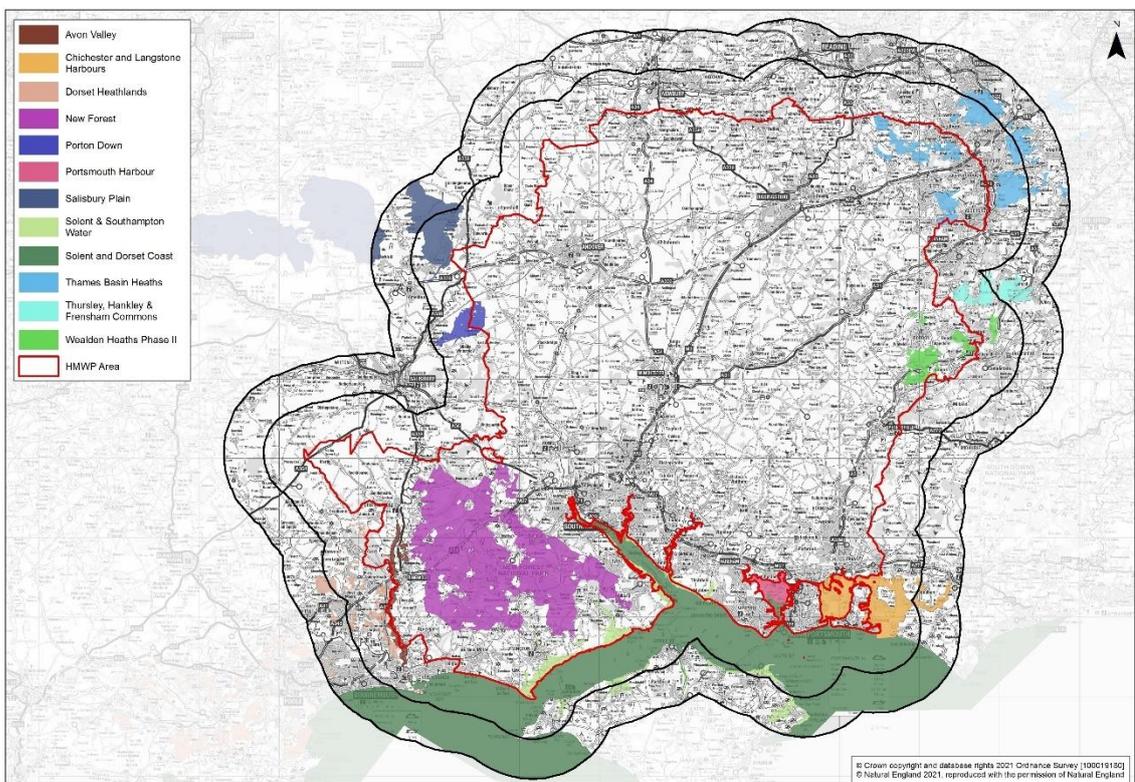
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<sup>11</sup> Sussex Bat Special Area of Conservation Planning and Landscape Scale Enhancement Protocol. SDNPA and Natural England (unpublished draft).

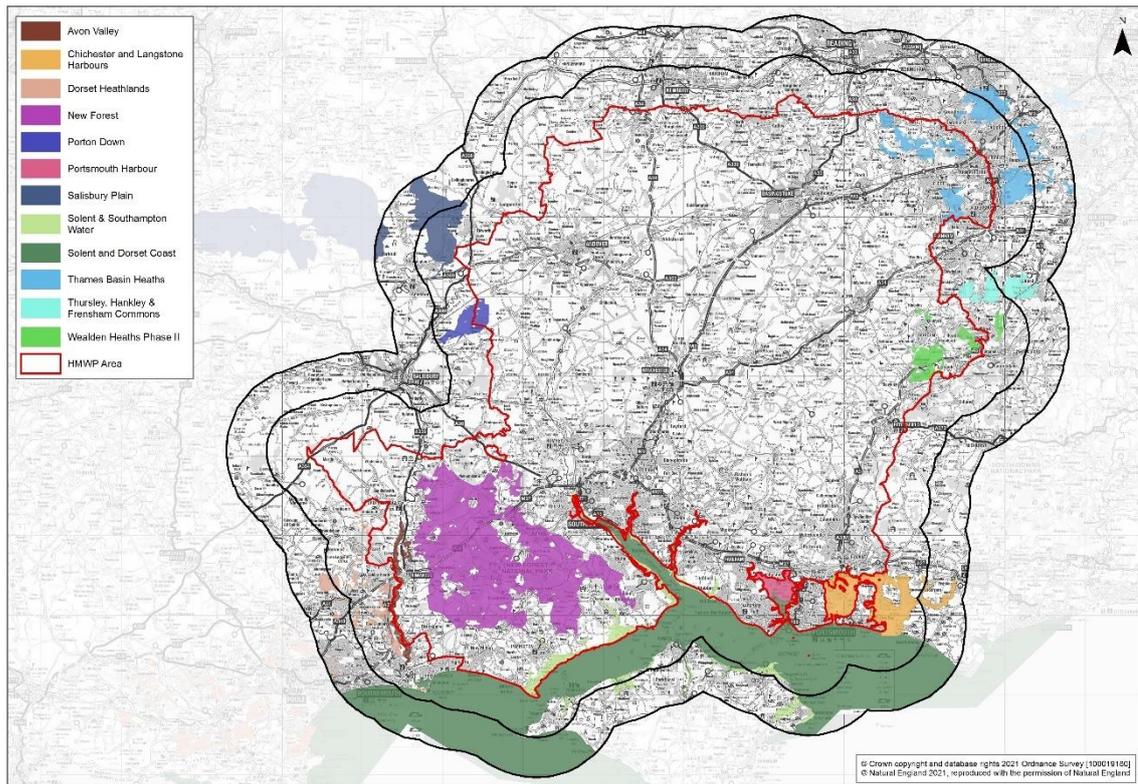
**Figure 3.1: All International Designated sites (including Ramsar sites) that lie wholly or partly within the plan area and 10km buffer (a 5km buffer is also included for reference)**



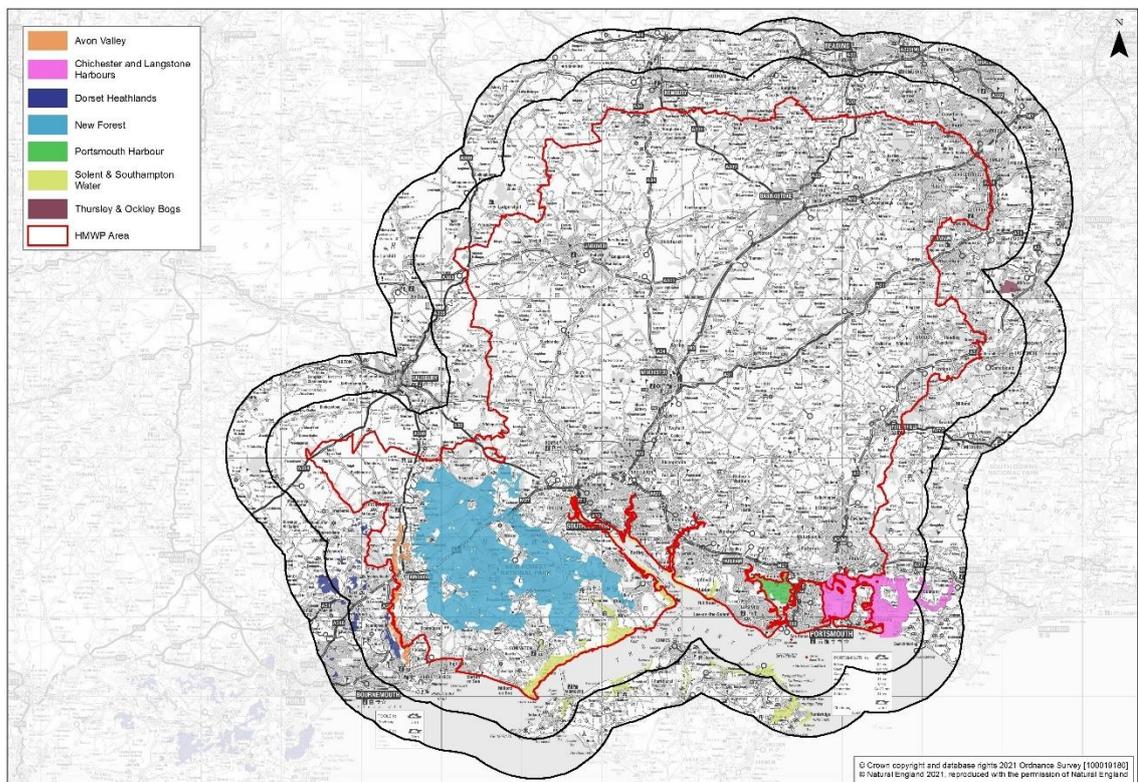
**Figure 3.2: Designated SAC (Special Area of Conservation) sites that lie wholly or partly within the plan area and 10km buffer (a 5km buffer is also included for reference)**



**Figure 3.3: Classified SPA (Special Protection Area) sites that lie wholly or partly within the plan area and 10km buffer (a 5km buffer is also included for reference)**

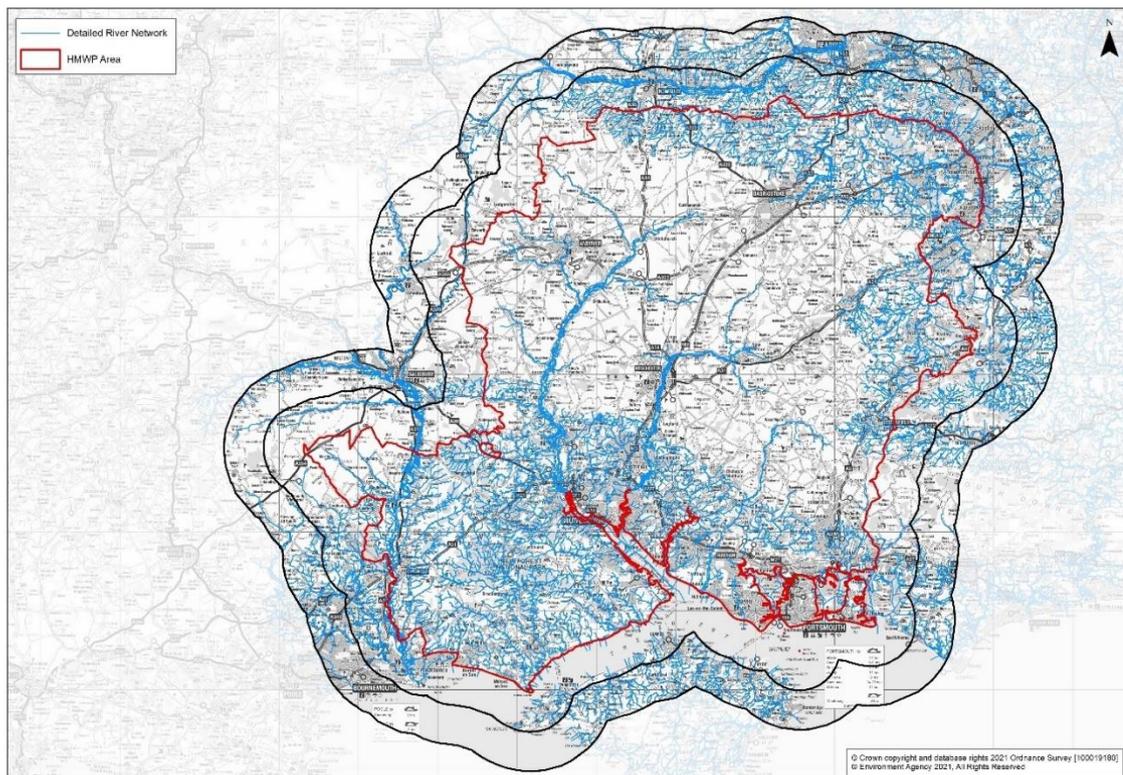


**Figure 3.4: Listed Ramsar sites that lie wholly or partly within the plan area and 10km buffer (a 5km buffer is also included for reference)**



- 3.6 It will also be important to identify any relevant hydrological and ecological links to International sites beyond the suggested 10km buffer, for example:
- sites linked by surface water corridors (e.g. rivers) to land within the Plan area (Figure 3.5);
  - wetland sites outside the plan area which have significant hydrogeological links to land within the Plan area;
  - sites outside the plan area which have significant ecological links with land in the Plan area (e.g. land used by migratory birds); and
  - sites potentially affected by development such as major waste installations, which may have a very large zone of influence.

**Figure 3.5: Main rivers within the Plan area (5km and 10km buffer zones applied)**



- 3.7 Key information relating to International sites located wholly or partially within the Plan area and buffer, including location, description and qualifying features, is provided in Appendix A.

### **Potential International site designations**

- 3.8 There are no plans to classify new SPAs or designate new SACs relevant to the Plan area over the Plan period.

## **4. Condition and Conservation Status of International Sites**

### **Conservation objectives for International Sites**

- 4.1 The next step in gathering baseline data is acquiring information relating to each of the conservation objectives for each interest feature of the relevant International sites.
- 4.2 There is a generic conservation objective to "maintain in favourable condition" the relevant qualifying features of the International site. Each individual SAC and SPA has an agreed conservation objective which defines the target status for each site with specific reference to these interest features. Conservation objectives, together with priority pressures/threats for SACs and SPAs wholly or partly in the Plan area and 10km buffer, are provided in Appendix B.
- 4.3 Conservation objectives must be considered during HRA. Maintaining favourable status of International sites is a legal requirement under the Habitats Regulations, and understanding the risks and threats to achieving this is essential in determining the likelihood of significant effects from the HMWP Partial Update.
- 4.4 Ramsar sites do not have agreed conservation objectives, but in most instances Ramsar boundaries are concomitant with SPA site boundaries. In addition, all terrestrial Ramsar sites in England are also notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It should be noted that Ramsar qualifying features include a range of habitats and non-bird species common to SAC designations, as well as bird species and assemblages and their supporting habitats, which are common to SPAs.
- 4.5 In the UK, International site conservation objectives are set out with reference to the interest features of the component SSSIs (Appendix C) following weight of available historic evidence. Currently, the information on the conservation objectives varies as they are subject to periodic reassessment by Natural England and may be updated to reflect new information or knowledge. Where conservation objectives are in draft form this will be acknowledged, and where no detailed conservation objectives are available, information from the SSSI citations will be used to demonstrate the estimated detailed interest features.

### **Condition of International sites**

- 4.6 The next step in gathering baseline data is the acquisition of information about the condition and conservation status of the relevant International sites. The condition status is a description of the state of a 'site' feature that comprises both its condition and the state of factors likely to affect it.
- 4.7 The condition data gathered can be found in Appendix D: ' International SSSI Site Conditions' which identifies the varying conditions of the sites, based on their

component Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units. Data has been taken from the Natural England Designated Sites View<sup>12</sup>.

4.8 Natural England record condition details and provide the reason for adverse condition relevant to the SSSI unit assessed. Understanding these reasons is important in determining whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect or not. Reasons for adverse condition given for the various habitat types include:

- inappropriate scrub control;
- inappropriate water levels;
- under-grazing;
- invasive freshwater species;
- siltation;
- water pollution - agriculture/run off;
- water pollution – discharge;
- inappropriate dredging (e.g. intertidal habitats destroyed);
- vehicles (e.g. disturbance, accelerating natural erosion);
- decline in extent of open water;
- public access (e.g. too much bare ground);
- drainage (e.g. summer water levels too high);
- forestry management;
- presence of non-native species (garden plants); and
- inappropriate weirs dams and other structures.

4.9 As the assessment progresses, information on reasons for unfavourable condition status of certain SSSI units may be relevant to determining whether or not the HMWP is likely to have a significant effect.

### **International site features and sensitivities**

4.10 The next step in gathering baseline data is to acquire information about the interest features and sensitivities of each International site.

4.11 These features will vary between different International sites, but relate to the reasons for the site's classification (SPAs), designation (SACs) or listing (Ramsar sites). The attributes of the International sites which contribute to and define their integrity are identified and described in Appendix A within each site description.

4.12 Every International site has distinctive characteristics making it vulnerable to a variety of impact-inducing activities. Due to their location or condition, many sites also offer opportunities for improvement. The vulnerabilities and sensitivities of the relevant International sites are shown in Appendix E.

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<sup>12</sup> Natural England Designated Sites View - <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

- 4.13 Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each NSN site in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's NSN Sites (IPENS)<sup>13</sup>. The plans provide a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the NSN features on the site(s) and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features and are based on Natural England's current evidence and knowledge.

### **Further information required**

- 4.14 Further information may be required in order to understand more fully the vulnerabilities and sensitivities of individual or particular types of International site. For instance:
- examining the features of interest on a specific site; and
  - studies looking at particular effects on features of interest (a useful example would be examining disturbance effects on Annex I bird species).

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<sup>13</sup> Improvement Programme for England's NSN Sites (IPENS) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improvement-programme-for-englands-natura-2000-sites-ipens>

## **5. Existing pressures and management issues on the sites**

### **Current International site issues relating to existing development**

- 5.1 Monitoring and assessment of the International sites has identified some broad issues affecting the sites (in addition to their condition or 'health'). International site citation information provided by Natural England highlights where there are existing impacts/threats to the International sites directly or indirectly, attributable to pressure from existing development. For example, known urbanisation effects including recreational pressures. Pressures / threats are included in the tables in Appendix B.
- 5.2 This detail would need to be explored at a later stage in the assessment process to ascertain whether the Plan would exacerbate any existing problems at the site unit level. Any problems attributable to existing minerals and waste operations would need to be considered to identify the potential for cumulative impacts.

### **Current International site issues relating to existing development**

- 5.3 As part of the HRA, it is necessary to consider all relevant land management plans currently in existence, to ensure that any actions identified within the HMWP do not undermine current management that is maintaining favourable condition. It will be necessary to look at land management plans associated with identified and otherwise relevant International sites (in addition to plans and projects to be considered in combination (see paragraph 2.38 onwards - 'In combination effects')).

## 6. Potential Effects on International sites

### Understanding potential effects

- 6.1 The Habitats Regulations require that land use plans (and projects) do not have an adverse effect on the integrity of International sites. This integrity depends on maintaining key elements of the ecosystem in a favourable condition.
- 6.2 Physical changes resulting from minerals and waste development can affect the underlying interactions between species and the natural environment that enable an ecosystem to function. The scale and severity of impact on a site is dependent on the magnitude of effects on key elements of that ecosystem. Those impacts which affect the integrity of an International site can result from changes ranging from interactions at an organism level through to population or even landscape scale, depending on the complexity of interactions between species or processes that support the underlying ecosystem.
- 6.3 Adverse or negative impacts are those effects that result in a decreased functionality of species interaction. A significant effect or impact needs to be assessed and addressed to ensure that the overall integrity of the International site is not affected.

### Issues potentially affecting International sites

- 6.4 Considering the potential scope of the HMWP Partial Update, it is useful to identify those impacts that would affect International sites, normally associated with minerals and waste activities, set out in Tables 6.1 and 6.2, respectively.

**Table 6.1: Description of Hazards from Waste Sites**

Hazard	Details
Land take	Any land take from an NSN and Ramsar site is likely to have a significant effect on the habitats and/or species for which it was designated. Impacts may also arise through the fragmentation of habitats and/or severance or blocking of movement corridors.
Leachate	Contaminants can reach a habitat by leaching through soil and groundwater. Many chemicals can be released in this manner and have a range of impacts depending on their source including: eutrophication, changing the plant communities within a habitat, and reducing the amount of open water for waterfowl. This can also increase mortality of flora and fauna species and loss of prey species.
Dust	Dust is a common hazard from waste sites. It can affect the growth of plants through smothering or changes in chemistry and can pollute watercourses.
Noise	Noise can act as a disturbance to birds and other animal species, potentially disrupting breeding/feeding/roosting or causing species to move out of an area completely. Noise may arise from the operation of machinery and/or extra traffic movements to and from the waste facility.
Vibration	Vibration can act as a disturbance to birds and other animal species, potentially disrupting breeding/feeding/roosting or causing species to move out of an area completely. Vibration may arise from the operation of machinery and/or extra traffic movements to and from the waste facility.

Lighting	Bright lighting of waste facilities during night time operations can cause disturbance to birds, invertebrates and mammals using nearby habitats.
Vermin	Waste facilities, especially landfill, can attract 'vermin' species such as rats, crows and gulls. These species can impact fauna species through predation, competition and disease transmission.
Traffic	Traffic can have a number of potential impacts: increase disturbance, through noise and vibration; increase pollution load on the road surface which could eventually run-off and contaminate habitats close to the road; reduce air quality; and create sediment run-off from road surfaces.
Impact of building	The construction of a large or inappropriately sited building adjacent to a designated site can have impacts on bird fauna, by affecting take-off and landing routes, and increasing the amount of cover for predatory birds.
Litter	Large amounts of litter reaching a habitat can affect flora and fauna species through nutrient enrichment, smothering or snaring.
Emissions of aerial pollutants	There are many forms of aerial pollution which can have multiple impacts on flora and fauna including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> which can reduce plant growth.</li> <li>• Increases in air-borne pollutants reaching watercourses, which can result in plant mortality.</li> </ul>
Water use	Certain waste facilities require the use of large amounts of water. Depending on where this water is obtained from, it can result in the reduction of the natural water table or affect river levels. This could result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitats' ability to support flora and fauna.
Water pollution	Water pollution can result in a number of impacts on sensitive habitats including reduction in the number of in-stream fauna such as fish and invertebrates, which may have secondary impacts on predator species. This may also result in eutrophication which impacts plant communities; reduce the amount of open water for waterfowl from siltation; and affect water quality and flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).
Recreational displacement	Recreational disturbance can cause erosion of important vegetation communities and impact the feeding, breeding and roosting of sensitive species. This can occur where waste development close to International sites displaces recreational users, particularly on affected public rights of way.

**Table 6.2: Description of Hazards from Minerals Sites**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Details</b>
Land take	Any land take from an NSN and Ramsar site is likely to have a significant effect on the habitats and/or species for which it was designated. Impacts may also arise through the fragmentation of habitats and/or severance or blocking of movement corridors.
Removal of supporting habitat	Habitat within close proximity of an International site may provide important feeding sites for species that are qualifying features of the International sites. For example, SPA waterfowl may graze nearby grassland.
Noise	Noise can act as a disturbance to birds and other animal species, potentially disrupting breeding/feeding/roosting or causing species to move out of an area completely. Noise may arise from the operation of extraction machinery and/or extra traffic movements to and from the extraction facility.
Vibration	Vibration can act as a disturbance to birds and other animal species, potentially disrupting breeding/feeding/roosting or causing species to move out of an area completely. Vibration can be produced through the operation of the extraction machinery and extra traffic movements to and from the extraction facility
Lighting	Lighting can cause disturbance to birds, invertebrates and mammals in nearby habitats. Floodlighting is commonplace in mineral extraction facilities.

Dust	Dust is a common hazard from mineral extraction sites. It can affect the growth of plants through smothering or changes in chemistry, and can pollute watercourses.
Water pollution	Water pollution can result in a number of impacts on sensitive habitats including reduction in the number of in-stream fauna such as fish and invertebrates, which may have secondary impacts on predator species. This may also result in eutrophication which impacts plant communities; reduce the amount of open water for waterfowl from siltation; and affect water quality and flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).
Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology	Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in decrease of water reaching certain sites. This could result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitats for flora and fauna. Conversely, changes in ground water flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.
Traffic	Traffic can have a number of potential impacts: increase disturbance, through noise and vibration; increase pollution load on the road surface which could eventually run-off and contaminate habitats close to the road; reduce air quality; and create sediment run-off from road surfaces.
Recreational displacement	Recreational disturbance can cause erosion of important vegetation communities and impact the feeding, breeding and roosting of sensitive species. This can occur where minerals development close to International sites displaces recreational users, particularly on affected public rights of way.

### Further information required

- 6.5 There are various activities associated with minerals and waste development which could impact International sites. As research and monitoring progresses, further information may be required not only about the potential for impacts, but also how these impacts can be appropriately managed by the application of standards and management measures etc.
- 6.6 A key source of information on issues potentially affecting International sites is survey work and research that has already been undertaken on the relevant International sites. It may also be possible to draw upon findings from studies elsewhere to inform judgements about relevant International sites (where the types of habitat or species are the same or similar). Relevant survey and research information/data will be accessed and drawn upon to inform assessment decisions, where necessary.

### Need for further data or surveys

- 6.7 Other forms of data may be required at the Appropriate Assessment stage in order to conclude with certainty that there will not be an adverse effect on a site's integrity. For example, traffic movement forecast data may be drawn upon to make judgements about whether there might be a significant increase in traffic movements along particular routes associated with minerals and waste development, in a particular locality.

## Acronyms and Initialisations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
cSAC	Candidate SAC
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DPD	Development Plan Document
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographical Information System
HMWP	Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
IPENS	Improvement Programme for England's NSN Sites
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
LDD	Local Development Document
MWPA	Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities
NO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of Nitrogen
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSN	National Site Network
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
pSAC	Potential or possible SAC
pSPA	Potential SPA
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIP	Site Improvement Plan
SO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of Sulphur
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UK	United Kingdom

## Glossary

### **Appropriate Assessment (AA)**

A self-contained step in the wider decision making process of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). An Appropriate Assessment is only required where the competent authority determines that the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a National Site Network (NSN) site or Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site.

### **Biodiversity**

The total variety of life on earth, including all genes, species, ecosystems and the ecological processes of which they are part.

### **Compensation**

Measures taken to make up for the loss of, or permanent damage to, biological resources through the provision of replacement areas. Any replacement area should be similar to or, with appropriate management, have the ability to reproduce the ecological functions and conditions of those biological resources that have been lost or damaged.

### **Competent Authority**

A competent authority is any Minister, Government Department, public or statutory undertaker, public body of any description or person holding public office. Used in the Habitats Regulations to refer to the authority that is responsible for adopting, authorising or undertaking a plan or project.

### **Conservation Objectives**

A statement of the nature conservation aspirations for a site, expressed in terms of the favourable condition that is sought for the species and/or habitats for which the site has been selected to attain.

### **Conservation Status**

Four parameters are considered when assessing the conservation status. For habitat these are range, area, structure and function (referred to as habitat condition) and future prospects. For species, the parameters are range, population, habitat (extent and condition) and future prospects. The Habitats Regulations defines when the conservation status of the habitats and species it lists is to be considered as favourable.

### **Cumulative Impacts/effects**

Impacts/effects that result from the incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the plan or project in question.

### **Development Plan Document (DPD)**

Documents that form part of a statutory development plan such as a District Local Plan.

### **Favourable Condition**

The condition represented by the achievement of the conservation objectives; the desired condition for a designated habitat or a species on an individual site.

### **Favourable Conservation Status**

The conservation status of habitats and species is 'favourable' where all that is necessary to sustain the habitats and species in the long term is in place.

**Habitats Directive**

Abbreviated term for European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (1992). It is the aim of this Directive to promote the conservation of certain habitats and species within the European Union and is implemented in the UK through the Habitats Regulations.

**Habitats Regulations**

Abbreviated term for The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), which transposes the European Habitats Directive into UK legislation.

**Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

As required by the Habitats Regulations, the identification of any aspects of an emerging plan or project that would have the potential to cause a likely significant effect on National Site Network sites and Ramsar sites (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects), and to begin to identify appropriate mitigation strategies where such effects are identified (see also Appropriate Assessment).

**In-Combination Effect**

Effects, which may or may not interact with each other, but which could affect the same receptor or interest feature (i.e. a habitat or species for which an International Site is designated).

**Integrity (of a site)**

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

**Interest Feature**

A natural or semi-natural feature for which an International site has been selected. This includes any Habitats Directive Annex I habitat, any Annex II species and any population of a bird species for which an SPA has been classified under the Birds Directive.

**Local Development Documents (LDD)**

Documents that form part of a statutory development plan (Development Plan Documents) or which amplify the policies of the statutory development plan (Supplementary Planning Documents).

**Mitigation**

Measures taken to avoid or reduce negative impacts. Measures may include locating the development and its working areas and access routes away from areas of high ecological interest, or timing works to avoid sensitive periods. See also compensation (which is separate from mitigation).

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

Government policy framework that sets out planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. It provides guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in preparing development plans and in development management.

**National Site Network (NSN)**

Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, SACs and SPAs in the UK no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network. The 2019 Regulations have created a national site network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK.

**Natural England**

A non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment, including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils, are protected and improved. It also has a responsibility to help people enjoy, understand and access the natural environment.

**NO<sub>x</sub>**

Nitrogen Oxides.

**Precautionary Principle**

An approach which takes avoiding action based on the possibility of significant environmental or other damage, even before there is conclusive evidence that the damage will occur.

**Ramsar Site**

An internationally important wetland designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Wildfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran) 1971 and, as a matter of government policy, afforded the same protection as a site designated under the Habitats Regulations.

**Scoping**

Determination of the extent of an Appropriate Assessment.

**Screening**

Determination of whether or not an Appropriate Assessment is necessary.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

A site designated by Natural England as an area of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features.

**SO<sub>x</sub>**

Sulphur oxides.

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

Sites identified under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) supporting habitats or species listed within Annex I and II of that legislation, which form a network of internally recognised sites across Europe alongside SPA and Ramsar sites. Following the UK withdrawal from the EU, these sites are provided equivalent protection under the UK transposition of this Directive - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

**Special Area (SPA)**

Sites identified under the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds protecting sites supporting the habitats of migratory and other particularly threatened species of bird. They form a network of internally recognised sites across Europe alongside SAC and Ramsar sites. Following the UK withdrawal from the EU, these sites are provided equivalent protection under the UK transposition of this Directive - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)**

A systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental,

economic and social objectives. Sustainability appraisal incorporates the requirements of strategic environmental assessment (SEA).

**Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)**

A systematic process to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Often incorporated into Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

**Sustainable Development**

The use of resources to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## Appendix A: International Sites - Key Information

The following information boxes outline site descriptions and qualifying features taken from JNCC UK Protected Areas webpages<sup>14</sup> and Natural England Site Improvement Plans<sup>15</sup>.

Asterix indicates priority feature.

### Sites wholly or partly within the Plan area

<b>Butser Hill SAC</b>			
<p>Location: SU716197 (approximate centre of site) SAC EU Code: UK0030103 Area (ha): 237.36</p> <p>Butser Hill SAC is an extensive area of semi-natural dry grassland and dense yew woodlands, with smaller elements of chalk heath, deciduous woodland and mixed scrub. It is located within the South Downs National Park, in the east of Hampshire. Butser is the highest point in the National Park, and is situated on the chalk which also feeds the Oxenbourne tributary of the River Meon.</p> <p>The chalk grassland component of the site is primarily CG2 <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Avenula pratense</i> grassland, grazed by sheep and rabbits. The topography of the site is varied, with a wide range of slope gradients and aspects, which in turn generate conditions for high diversity of both vascular and lower flora. The lichen flora associated with chalk grassland is considered the richest in England, whilst a distinctive association of liverworts and mosses occurs on the north-facing slopes. The site supports a diversity of butterflies, and is notable for its population stronghold of Duke of Burgundy <i>Hamearis lucina</i>.</p> <p>The calcareous yew woods are outstanding examples of a habitat with a very small representation in Britain. The occurrence of chalk grasslands and yew woodlands, alongside transitional habitat between them, combine to make this site of outstanding nature conservation importance.</p>			
<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 91J0 <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles*</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

<b>Dorset Heaths SAC</b>			
<p>Location: SY887835 (approximate centre of site) SAC EU Code: UK0019857 Area (ha): 5719.54</p> <p>The Dorset heathlands is an extensive lowland heathland area in southern England. Formerly a single tract divided only by river valleys, it is now fragmented. The heathlands comprise a wide range of different habitat types related to variation in soils, hydrology, water chemistry and land use history.</p>			

<sup>14</sup> JNCC UK Protected Areas webpages – <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-protected-areas/> (accessed March 2021)

<sup>15</sup> Natural England Site Improvement Plans – <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5458594975711232> (accessed March 2021)

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>• 4030 European dry heaths</li> <li>• 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>)</li> <li>• 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>*</li> <li>• 7230 Alkaline fens</li> <li>• 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></li> </ul>

### **East Hampshire Hangers SAC**

Location: SU739268 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0012723  
Area (ha): 561.69

The East Hampshire Hangers is designated primarily for its examples of beech forests and its mixed woodland associated with base-rich slopes in addition to chalk grassland of importance to orchids, yew forests and its population of Early gentian.

The beech forests are extremely rich in terms of vascular plants and include areas with old pollards on former wood-pasture as well as high forest. The sloped mixed woodland is unusual in southern England and notably contains areas of small-leaved lime. The moss flora is richer than on the chalk examples and includes several species that are rare in the lowlands. The Wealden Edge Hangers component of the site contains stands of yew *Taxus baccata* woodland.

The chalk grassland at Noar Hill hosts an important population of Early gentian and an outstanding assemblage of orchids, including one of the largest UK populations of Musk orchid.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9130 Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests</li> <li>• 9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites)</li> <li>• 91J0 <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles*</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1654 Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></li> </ul>

### **Emer Bog SAC**

Location: SU394214 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0030147  
Area (ha): 36.76

The site comprises an extensive valley bog which has been described as unparalleled in lowland England as an example of a young oligotrophic / mesotrophic basin mire, together with associated damp acidic grassland, heathland and developing woodland over Bracklesham Beds in the Hampshire Basin.

The bog grades downstream into mature alder carr and upstream into heathland. To the south and west of Emer Bog, the site includes remnants of former common land, now acidic grassland. The invertebrate fauna of the bog and heath is of considerable interest and very large numbers of moths have been recorded.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

#### **Mottisfont Bats SAC**

Location: SU322297 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0030334  
Area (ha): 196.55

The Mottisfont woodland, which is near Romsey in Hampshire, supports an important population of the rare Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*. Mottisfont contains a mix of woodland types including hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice with standards, broadleaved plantation and coniferous plantation which the bats use for breeding, roosting, commuting and feeding.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1308 Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i></li> </ul>	Not Applicable

#### **River Avon SAC**

Location: SU124339 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0013016  
Area (ha): 416.57

The River Avon SAC is one of the richest chalk rivers in Europe. It is important for its fish population, invertebrate, which include populations of Desmoulins Whorl Snail and its in-river plant community habitat as well as bankside habitats.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> <li>• 1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>• 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>• 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></li> <li>• 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> </ul>	Not Applicable

### River Itchen SAC

Location: SU467174 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0012599  
Area (ha): 303.98

The River Itchen is one of the 'classic' chalk rivers of southern England, drawing most of its character from this geological stratum. The Itchen supports an abundant and exceptionally species rich aquatic flora. It has a primary notification for its river habitat, at SSSI level (chalk river type) and also under Habitats Directive Annex I (Code H3260, watercourses with *Ranunculion* and *Batrachion* vegetation). This habitat notification comprises the river channel, its banks and parts of its riparian zone. In addition, parts of the floodplain are notified for their wetland habitat, and the river discharges via Southampton Water into the Solent which has a range of habitat designations.

The site is additionally notified for a number of SSSI and Habitats Directive Annex II species features, including invertebrate assemblages and a key breeding population of the nationally rare southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*, white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* (one of the last remaining strongholds in central southern England), Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, Bullhead *Cottus gobio* and Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*, and an expanding population of Otter *Lutra lutra*.

The Itchen faces numerous pressures from water abstraction and flow diversions, discharges, agricultural runoff, channel modifications, fisheries management and human impacts associated with the urbanisation alongside much of the river's valley.

<b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>	<b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</b>	<b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>	<b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li></ul>	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></li><li>• 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li><li>• 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li><li>• 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></li><li>• 1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></li></ul>

### Salisbury Plain SAC

Location: SU077497 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0012683  
Area (ha): 21465.94

Salisbury Plain SAC, which includes Porton Down and Parsonage Down, represents the largest surviving semi-natural dry grassland area within north-west Europe. It hosts the priority habitat type 'orchid-rich sites' and supports extensive areas of CG3 *Bromus erectus* grassland, which is the most widespread and abundant calcareous grassland found in the UK. Other grassland types, like the rare CG7 *Festuca ovina* – *Hieracium pilosella* – *Thymus praecox* grassland, are present. In addition, the site features the best remaining example in the UK of lowland Juniper scrub on chalk and a cluster of large Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*, sub-populations where the species breeds on dry calcareous grassland.

Porton Down SPA and Salisbury Plain SPA support important breeding populations of Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*, Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, and over-wintering Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

<b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>	<b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</b>	<b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>	<b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li> <li>• 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites)</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i></li> </ul>	Not Applicable
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### **Shortheath Common SAC**

Location: SU774367 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0030275  
Area (ha): 58.53

Shortheath Common SAC is common land situated in East Hampshire and consists of a wide range of wet and dry heathland habitats and bog woodland. The focal point of the site is a substantial valley mire with a rich ground flora of species such as sedges, sundew, cotton grass, and marsh cinquefoil. Bog mosses form a floating raft over much of the mire. The mire is notable for its high cover of cranberry. The site has a diverse dragonfly assemblage.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4030 European dry heaths</li> <li>• 91D0 Bog woodland*</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

### **Solent Maritime SAC**

Location: SU756003 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0030059  
Area (ha): 11243.12

The Solent Site Improvement Plan covers the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA.

The Solent is a complex site encompassing a major estuarine system on the south coast of England. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime with double tides, as well as for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive areas of intertidal mudflats, often supporting eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and green algae, saltmarshes and natural shoreline transitions, such as drift line vegetation.

All four species of cordgrass found within the UK are present within the Solent and it is one of only two UK sites with significant amounts of the native small cordgrass *Spartina maritima*. The rich intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, shingle beaches and adjacent coastal habitats, including grazing marsh, reedbeds and damp woodland, support nationally and internationally important numbers of migratory and over-wintering waders and waterfowl as well as important breeding gull and tern populations.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1130 Estuaries</li> <li>• 1320 Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)</li> <li>• 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> <li>• 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• 1150 Coastal lagoons*</li> <li>• 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines</li> <li>• 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> <li>• 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand</li> <li>• 2120 "Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")"</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> </ul>
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### **Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC**

Location: SZ608977 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0017073  
Area (ha): 37.93

The Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC on the south coast of England encompasses a series of coastal lagoons, including percolation, isolated and sluiced lagoons. The site includes a number of lagoons in the marshes in the Keyhaven – Pennington area, at Farlington Marshes in Langstone Harbour, behind the sea-wall at Bembridge Harbour and at Gilkicker, near Gosport.

The lagoons show a range of salinities and substrates, ranging from soft mud to muddy sand with a high proportion of shingle, which support a diverse fauna including large populations of three notable species: the nationally rare foxtail stonewort *Lamprothamnium papulosum*, the nationally scarce lagoon sand shrimp *Gammarus insensibilis*, and the nationally scarce starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis*.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1150 Coastal lagoons*</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**The New Forest SAC**

Location: SU225075 (approximate centre of site)  
 SAC EU Code: UK0012557  
 Area (ha): 29213.57

The New Forest is a large and complex ecosystem and one of the largest remaining relatively wild areas in the South of England attracting enormous numbers of visitors each year.

The New Forest SAC and SPA supports an extensive and complex mosaic of habitats including wet and dry heaths and associated bogs and mires, wet and dry grasslands, ancient pasture woodlands, frequent permanent and temporary ponds and a network of streams and rivers.

These habitats support an exceptional variety of flora and fauna including internationally important populations of breeding and over-wintering birds and other notable species such as southern damselfly, stag beetle and great crested newt.

The New Forest is one of the most important sites for wildlife in the UK and recognised as being of exceptional importance for nature conservation throughout the European Union. Over 90% of the SAC comprises the unenclosed land of the Crown Lands and adjacent commons, the remainder is managed by private owners and occupiers. Of fundamental importance to sustaining the exceptional quality on the open forest is the persistence of commoning, the commoners stock roam freely maintaining the structural diversity and richness of the habitats complemented by annual heathland cutting and burning programmes.

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</li> <li>• 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i></li> <li>• 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>• 4030 European dry heaths</li> <li>• 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</li> <li>• 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></li> <li>• 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion roboretraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>)</li> <li>• 9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests</li> <li>• 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</li> <li>• 91D0 Bog woodland*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> <li>• 7230 Alkaline fens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i></li> <li>• 1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)*</li> </ul>			
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### **Woolmer Forest SAC**

Location: SU805325 (approximate centre of site)  
 SAC EU Code: UK0030304  
 Area (ha): 670.15

This group of heathland sites comprises Woolmer Forest SAC and Wealden Heaths Phase 2 SPA, made up by 4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The qualifying features are dystrophic lakes, dry and wet heath, depressions on peat, Dartford warbler, nightjar and woodlark. The complex includes important military training land as well as popular recreational areas.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds</li> <li>4030 European dry heaths</li> <li>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

### **Avon Valley SPA / Ramsar**

Location: SZ144983 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: UK9011091  
 Ramsar Site Number: 926  
 SPA/Ramsar Area (ha): 1385.08

The Avon Valley SPA is a wide river valley comprising mostly unimproved wet grassland and has importance for wintering wildfowl with Bewick's Swan and Gadwall as the notified features. The population of Bewick's Swan in the Avon Valley have decreased in line with a national trend of decrease, which is felt to be due to decreased breeding success. At the moment the SPA does not meet the threshold for them.

<b>Annex I</b> Habitats			<b>Annex I</b> species		
Not applicable			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>: Bewick swan</li> <li>A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i>: Gadwall</li> </ul>		
<b>Ramsar Criterion 1</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 2</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 3</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 4</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 5</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 6</b>
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.	The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally-rare species.	N/a	N/a	N/a	Gadwall , <i>Anas strepera strepera</i> , NW Europe. Northern pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i> , NW Europe. Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> , Iceland/W Europe.

**Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA / Ramsar**

Location: SU761014 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: UK9011011  
 Ramsar Site Number: 378  
 SPA/Ramsar Area (ha): 5810.03

Chichester and Langstone Harbours are two large estuarine basins linked by a channel and including extensive intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits, and dunes supporting reedbeds and some grassland. Numbers of wintering waterbirds regularly exceed 20,000 individuals and include internationally and nationally important numbers of several species.

The Solent is a complex site encompassing a major estuarine system on the south coast of England. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime with double tides, as well as for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive areas of intertidal mudflats, often supporting eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and green algae, saltmarshes and natural shoreline transitions, such as drift line vegetation.

All four species of cordgrass found within the UK are present within the Solent and it is one of only two UK sites with significant amounts of the native small cordgrass *Spartina maritima*. The rich intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, shingle beaches and adjacent coastal habitats, including grazing marsh, reedbeds and damp woodland, support nationally and internationally important numbers of migratory and over-wintering waders and waterfowl as well as important breeding gull and tern populations.

Annex I Habitats			Annex I species		
Not applicable			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A046a(NB) <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>: Dark-bellied brent goose</li> <li>• A069(NB) <i>Mergus serrator</i>: Red-breasted merganser</li> <li>• A052(NB) <i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian teal</li> <li>• A048(NB) <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>: Common shelduck</li> <li>• A054(NB) <i>Anas acuta</i>: Northern pintail</li> <li>• A157(NB) <i>Limosa lapponica</i>: Bar-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Waterbird assemblage</li> <li>• A160(NB) <i>Numenius arquata</i>: Eurasian curlew</li> <li>• A050(NB) <i>Anas penelope</i>: Eurasian wigeon</li> <li>• A056(NB) <i>Anas clypeata</i>: Northern shoveler</li> <li>• A162(NB) <i>Tringa totanus</i>: Common redshank</li> <li>• A141(NB) <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>: Grey plover</li> <li>• A144(NB) <i>Calidris alba</i>: Sanderling</li> <li>• A149(NB) <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>: Dunlin</li> <li>• A169(NB) <i>Arenaria interpres</i>: Ruddy turnstone</li> <li>• A191(B) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>: Sandwich tern</li> <li>• A193(B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i>: Common tern</li> <li>• A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i>: Little tern</li> <li>• A137(NB) <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>: Ringed plover</li> </ul>		
Ramsar Criterion 1	Ramsar Criterion 2	Ramsar Criterion 3	Ramsar Criterion 4	Ramsar Criterion 5	Ramsar Criterion 6

Two large estuarine basins linked by the channel which divides Hayling Island from the main Hampshire coastline. The site includes intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits and sand dune	N/a	N/a	N/a	76480 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)	Ringed plover , Charadrius hiaticula, Europe/Northwest Africa. Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> , Iceland/W Europe. Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> . Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> . Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , NW Europe. Grey plover , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , E Atlantic/W Africa-wintering. Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> , W Siberia/W Europe. Little tern, <i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i> , W Europe.
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### Dorset Heathlands SPA / Ramsar

Location: SY887834 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: UK9010101  
 Ramsar Site Number: 964  
 SPA Area (ha): 8168.79  
 Ramsar Area (ha): 6,730 ha

The Dorset heathlands is an extensive lowland heathland area in southern England. Formerly a single tract divided only by river valleys it is now fragmented. The heathlands comprise a wide range of different habitat types related to variation in soils, hydrology, water chemistry and land use history.

This inland wetland contains numerous examples of wet heath (*Erica ciliaris*, *E. tetralix*) and acid valley mire, habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. These heath wetlands are amongst the best of their type in lowland Britain. The site supports a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce wetland plant species and invertebrates (28 species).

Annex I Habitats			Annex I species		
Not applicable			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar</li> <li>• A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark</li> <li>• A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler</li> <li>• A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier</li> <li>• A098(NB) <i>Falco columbarius</i>: Merlin</li> </ul>		
Ramsar Criterion 1	Ramsar Criterion 2	Ramsar Criterion 3	Ramsar Criterion 4	Ramsar Criterion 5	Ramsar Criterion 6
Contains particularly good examples of (i) northern Atlantic wet heaths with	Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species,	Has a high species richness and high ecological diversity of wetland habitat	N/a	N/a	N/a

cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> and (ii) acid mire with <i>Rhynchosporion</i> . Contains largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> .	and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species.	types and transitions, and lies in one of the most biologically-rich wetland areas of lowland Britain, being continuous with three other Ramsar sites: Poole Harbour, Avon Valley and The New Forest.			
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### **New Forest SPA / Ramsar**

Location: SU242030 (approximate centre of site)  
SPA EU Code: UK9011031  
Ramsar Site Number: 622  
SPA/Ramsar Area (ha): 28002.81

The New Forest is a large and complex ecosystem and one of the largest remaining relatively wild areas in the South of England attracting enormous numbers of visitors each year.

The New Forest SAC and SPA supports an extensive and complex mosaic of habitats including wet and dry heaths and associated bogs and mires, wet and dry grasslands, ancient pasture woodlands, frequent permanent and temporary ponds and a network of streams and rivers.

These habitats support an exceptional variety of flora and fauna including internationally important populations of breeding and over-wintering birds and other notable species such as southern damselfly, stag beetle and great crested newt.

Pools in the heath-mire matrix contain nutrient-enriched water supporting a species-rich assemblage of plants. Several species of plants, invertebrates and birds occurring at the site are rare, vulnerable, endangered or nationally scarce. The site is important for breeding, feeding and roosting birds characteristic of the heathland environment and wintering raptors, with up to 15 *Circus cyaneus* feeding or roosting in the area.

<b>Annex I Habitats</b>			<b>Annex I species</b>		
Not applicable			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A072(B) <i>Pernis apivorus</i>: European honey-buzzard</li> <li>• A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier</li> <li>• A099(B) <i>Falco subbuteo</i>: Eurasian hobby</li> <li>• A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar</li> <li>• A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark</li> <li>• A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler</li> <li>• A314(B) <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>: Wood warbler</li> </ul>		
<b>Ramsar Criterion 1</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 2</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 3</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 4</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 5</b>	<b>Ramsar Criterion 6</b>
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	The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plants are found on the site, as are at least 65 British	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			

<p>state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain.</p>	<p>Red Data Book species of invertebrate. The higher plants <i>Cicendia filiformis</i>, <i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i> and <i>Myosurus minimus</i> are considered vulnerable by the GB Red Book; while <i>Mentha pulegium</i> and <i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i> are included as endangered; and <i>Pulicaria vulgaris</i> as critically endangered. The Dark Guest Ant <i>Anergates atratulus</i> is also considered vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.</p>	<p>of rare and scarce wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England. The site contains a rich invertebrate fauna.</p>			
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**Porton Down SPA**

Location: SU227370 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: UK9011101  
 Area (ha): 1562.32

Porton Down SPA and Salisbury Plain SPA support important breeding populations of Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*, Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, and over-wintering Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

Annex I Habitats	Annex I species
Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A133(B) <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>: Stone-curlew</li> </ul>

**Portsmouth Harbour SPA / Ramsar**

Location: SU616036 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: UK9011051  
 Ramsar Site Number: 720  
 SPA/Ramsar Area (ha): 1248.77

The Solent Site Improvement Plan (SIP) covers the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA.

The Solent is a complex site encompassing a major estuarine system on the south coast of England. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime with double tides, as well as for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive areas of intertidal mudflats, often supporting eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and green algae, saltmarshes and natural shoreline transitions, such as drift line vegetation.

All four species of cordgrass found within the UK are present within the Solent and it is one of only two UK sites with significant amounts of the native small cordgrass *Spartina maritima*. The rich intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, shingle beaches and adjacent coastal habitats, including grazing marsh, reedbeds and damp

woodland, support nationally and internationally important numbers of migratory and over-wintering waders and waterfowl as well as important breeding gull and tern populations.

Annex I Habitats				Annex I species	
Not applicable				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A046a(NB) <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>: Dark-bellied brent goose</li> <li>• A069(NB) <i>Mergus serrator</i>: Red-breasted merganser</li> <li>• A156(NB) <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>: Black-tailed godwit</li> <li>• A149(NB) <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>: Dunlin</li> </ul>	
Ramsar Crit. 1	Ramsar Crit. 2	Ramsar Crit. 4	Ramsar Crit. 5	Ramsar Criterion 3	Ramsar Criterion 6
N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	<p>The intertidal mudflat areas possess extensive beds of eelgrass <i>Zostera angustifolia</i> and <i>Zostera noltei</i> which support the grazing dark-bellied brent geese populations. The mud-snail <i>Hydrobia ulvae</i> is found at extremely high densities, which helps to support the wading bird interest of the site.</p> <p>Common cordgrass <i>Spartina anglica</i> dominates large areas of the saltmarsh and there are also extensive areas of green algae <i>Enteromorpha</i> spp. and sea lettuce <i>Ulva lactuca</i>. More locally the saltmarsh is dominated by sea purslane <i>Halimione portulacoides</i> which gradates to more varied communities at the higher shore levels. The site also includes a number of saline lagoons hosting nationally important species.</p>	Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>

#### **Salisbury Plain SPA**

Location: SU079506 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: UK9011102  
 Area (ha): 19688.88

Porton Down SPA and Salisbury Plain SPA support important breeding populations of Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*, Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, and over-wintering Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

Annex I Habitats	Annex I species
Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A133(B) <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>: Stone-curlew</li> <li>• A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier</li> <li>• A099(B) <i>Falco subbuteo</i>: Eurasian hobby</li> <li>• A113(B) <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>: Common quail</li> </ul>

#### **Solent and Dorset Coast SPA**

Location: SZ470973 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: tbc  
 Area (ha): 87531.75

Solent and Dorset Coast SPA protects important foraging areas at sea used by qualifying interest features from colonies within adjacent SPAs. These qualifying interest features are three species of tern: common tern, Sandwich tern and little tern. The site is located on the south coast within the English Channel. The site extends from the Isle of Purbeck in the West to Bognor Regis in the East, following the coastline on either side to the Isle of Wight and into Southampton Water. The boundary was established as a composite of the usage of the area within adjacent SPAs.

From west to east, the adjacent SPAs with these tern species as qualifying interest features (in parentheses) are: Poole Harbour (common tern) Solent and Southampton Water SPA (common, Sandwich and little tern)

and Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA (common, Sandwich and little tern). In addition to these species at these sites, Sandwich terns at the Poole Harbour SPA are included in determining the details of the SPA. However, certain species at certain sites i.e. Roseate tern at Solent and Southampton Water SPA, and Sandwich, little and common tern at Pagham Harbour SPA are not included in determining the details of the SPA.

Annex I Habitats	Annex I species
Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A191 <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>; Sandwich tern (Breeding)</li> <li>• A193 <i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Common tern (Breeding)</li> <li>• A195 <i>Sternula albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding)</li> </ul>

**Solent and Southampton Water SPA / Ramsar**

Location: SZ335936 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: UK9011061  
 Ramsar Site Number: 965  
 SPA Area (ha): 5505.86  
 Ramsar Area (ha): 5,415 ha

The Solent Site Improvement Plan (SIP) covers the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA.

The Solent is a complex site encompassing a major estuarine system on the south coast of England. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime with double tides, as well as for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive areas of intertidal mudflats, often supporting eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and green algae, saltmarshes and natural shoreline transitions, such as drift line vegetation.

All four species of cordgrass found within the UK are present within the Solent and it is one of only two UK sites with significant amounts of the native small cordgrass *Spartina maritima*. The rich intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, shingle beaches and adjacent coastal habitats, including grazing marsh, reedbeds and damp woodland, support nationally and internationally important numbers of migratory and over-wintering waders and waterfowl as well as important breeding gull and tern populations.

Annex I Habitats	Annex I species
Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A046a(NB) <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>: Dark-bellied brent goose</li> <li>• A052(NB) <i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian teal</li> <li>• A156(NB) <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>: Black-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Waterbird assemblage</li> <li>• A176(B) <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>: Mediterranean gull</li> <li>• A191(B) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>: Sandwich tern</li> <li>• A192(B) <i>Sterna dougallii</i>: Roseate tern</li> <li>• A193(B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i>: Common tern</li> <li>• A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i>: Little tern</li> <li>• A137(NB) <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>: Ringed plover</li> </ul>

Ramsar Criterion 1	Ramsar Criterion 2	Ram. Crit. 3	Ramsar Crit. 4	Ramsar Criterion 5	Ramsar Criterion 6

<p>The site is one of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland in European waters, exhibiting an unusual strong double tidal flow and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It includes many wetland habitats characteristic of the biogeographic region: saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.</p>	<p>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. The higher plants <i>Orobanche purpurea</i> and <i>Spartina maritima</i> are considered vulnerable and endangered, respectively, in the GB Red Book. The Mediterranean gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) is included in CITES Appendix I</p>	<p>N/a</p>	<p>N/a</p>	<p>Species with peak counts in winter: 51,343 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe</li> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>• Eurasian teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>, NW Europe</li> </ul>
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#### **Thames Basin Heaths SPA**

Location: TQ560080 (approximate centre of site)  
SPA EU Code: UK9012141  
Area: 8274.72 ha

The Thames Basin Heaths form part of a complex of heathlands in southern England that support important breeding bird populations. Scattered trees and scrub are used for roosting. The open heathland habitats overlie sand and gravel sediments, give rise to sandy or peaty acidic soils, supporting dry heath vegetation, wet heath and bogs. The site consists of tracts of heathland, scrub and woodland, once almost continuous, but now fragmented into separate blocks by roads, urban development and farmland. Less open habitats of scrub, acidic woodland and conifer plantations dominate, within which are scattered areas of open heath and mire.

Species: The site supports important breeding populations of a number of birds of lowland heathland. Most namely Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* (7.8% of UK population) and Woodlark *Lullula arborea* (9.9% of UK population), both of which nest on the ground, often at the woodland/heathland edge, and Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata* (27.8% of UK population), which often nests in gorse *Ulex* sp.

Annex I Habitats	Annex I species
Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar</li> <li>• A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark</li> <li>• A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler</li> </ul>

#### **Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA**

Location: SU805326 (approximate centre of site)  
SPA EU Code: UK9012132  
Area (ha): 2053.83

This group of heathland sites comprises Woolmer Forest SAC and Wealden Heaths Phase 2 SPA, made up by 4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The qualifying features are dystrophic lakes, dry and wet heath, depressions on peat, Dartford warbler, nightjar and woodlark. The complex includes important military training land as well as popular recreational areas.

Annex I Habitats	Annex I species

Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar</li> <li>• A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark</li> <li>• A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler</li> </ul>
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## Sites outside the Plan Area but wholly or partly within the 10km buffer

<p><b><u>Briddlesford Copses SAC</u></b></p> <p>Location: SZ548907 (approximate centre of site) SAC EU Code: UK0030328 Area (ha): 165.44</p> <p>Briddlesford Copses is a complex of structurally diverse ancient semi-natural woodlands notified for its resident breeding Bechsteins's bat <i>Myotis bechsteini</i> population. Woodland as high forest and coppice with standards represents 90% of the site, with the balance comprising mixed woodland (5%) and Wootton Creek estuary and saltmarsh (5%) habitat.</p>			
<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1323 Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i></li> </ul>	Not Applicable

<p><b><u>Great Yews SAC</u></b></p> <p>Location: SU119232 (approximate centre of site) SAC EU Code: UK0012770 Area (ha): 29.09</p> <p>Great Yews SAC is situated on gently sloping ground on the upper Chalk south of Salisbury, Wiltshire and comprises an extensive area of almost pure yew woodland with around 300 old trees, including many large and impressive individuals. The site has a long history as yew woodland and demonstrates the full structural and functional range expected of yew stands.</p>			
<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 91J0 <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles*</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

<p><b><u>Isle of Wight Downs SAC</u></b></p> <p>Location: SZ373857 (approximate centre of site) SAC EU Code: UK0016254 Area (ha): 458.08</p> <p>This NSN site comprises four Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Headon Warren &amp; West High Down SSSI (part of), Compton Down SSSI, Mottistone Down SSSI and Ventnor Downs SSSI (part of).</p> <p>In order of abundance, the designated habitats are composed of: chalk grassland (70%) including a proportion of scrub, broadleaved deciduous woodland (16%), heathland (10%) and sea cliff (4%). The chalk grassland is notable (but not designated) for its maritime influenced flora, rarely found chalk heath habitat where acid gravels occur and notably large butterfly populations. The site is also specifically designated for its significant population of Early Gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>.</p>			
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<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts</li> <li>• 4030 European dry heaths</li> <li>• 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites)</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1654 Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></li> </ul>	Not Applicable

#### **Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC**

Location: SU398675 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0030175  
Area (ha): 57.73

The site comprises Alluvial forests with alder *Alnus glutinosa* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. These, the two largest fragments of alder-ash woodland on the Kennet floodplain, lie on alluvium overlain by a shallow layer of moderately calcareous peat. The wettest areas are dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* over tall herbs, sedges and reeds, but dryer patches include a base-rich woodland flora with much dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and also herb-Paris *Paris quadrifolia*. The occurrence of the latter is unusual, as it is more typically associated with ancient woodland, whereas the evidence suggests that these stands have largely developed over the past century.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)*</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

#### **Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC**

Location: SU313704 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0030044  
Area (ha): 112.24

The Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC consists of a cluster of sites in the Kennet and Lambourn river valleys. These areas represent locations where the terrestrial snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* is particularly abundant.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> </ul>	Not Applicable

**Kingley Vale SAC**

Location: SU824110 (approximate centre of site)  
 SAC EU Code: UK0012767  
 Area (ha): 200.94

Kingley Vale is one of the sites representing yew *Taxus baccata* woods on chalk, in the central southern part of its UK range. It has been selected primarily because of its size, as it is the largest area of yew woodland in Britain. In addition to the woodland, four nationally uncommon habitats are represented at the site: chalk grassland; chalk heath; juniper scrub and yew scrub.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 91J0 <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites)</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**Prescombe Down SAC**

Location: ST986254 (approximate centre of site)  
 SAC EU Code: UK0012553  
 Area (ha): 75.6

Prescombe Down SAC is a botanically rich downland site comprising a deep forking coombe system situated on the upper chalk in south Wiltshire. It has a characteristic species-rich chalk grassland flora, with good numbers of Early gentian *Gentianella anglica* being found in warm, sheltered locations. The site supports a rich butterfly community including scarce species such as Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurini*. Scattered scrub with a variety of species and structure adds to the value of the site.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1654 Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i></li> </ul>

**River Lambourn SAC**

Location: SU398739 (approximate centre of site)  
 SAC EU Code: UK0030257  
 Area (ha): 28.78

The River Lambourn is an example of a classic chalk stream with a seasonally dry winterbourne section. It is relatively unmodified and has near-natural flow characteristics. The river supports a characteristic range of aquatic plant communities of the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* types. As well as being classified as SAC for its river type, the Lambourn is also of importance in supporting self-sustaining populations of Bullhead. An additional qualifying feature present is Brook lamprey.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> </ul>
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### **Rook Cliff SAC**

Location: SU820182 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0030058  
Area (ha): 10.62

Rock Cliff SAC is a *Tilio-Acerion* forest of slopes, screes and ravines, associated with rocky slopes on the base rich soils of the South Downs. This ancient woodland is dominated by large coppice stools of Large-leaved lime *Tilia platyphyllos*, together with Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and some Beech *Fagus sylvatica*. The presence of Large-leaved lime as a canopy dominant makes this woodland virtually unique. The site also supports a number of mollusc species, notably the Cheese snail *Helicodonta obvoluta*, and a rich bryophyte flora.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines*</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

### **South Wight Maritime SAC**

Location: SZ462771 (approximate centre of site)  
SAC EU Code: UK0030061  
Area (ha): 19866.12

South Wight Maritime SAC is a naturally dynamic and diverse site on the south coast of the Isle of Wight. The west is dominated by exposed greensand bedrock and chalk cliffs and reefs while the eastern side is more sheltered with areas of sandstone and limestone. Large boulder reefs are found in the south around Ventnor and St Catherine's Point. The site's large range of habitats results in a high diversity of marine communities, some of which are found in only a handful of locations throughout England.

The chalk cliffs and reefs around The Needles, Freshwater Bay and Culver Cliff represent some of the best in Britain and erosion has resulted in the formation of a series of caves that host rare algal species restricted to this type of habitat. The subtidal chalk reefs support diverse assemblages of red seaweeds and sponges. Bembridge in the east is considered a transition zone between warmer waters in the west and cooler waters to the east and several species such as maerl and peacocks tail seaweed are thought to be at their most easterly distribution here. Bembridge has extensive flat limestone ledges hosting large numbers of algal species and burrowing molluscs, and naturally occurring lagoons between the ledges provide shelter for seagrass meadows to develop.

In Sandown Bay, the chalk reefs are covered by thin veneers of sediment which provide the ideal habitat for black bream to nest and the site is also visited by larger species, with thresher sharks and leatherback turtle sightings in the deep waters off St Catherine's Point.

<b>Annex I</b> habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex I</b> habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	<b>Annex II</b> species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1170 Reefs</li> <li>• 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts</li> <li>• 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves</li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC**

Location: SU914411 (approximate centre of site)  
 SAC/SPA EU Code: UK0012793  
 Area (ha): 5154.5

The heathland is a series of large fragments of previously more continuous areas and is principally dominated by heather – dwarf gorse (*Calluna vulgaris* – *Ulex minor*) dry heathland. There are transitions to wet heath and valley mire, scrub, woodland and acid grassland, including types rich in annual plants. The predominant habitat is heath, scrub, maquis and garrigue, phygrana (75%) with other areas of Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (10%), Coniferous woodland (10%) and Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (5%). This habitat supports an important assemblage of animal species, including numerous rare and local invertebrate species

The wet heath at Thursley is NVC type M16 *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum* and contains several rare plants, including great sundew *Drosera anglica*, bog hair-grass *Deschampsia setacea*, bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa* and brown beak-sedge *Rhynchospora fusca*. There are transitions to valley bog and dry heath. Thursley Common is an important site for invertebrates, including the nationally rare white-faced darter *Leucorrhinia dubia*.

The site is selected as a key representative of NVC type H2 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Ulex minor* dry heathland. There are transitions to wet heath and valley mire, scrub, woodland and acid grassland, including types rich in annual plants. The habitat support an important assemblage of animal species, including numerous rare and local invertebrate species, European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata*, sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* and smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*.

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>• 4030 European dry heaths</li> <li>• 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></li> </ul>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Common SPA**

Location: SU910412 (approximate centre of site)  
 SPA EU Code: UK9012131  
 Area (ha): 1869.95

This is an extensive complex of lowland heathland, acid grassland, mire and commercial conifer plantations in south east England. The complex is made up by 14 component SSSIs and includes the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC and Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons SPA. The qualifying features present are Dartford warbler, woodlark, nightjar, depressions on peat, dry heath and wet heath.

Annex I Habitats	Annex I species
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar</li> <li>• A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark</li> <li>• A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler</li> </ul>

**Thursley & Ockley Bogs Ramsar**

Location: SU908415 (approximate centre of site)  
 Ramsar Site Number: 647  
 Area (ha): 265

The site is a valley mire complex which occurs within a matrix of heathland, where drainage is impeded, and a deep layer of peat has built up from the remains of bog-moss *Sphagnum* spp. which forms much of the vegetation. Several areas of open water also contribute to the overall diversity of the site, ranging from acidic boggy pools and ditches to large ponds. It supports rare wetland invertebrates, six native reptile species, and nationally important breeding populations of *Caprimulgus europaeus* and *Lullula arborea*.

Ramsar Criterion 1	Ramsar Criterion 2	Ramsar Criterion 3	Ramsar Criterion 4	Ramsar Criterion 5	Ramsar Criterion 6
N/a	Supports a community of rare wetland invertebrate species including notable numbers of breeding dragonflies.	One of few sites in Britain to support all six native reptile species. Also supports nationally important breeding populations of European nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> and woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i> .	N/a	N/a	N/a

### Sites outside the Plan area 10km buffer, which require consideration

#### Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC

Location: SU872144 (approximate centre of site)  
 SAC EU Code: UK0030337  
 Area (ha): 2.45

Singleton and Cocking Tunnels are two disused brick railway tunnels located in rural Sussex, just over 2 miles south of Midhurst. They once formed part of the Chichester to Midhurst railway line. The majority of the tunnels lie within the South Downs National Character Area (NCA 125) but the northern entrance of Cocking tunnel is within the Wealden Greensand National Character Area (NCA 120).

The disused tunnels are one of the most important sites for hibernating bats in south-east England. In total eight species have occurred in the tunnels: In addition to barbastelle and Bechstein's bat the most regular species are Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*, Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentoni*, Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and Brandt's *Myotis brandti*/Whiskered bats *Myotis mystacinus*.

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site	Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1308 Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i></li> <li>• 1323 Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i></li> </ul>

## Appendix B: Conservation Objectives and priority threats

Tables B.1 and B.2 set out the Conservation Objectives and priority pressures/threats for SACs and SPAs that are wholly or partially within the Plan area and 10 km buffer, respectively. Table B.3 sets out the same for a SAC outside the buffer, which requires consideration. These should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Supplementary Advice documents<sup>16</sup>, which provide more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives. For Ramsar sites see the SPA Objectives.

**Table B.1: Conservation Objectives and priority pressures/threats for SACs wholly and partly within the Plan area and 10km buffer**

SAC	Conservation Objective	Site priority pressure/threat
<b>Bridlesford Copses</b>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offsite habitat availability/ management</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Butser Hill</b>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Dorset Heaths</b>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Drainage</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation</li> <li>• Conflicting conservation objectives</li> <li>• Wildfire / arson</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Deer</li> </ul>

<sup>16</sup> Natural England Supplementary Advice - <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/7001>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	
<b>East Hampshire Hangers</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> </ul>
<b>Emer Bog</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitat</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitat, and</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitat rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Great Yews</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Isle of Wight Downs</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Inappropriate coastal management</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	
<b>Kennet Valley Alderwoods</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inappropriate water levels</li> <li>Game management: other</li> </ul>
<b>Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Siltation</li> <li>Water pollution</li> <li>Invasive species</li> <li>Hydrological changes</li> <li>Inland flood defence works</li> <li>Inappropriate cutting/mowing</li> <li>Change in land management</li> <li>Inappropriate water levels</li> <li>Hydrological changes</li> </ul>
<b>Kingley Vale</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats</li> <li>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deer</li> <li>Undergrazing</li> <li>Agriculture: other</li> <li>Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Mottisfont Bats</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown</li> <li>Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>Offsite habitat availability/management</li> </ul>
<b>Prescombe Down</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in species distributions</li> <li>Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	
<b>River Avon</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical modification</li> <li>• Siltation</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Water abstraction</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Inappropriate weed control</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>
<b>River Itchen</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Physical modification</li> <li>• Siltation</li> <li>• Overgrazing</li> <li>• Water abstraction</li> <li>• Air pollution</li> <li>• Inappropriate weed control</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Inappropriate cutting/mowing</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Inappropriate ditch management</li> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> </ul>
<b>River Lambourn</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siltation</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Inland flood defence works</li> <li>• Inappropriate cutting/mowing</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Inappropriate water levels</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	
<b>Rook Cliff</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Feature location/extent/condition unknown</li> </ul>
<b>Salisbury Plain</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Shortheath Common</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Direct impact from third party</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Solent Maritime</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Fisheries: commercial, marine and estuarine</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Change to site conditions</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Direct land take from development</li> <li>• Biological resource use</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Inappropriate pest control</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Direct impact from third party</li> </ul>
<b>Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Inappropriate weed control</li> <li>• Coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>South Wight Maritime</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Inappropriate coastal management</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Physical modification</li> <li>• Fisheries: commercial, marine and estuarine</li> </ul>
<b>The New Forest</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage</li> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Fish stocking</li> <li>• Deer</li> <li>• Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Inappropriate ditch management</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> </ul>
<b>Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Wildfire/arson</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Feature location/extent/condition unknown</li> <li>• Military</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>
<b>Woolmer Forest</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Feature location/extent/condition unknown</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Military</li> <li>• Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Wildfire/arson</li> </ul>

**Table B.2: Conservation Objectives and priority pressures/threats for SPAs wholly or partially within the Plan area and 10km buffer**

<b>SPA</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>	<b>Site priority pressure/threat</b>
<b>Avon Valley</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical modification</li> <li>• Siltation</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Water abstraction</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Inappropriate weed control</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>
<b>Chichester and Langstone Harbours</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Fisheries: commercial, marine and estuarine</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Change to site conditions</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Direct land take from development</li> <li>• Biological resource use</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Inappropriate pest control</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Direct impact from third party</li> </ul>
<b>Dorset Heathlands</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation</li> <li>• Conflicting conservation objectives</li> <li>• Wildfire / arson</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Deer</li> </ul>
<b>New Forest</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage</li> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Fish stocking</li> <li>• Deer</li> <li>• Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Inappropriate ditch management</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> </ul>
<b>Porton Down</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<b>Portsmouth Harbour</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Fisheries: commercial, marine and estuarine</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Change to site conditions</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Direct land take from development</li> <li>• Biological resource use</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Inappropriate pest control</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Direct impact from third party</li> </ul>

<p><b>Salisbury Plain</b></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>
<p><b>Solent and Dorset Coast</b></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Fisheries: commercial, marine and estuarine</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Change to site conditions</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Direct land take from development</li> <li>• Biological resource use</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Inappropriate pest control</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Direct impact from third party</li> </ul>
<p><b>Solent &amp; Southampton Water</b></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Fisheries: commercial, marine and estuarine</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Changes in species distributions</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Change to site conditions</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Direct land take from development</li> <li>• Biological resource use</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Inappropriate pest control</li> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Direct impact from third party</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thames Basin Heaths</b></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildfire/arson</li> <li>• Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Feature location/extent/condition unknown</li> <li>• Military</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>
<b>Thursley, Hankley &amp; Frensham Commons</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Wildfire/arson</li> <li>• Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Feature location/extent/condition unknown</li> <li>• Military</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>
<b>Wealden Heaths Phase II</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Hydrological changes</li> <li>• Feature location/extent/condition unknown</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> <li>• Military</li> <li>• Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Wildfire/arson</li> </ul>

**Table B.3: Conservation Objective and priority pressures/threats for the International site outside the 10km buffer that requires consideration**

<b>SAC</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>	<b>Site priority pressure/threat</b>
<b>Singleton and Cocking Tunnels</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown</li> <li>• Offsite habitat availability/ management</li> <li>• Inappropriate forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• Change in land management</li> <li>• Public access/ disturbance</li> </ul>

## Appendix C: International Sites: SSSI units

SSSI units are divisions of SSSIs used to record management and condition details. Units are the smallest areas for which Natural England gives a condition assessment. The size of units vary greatly depending on the type of management and conservation interest. International site – SSSI units are set out in Tables C.1 and C.2.

**Table C.1: NSN Sites (SAC) component SSSIs wholly or partially within the Plan area and 10 km buffer\***

\* Including the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC

Name of SAC	SSSI Name	No. of SSSI units
Briddlesford Copses	Briddlesford Copses	24
Butser Hill	Butser Hill	10
Dorset Heaths	Bourne Valley	10
	Canford Heath	14
	Christchurch Harbour	13
	Cranborne Common	11
	Ebblake Bog	3
	Ferndown Common	4
	Holt and West Moors	26
	Horton Common	2
	Hurn Common	3
	Lions Hill	5
	Parley Common	27
	Slop Blog and Uddens Heath	9
	St Leonards and St Ives Heath	27
	Town Common	22
	Turbary and Kinson Commons	4
Verwood Heaths	4	
East Hampshire Hangers	Coombe Wood & Lythe	11
	Noar Hill	5
	Selborne Common	2
	Upper Greensand Hangers: Empshott to Hawkley	22
	Upper Greensand Hangers: Wyck to Weatley	5
	Wealden Edge Hangers	27
	Wick Wood & Worldham Hangers	9
Emer Bog	Baddesley Common	3
Great Yews	Great Yews	1
Isle of Wight Downs	Compton Down	13
	Headon Warren and West High Down	26
Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain	Boxford Water Meadows	2
	Chilton Foliat Meadows	7
	Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain	6
	Thatcham Reed Beds	7
Kennet Valley Alderwoods	Kennet Valley Alderwoods	2
Kingley Vale	Kingley Vale	9
Mottisfont Bats	Mottisfont Bats	6
Prescombe Down	Prescombe Down	4
River Avon	Porton Meadows	9
	River Avon System	49
River Itchen	River Itchen	1
River Lambourn	River Lambourn	3
Rook Clift	Rook Clift	1
Salisbury Plain	Porton Down	25
	Salisbury Plain	100
Shortheath Common	Shortheath Common	5
Singleton and Cocking Tunnels	Singleton and Cocking Tunnels	4
Solent Maritime	Bouldnor and Hamstead cliffs	9
	Chichester Harbour	43
	Eling and Bury Marshes	4

	Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary	34
	Hythe to Calshot Marshes	6
	King's Quay Shore	30
	Langstone Harbour	13
	Lee-on-The Solent to Itchen Estuary	27
	Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes	3
	Lower Test Valley	8
	Medina Estuary	12
	Newtown Harbour	78
	North Solent	98
	Thorness Bay	14
	Upper Hamble Estuary & Woods	16
	Yar Estuary	30
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges	58
	Gilkicker Lagoon	1
	Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary	34
	Langstone Harbour	13
South Wight Maritime	Headon Warren and West High Down	26
	Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges	8
The New Forest	Landford Bog	2
	Langley Wood & Homans Copse	3
	Loosehanger Copse and Meadows	5
	Roydon Woods	8
	The New Forest	582
	Whiteparish Common	4
Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham	Ash to Brookwood Heaths	12
	Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath	17
	Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons	39
Woolmer Forest	Woolmer Forest	32

**Table C.2: NSN Sites (SPA) and Ramsar site component SSSIs wholly or partially within the Plan area and 10km buffer**

<b>Name of SPA / Ramsar</b>	<b>SSSI Name</b>	<b>No. SSSI units within plan area</b>
Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar	Avon Valley (Bickton-Christchurch)	181
	River Avon System	49
Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar	Chichester Harbour	43
	Langstone Harbour	13
Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar	Bourne Valley	10
	Canford Heath	14
	Christchurch Harbour	13
	Cranborne Common	11
	Ebblake Bog	3
	Ferndown Common	4
	Holt and West Moors Heaths	26
	Horton Common	2
	Hurn Common	3
	Lions Hill	5
	Parley Common	27
	Slop Bog and Uddens Heath	9
	St Leonards and St Ives Heaths	27
	Town Common	22
	Turbary and Kinson Commons	4
Verwood Heaths	4	
New Forest SPA/Ramsar	Lymington River	1
	Norley Copse & Meadow	2
	River Avon System	49
	The New Forest	582
Porton Down SPA	Porton Down	25
Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar	Portsmouth Harbour	23
Salisbury Plain SPA	Salisbury Plain	100
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	Dibden Bay	2

	Hythe to Calshot Marshes	6
	Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary	27
	Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes	3
	North Solent	98
	Titchfield Haven	8
	Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods	16
Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar	Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges	58
	Eling and Bury Marshes	4
	Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary	34
	Hythe to Calshot Marshes	6
	King's Quay Shore	30
	Lee-on-The Solent to Itchen Estuary	27
	Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes	3
	Lower Test Valley	8
	Lymington River Reedbeds	4
	Medina Estuary	12
	Newtown Harbour	78
	North Solent	98
	River Test	91
	Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek	17
	Sowley Pond	2
	The New Forest	582
	Thorness Bay	14
	Titchfield Haven	8
	Upper Hamble Estuary & Woods	16
	Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges	8
Yar Estuary	30	
Thames Basin Heaths SPA	Ash to Brookwood Heaths	12
	Bourley and Long Valley	6
	Bramshill	4
	Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths	13
	Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons	14
	Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath	17
	Eelmoor Marsh	3
	Hazeley Heath	4
	Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths	3
	Whitmoor Common	9
Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons SPA	Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons	39
Thursley & Ockley Bogs Ramsar	Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons	39
Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA	Bramshott & Ludshott Commons	4
	Broxhead & Kingsley Commons	4
	Devil's Punch Bowl	5
	Woolmer Forest	32

## Appendix D: International Sites Condition

Table D.1: Status of SSSIs coinciding with International Sites wholly or partly within the Plan area and 10km buffer\*  
(Source: Natural England, May 2021)

\* Including the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC

International Site	SSSI	Favourable	Unfavourable – Recovering	Unfavourable – No Change	Unfavourable – Declining	Partially Destroyed	Destroyed
<b>Bridlesford Copses SAC</b>	Bridlesford Copses	62.48%	10.90%	0.00%	26.62%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Butser Hill SAC</b>	Butser Hill	93.93%	6.07%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Dorset Heaths SAC</b>	Bourne Valley	0.00%	25.00%	38.04%	36.53%	0.00%	0.44%
	Canford Heath	0.00%	53.94%	45.08%	0.00%	0.00%	0.98%
	Christchurch Harbour	80.56%	19.44%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Cranborne Common	8.64%	82.84%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Ebblake Bog	0.00%	83.65%	5.81%	10.54%	0.00%	0.00%
	Ferndown Common	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Holt and West Moors	11.58%	61.55%	21.74%	4.88%	0.00%	0.25%
	Horton Common	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hurn Common	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lions Hill	0.00%	85.37%	11.67%	2.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	Parley Common	7.24%	22.20%	61.27%	8.86%	0.00%	0.42%
	Slop Blog and Uddens Heath	0.00%	48.45%	1.47%	36.39%	0.00%	13.68%
	St Leonards and St Ives Heath	0.39%	72.61%	18.29%	8.71%	0.00%	0.00%
	Town Common	1.34%	53.91%	39.74%	5.01%	0.00%	0.00%
Turbary and Kinson Commons	0.00%	17.83%	74.92%	7.25%	0.00%	0.00%	
Verwood Heaths	0.00%	99.74%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.26%	
<b>East Hampshire Hangers SAC</b>	Coombe Wood and The Lythe	77.82%	15.35%	2.71%	4.12%	0.00%	0.00%
	Noar Hill	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Selborne Common	99.53%	0.47%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Upper Greensand Hangers: Empshott to Hawkley	98.95%	0.00%	0.00%	1.05%	0.00%	0.00%
	Upper Greensand Hangers: Wyck to Weatley	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Wealden Edge Hangers	80.61%	0.18%	19.21%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Wick Wood & Worldham Hangers	98.95%	0.00%	1.05%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Emer Bog SAC</b>	Baddesley Common	0.00%	31.02%	68.98%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Great Yews SAC</b>	Great Yews	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Isle of Wight Downs SAC</b>	Compton Down	45.43%	54.57%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Headon Warren and West High Down	95.18%	3.65%	0.00%	0.00%	1.16%	0.00%

<b>Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC</b>	Boxford Water Meadows	36.61%	63.39%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Chilton Foliat Meadows	17.25%	79.02%	3.73%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain	68.39%	14.50%	1.10%	16.01%	0.00%	0.00%
	Thatcham Reed Beds	48.94%	51.06%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC</b>	Kennet Valley Alderwoods	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Kingley Vale SAC</b>	Kingley Vale	56.45%	43.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Mottisfont Bats SAC</b>	Mottisfont Bats	51.78%	48.22%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Prescombe Down SAC</b>	Prescombe Down	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>River Avon SAC</b>	Porton Meadows	0.00%	65.44%	31.94%	2.62%	0.00%	0.00%
	River Avon System	3.48%	8.79%	84.93%	2.80%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>River Itchen SAC</b>	River Itchen	10.37%	55.74%	27.99%	5.51%	0.00%	0.39%
<b>River Lambourn SAC</b>	River Lambourn	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Rook Cliff SAC</b>	Rook Cliff	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Salisbury Plain SAC</b>	Porton Down	14.80%	85.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Salisbury Plain	45.27%	53.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.96%	0.00%
<b>Shortheath Common SAC</b>	Shortheath Common	5.02%	92.93%	2.05%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC</b>	Singleton and Cocking Tunnels	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC</b>	Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges	32.18%	46.69%	9.32%	11.80%	0.00%	0.00%
	Gilkicker Lagoon	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary	21.46%	75.67%	0.00%	2.88%	0.00%	0.00%
	Langstone Harbour	8.39%	91.05%	0.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Solent Maritime SAC</b>	Bouldnor and Hamstead cliffs	85.14%	14.86%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Chichester Harbour	6.77%	3.10%	9.69%	80.44%	0.00%	0.00%
	Eling and Bury Marshes	11.45%	0.00%	88.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary	21.46%	75.67%	0.00%	2.88%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hythe to Calshot Marshes	0.00%	89.35%	10.65%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	King's Quay Shore	95.19%	4.62%	0.00%	0.00%	0.20%	0.00%
	Langstone Harbour	8.39%	91.05%	0.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lee-on-The Solent to Itchen Estuary	73.40%	0.00%	26.60%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lower Test Valley	65.15%	34.85%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Medina Estuary	14.25%	0.00%	85.75%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Newtown Harbour	55.95%	9.16%	34.55%	0.35%	0.00%	0.00%
	North Solent	67.49%	19.32%	2.04%	11.14%	0.00%	0.00%
	Thorness Bay	30.18%	0.00%	0.00%	69.82%	0.00%	0.00%
Upper Hamble Estuary & Woods	89.50%	0.00%	2.76%	7.75%	0.00%	0.00%	

	Yar Estuary	31.52%	2.01%	66.47%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>South Wight Maritime</b>	Headon Warren and West High Down	95.18%	3.65%	0.00%	0.00%	1.16%	0.00%
	Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges	99.07%	0.00%	0.93%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>The New Forest SAC</b>	Landford Bog	73.07%	26.93%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Langley Wood & Homans Copse	0.00%	0.00%	98.88%	1.12%	0.00%	0.00%
	Loosehanger Copse and Meadows	0.00%	11.07%	0.00%	88.93%	0.00%	0.00%
	Roydon Woods	63.93%	36.07%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	The New Forest	54.68%	41.65%	2.11%	1.55%	0.00%	0.01%
	Whiteparish Common	93.11%	6.89%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC</b>	Ash to Brookwood Heaths	90.50%	8.52%	0.97%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath	94.94%	4.39%	0.00%	0.67%	0.00%	0.00%
	Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons	82.10%	17.90%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Woolmer Forest SAC</b>	Woolmer Forest	41.62%	58.38%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar</b>	Avon Valley (Bickton-Christchurch)	58.73%	27.43%	6.06%	7.79%	0.00%	0.00%
	River Avon System	3.48%	8.79%	84.93%	2.80%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar</b>	Chichester Harbour	6.77%	3.10%	9.69%	80.44%	0.00%	0.00%
	Langstone Harbour	8.39%	91.05%	0.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar</b>	Bourne Valley	0.00%	25.00%	38.04%	36.53%	0.00%	0.44%
	Canford Heath	0.00%	53.94%	45.08%	0.00%	0.00%	0.98%
	Christchurch Harbour	80.56%	19.44%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Cranborne Common	8.64%	82.84%	8.52%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Ebblelake Bog	0.00%	83.65%	5.81%	10.54%	0.00%	0.00%
	Ferndown Common	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Holt and West Moors Heaths	11.58%	61.55%	21.74%	4.88%	0.00%	0.25%
	Horton Common	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hurn Common	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lions Hill	0.00%	85.37%	11.67%	2.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	Parley Common	7.24%	22.20%	61.27%	8.86%	0.00%	0.42%
	Slop Bog and Uddens Heath	0.00%	48.45%	1.47%	36.39%	0.00%	13.68%
	St Leonards and St Ives Heaths	0.39%	72.61%	18.29%	8.71%	0.00%	0.00%
	Town Common	1.34%	53.91%	39.74%	5.01%	0.00%	0.00%
	Turbary and Kinson Commons	0.00%	17.83%	74.92%	7.25%	0.00%	0.00%
Verwood Heaths	0.00%	99.74%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.26%	
<b>New Forest SPA/Ramsar</b>	Lyminster River	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Norley Copse & Meadow	0.00%	41.33%	58.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	River Avon System	3.48%	8.79%	84.93%	2.80%	0.00%	0.00%
	The New Forest	54.68%	41.65%	2.11%	1.55%	0.00%	0.01%
<b>Porton Down SPA</b>	Porton Down	14.80%	85.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

<b>Portsmouth Harbour SPA/Ramsar</b>	Portsmouth Harbour	2.58%	25.70%	71.21%	0.15%	0.00%	0.35%
<b>Salisbury Plain SPA</b>	Salisbury Plain	45.27%	53.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.96%	0.00%
<b>Solent &amp; Dorset Coast SPA</b>	Dibden Bay	98.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hythe to Calshot Marshes	0.00%	89.35%	10.65%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lee-on-the Solent to Itchen Estuary	73.40%	0.00%	26.60%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	North Solent	67.49%	19.32%	2.04%	11.14%	0.00%	0.00%
	Titchfield Haven	0.00%	96.48%	0.00%	3.52%	0.00%	0.00%
	Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods	89.50%	0.00%	2.76%	7.75%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Solent &amp; Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar</b>	Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges	32.18%	46.69%	9.32%	11.80%	0.00%	0.00%
	Eling and Bury Marshes	11.45%	0.00%	88.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary	21.46%	75.67%	0.00%	2.88%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hythe to Calshot Marshes	0.00%	89.35%	10.65%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	King's Quay Shore	95.19%	4.62%	0.00%	0.00%	0.20%	0.00%
	Lee-on-The Solent to Itchen Estuary	73.40%	0.00%	26.60%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lincegrove and Hackett's Marshes	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lower Test Valley	65.15%	34.85%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Lymington River Reedbeds	35.50%	64.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Medina Estuary	14.25%	0.00%	85.75%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Newtown Harbour	55.95%	9.16%	34.55%	0.35%	0.00%	0.00%
	North Solent	67.49%	19.32%	2.04%	11.14%	0.00%	0.00%
	River Test	17.91%	37.53%	43.52%	1.03%	0.00%	0.00%
	Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek	71.92%	22.25%	5.84%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Sowley Pond	66.62%	0.00%	33.38%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	The New Forest	54.68%	41.65%	2.11%	1.55%	0.00%	0.01%
	Thorness Bay	30.18%	0.00%	0.00%	69.82%	0.00%	0.00%
	Titchfield Haven	0.00%	96.48%	0.00%	3.52%	0.00%	0.00%
	Upper Hamble Estuary & Woods	89.50%	0.00%	2.76%	7.75%	0.00%	0.00%
	Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges	99.07%	0.00%	0.93%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Yar Estuary	31.52%	2.01%	66.47%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
<b>Thames Basin Heaths SPA</b>	Ash to Brookwood Heaths	90.50%	8.52%	0.97%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Bourley & Long Valley	0.86%	99.14%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Bramshill	99.94%	0.00%	0.06%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths	75.63%	23.83%	0.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons	26.67%	69.69%	0.81%	2.82%	0.00%	0.00%

	Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath	94.94%	4.39%	0.00%	0.67%	0.00%	0.00%
	Eelmoor Marsh	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Hazeley Heath	0.00%	96.11%	0.00%	3.89%	0.00%	0.00%
	Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Whitmoor Common	76.43%	22.24%	1.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Thursley, Hankley &amp; Frensham Commons SPA</b>	Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons	82.10%	17.90%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Thursley &amp; Ockley Bogs Ramsar</b>	Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons	82.10%	17.90%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA</b>	Bramshott & Ludshott Commons	4.10%	95.90%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Broxhead & Kingsley Commons	56.07%	43.93%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Devil's Punch Bowl	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Woolmer Forest	41.62%	58.38%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

## Appendix E: International site vulnerabilities & sensitivities

Site vulnerabilities for relevant SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are set out in Tables E.1, E.2 and E.3:

**Table E.1: Special Area of Conservation (SAC) vulnerabilities and sensitivities**

Name of site	SAC site vulnerabilities / sensitivities
Butser Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Butser Hill Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
Dorset Heathlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fragmentation and physical loss</li> <li>• Recreational pressure and a high incidence of wildfires</li> <li>• Affected by several old mineral extraction permissions, some still active</li> <li>• Lack of use for traditional agriculture</li> <li>• Undergrazing</li> <li>• Invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species, especially Rhododendron.</li> </ul>
East Hampshire Hangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Disease - Dutch elm</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
Emer Bog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix of acid and alkaline soil conditions</li> <li>• Water levels and hydrology (groundwater, rainwater or floodwater-fed)</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> </ul>
Great Yews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regeneration of the yew should be monitored</li> </ul>
Isle of Wight Downs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of scrub encroachment</li> <li>• Requires continuous management</li> <li>• Loss of grazing or an inappropriate grazing regime leads to a ranker sward and scrub encroachment.</li> <li>• Recreational pressure results in damage from trampling effects on parts of the site.</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs are vulnerable to cliff stabilisation schemes.</li> </ul>
Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spray and run-off from roads</li> <li>• Open, unshaded conditions required</li> <li>• Lack of adequate supply of high quality water</li> <li>• Inappropriate water levels</li> </ul>
Kennet Valley Alderwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critically dependent upon maintenance of constantly high groundwater levels</li> <li>• Favours maintenance of the characteristic alder woodland composition</li> </ul>
Kingley Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
Mottisfont Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable foraging habitat</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>

Prescombe Down	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergrazing- requires extensive grazing by sheep and cattle</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate management</li> </ul>
River Avon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Decreased flow velocities and increased siltation (especially affecting Ranunculus cover)</li> <li>• Increased abstractions</li> <li>• Combined effect of low flow with point sources of nutrient inputs producing localised increases in competitive plant growth</li> <li>• Inappropriate stocking with fish populations (intentional or accidental)</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation (as a refuge for fry and juvenile fish)</li> <li>• River channel workings leading to less natural form</li> <li>• Sediment oxygen availability</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in thermal regime</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in turbidity</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
River Itchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Decreased flow velocities and increased siltation (especially affecting Ranunculus cover)</li> <li>• Increased abstractions</li> <li>• Combined effect of low flow with point sources of nutrient inputs producing localised increases in competitive plant growth</li> <li>• Inappropriate stocking with fish populations (intentional or accidental)</li> <li>• Disease - crayfish plague</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable larval habitat (southern damselfly)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation (as a refuge for fry and juvenile fish)</li> <li>• River channel workings leading to less natural form</li> <li>• Sediment oxygen availability</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in thermal regime</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in turbidity</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
River Lambourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Localised higher water nutrient levels</li> <li>• Siltation problems are at present associated with sewage treatment works</li> </ul>
Rook Clift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease - Dutch elm</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
Salisbury Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
Shortheath Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix of acid and alkaline soil conditions</li> <li>• Soil compaction</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Water levels and hydrology (groundwater, rainwater or floodwater-fed)</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water level management</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Isolating barrier - presence and nature</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in turbidity</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in salinity</li> </ul>
Solent Maritime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water level management</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Changes in creek system pattern</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Isolating barrier - presence and nature</li> <li>• Sediment oxygen availability</li> <li>• Sedimentation regime</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical loss - smothering</li> <li>• Physical damage - siltation</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in thermal regime</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in turbidity</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in salinity</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> </ul>
South Wight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical loss - smothering</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in thermal regime</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in turbidity</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in salinity</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
The New Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix of acid and alkaline soil conditions</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil compaction</li> <li>• Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Water levels and hydrology (groundwater, rainwater or floodwater-fed)</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable larval habitat (southern damselfly)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable larval habitat (stag beetle)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation -burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• River channel workings leading to less natural form</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Cobham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix of acid and alkaline soil conditions</li> <li>• Soil compaction</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> </ul>
Woolmer Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix of acid and alkaline soil conditions</li> <li>• Soil compaction</li> <li>• Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Water levels and hydrology (groundwater, rainwater or floodwater-fed)</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> </ul>
Singleton and Cocking Tunnels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of suitable foraging habitat</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Physical disturbance</li> <li>• Physical barriers to flight lines</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>

**Table E.2: Special Protection Area (SPA) vulnerabilities and sensitivities**

Name of site	SPA site vulnerabilities / sensitivities
Avon Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water levels and hydrology (groundwater, rainwater or floodwater-fed)</li> <li>• Water level management</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Increased abstractions</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Obstruction to sight lines</li> <li>• Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water level management</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Changes in flow velocity</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable foraging habitat</li> <li>• Changes in creek system pattern</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Sedimentation regime</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical loss - smothering</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Toxic contamination – synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Obstruction to sight lines</li> <li>• Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
Dorset Heathlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
The New Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil compaction</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
Porton Down	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix of acid and alkaline soil conditions</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> </ul>
Portsmouth Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water level management</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Changes in flow velocity</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable foraging habitat</li> <li>• Changes in creek system pattern</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Sedimentation regime</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical loss - smothering</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Obstruction to sight lines</li> <li>• Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
Salisbury Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Robust grassland able to sustain considerable training pressure</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> </ul>
Southampton and Solent Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water level management</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Changes in flow velocity</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable foraging habitat</li> <li>• Changes in creek system pattern</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Sedimentation regime</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical loss - smothering</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Obstruction to sight lines</li> <li>• Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
Thames Basin Heaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergrazing and lack of traditional management practices</li> <li>• Heavily used for informal recreation</li> </ul>
Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water levels</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> </ul>
Wealden Heaths Phase II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>

**Table E.3: Ramsar vulnerabilities and sensitivities**

Name of site	Ramsar site vulnerabilities / sensitivities
Avon Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water levels and hydrology (groundwater, rainwater or floodwater-fed)</li> <li>• Decreased flow velocities and increased siltation (especially affecting Ranunculus cover)</li> <li>• Increased abstractions</li> <li>• Inappropriate stocking with fish populations (intentional or accidental)</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• Isolating barrier - presence and nature</li> <li>• Physical damage - siltation</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> </ul>
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water level management</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Changes in flow velocity</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable foraging habitat</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Sedimentation regime</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical loss - smothering</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Obstruction to sight lines</li> <li>• Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
Dorset Heathlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix of acid and alkaline soil conditions</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> </ul>
Portsmouth Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Sedimentation regime</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical loss - smothering</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Obstruction to sight lines</li> <li>• Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
Southampton and Solent Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Coastal defences / coastal squeeze</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Sedimentation regime</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical loss - smothering</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Obstruction to sight lines</li> <li>• Connectivity - between sheltering and foraging habitats</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
The New Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix of acid and alkaline soil conditions</li> <li>• Soil compaction</li> <li>• Below-average rainfall / drought</li> <li>• Water levels and hydrology (groundwater, rainwater or floodwater-fed)</li> <li>• Water depth (standing water - fresh water, brackish or saline)</li> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable larval habitat (southern damselfly)</li> <li>• Extent of suitable larval habitat (stag beetle)</li> <li>• Inappropriate control of vegetation - burning, grazing, mowing or clearing of deadwood</li> <li>• Succession</li> <li>• River channel workings leading to less natural form</li> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical damage - abrasion/erosion</li> <li>• Physical damage - selective extraction</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - noise</li> <li>• Non-physical disturbance - visual disturbance</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Toxic contamination - non-synthetic compounds</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in nutrient loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in organic loading</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - changes in mineral loading</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - microbial pathogens</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - non-native species, translocation or introduction</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> <li>• Height/density of vegetative cover (as bird refuge)</li> <li>• Food availability</li> </ul>
Thursley and Ockley Bogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and condition of habitat cover (including species composition, vegetative cover and characteristic communities)</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Predation - domestic animals</li> </ul>

## Appendix F: Correspondence from Natural England

Date: 28 June 2021  
Our ref: 355329 & 355335



Hampshire Planning Policy  
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Hampshire County Council  
**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
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Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Hampshire Planning Policy,

**Consultation:** Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Partial Update. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping & Baseline Report and Habitats Regulation Assessment Baseline & Methodology Report.

Thank you for your consultations on the above documents which were received on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

### SA Scoping and Baseline Report

#### Relevant Plans and Programmes

Natural England has not reviewed the plans within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. However, we advise that the following types of plans relating to the natural environment should be considered where applicable to your plan area;

- Green infrastructure strategies
- Biodiversity plans
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans
- Shoreline management plans
- Coastal access plans
- River basin management plans
- AONB and National Park management plans
- Relevant landscape plans and strategies

#### Designated Sites

At this stage we cannot identify particular sites which may be significantly affected by the Local Plan but suggest that the following designations, amongst others, are taken in to consideration when creating any future site allocations:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar Site
- National Park

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Site of 20 ha or more of best and most versatile agricultural land

### **Objectives and Indicators**

We particularly emphasise the importance of considering the enhancement and restoration of biodiversity and landscapes, as well as its protection and that of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. Natural England is supportive of the appraisal criteria under SA3 and SA5 for these purposes. The monitoring indicators for SA3 could go further to reflect these criteria e.g. including the number of permitted applications which generate adverse effects on sites of environmental importance and those which contribute to an enhancement to the ecological network/habitat connectivity.

We note that the proposed monitoring indicators under SA15 may not reflect all potential impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets which could be considered further, e.g. through considering informal footpaths and accessible spaces which may not be a Right of Way or in a current green/blue infrastructure strategy.

### **Habitats Regulation Assessment**

Natural England understands that the partial update to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan has potential to affect Habitats (European) sites, particularly as it may allocate proposed sites for development. We agree with the proposed methodology for assessing these impacts and advise that where likely significant effects are identified they are evaluated through a full Appropriate Assessment. The outcomes of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) should also inform future versions of the SA.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the HRA at future stages of the plan-making process, should the responsible authority seek our views on the subsequent stages.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Miranda Petty on [Miranda.petty@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Miranda.petty@naturalengland.org.uk) or 02082 258045. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

Miranda Petty  
Thames Solent Team  
Sustainable Development

A summary of this document can be made available in large print, in Braille or audio cassette. Copies in other languages may also be obtained. Please contact Hampshire County Council by email [HMWP.consult@hants.gov.uk](mailto:HMWP.consult@hants.gov.uk) or by calling 01962 846746.