

Appendix 9 HRA findings of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the Island Planning Strategy

European Site	Impact Type	Mitigation Requirement	IPS Mitigation Provision	HRA Conclusion
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	Physical damage and loss - onsite	Recommended that the following safeguard measures are implemented: There should be a commitment in the Local Plan to ensure that development is avoided within the European sites. Where development is proposed within the European sites, then a project-level HRA will be required to demonstrate no adverse effect on the integrity of these European sites.	EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement; <i>Development should be located away from the most sensitive locations in accordance with the following hierarchy of nature conservation designations (as shown on the Policies Map):</i> <i>International</i> <i>National</i> <i>Local</i> <i>Development proposals will only be permitted in the most sensitive locations in accordance with the hierarchy if it can be clearly demonstrated that the integrity of the national site network will not be adversely affected, other than in exceptional circumstances relating to overriding public interest.</i> <i>The loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats will not be permitted except in wholly exceptional cases and then only when a suitable compensation strategy is provided.</i>	Provided that the policy mitigation is incorporated into the plan and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, as a result of impacts from physical habitat damage and loss will be avoided.
Briddlesford Copses SAC	Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land (offsite)	Recommended that the following safeguard measures are implemented at the project level: Bat surveys will be required for any development coming forward within 3km of	All sites identified have received planning permission, with P/00164/17: Land at Ryde House under construction. However, should these planning permissions lapse then the mitigation detailed in the HRA will be required. This should be detailed in Appendix 3 of the IPS in relation to site specific requirements. EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which outlines protection measures	Provided that the policy mitigation is incorporated into the plan and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Briddlesford Copses SAC, as a result of impacts from physical habitat damage and loss will be avoided.

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		<p>the SAC to determine the individual and cumulative importance of woodland habitat for this species and inform mitigation proposals.</p> <p>A commitment to mitigation is required within the plan dependent on the findings of bat surveys. If required, mitigation will need to ensure the avoidance of ancient woodland habitat loss, which is irreplaceable habitat, and the creation and enhancement of woodland habitat for this species.</p>	<p>for European sites and provides specific detail on the protection of irreplaceable habitat, such as ancient woodland and EV5: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows, which states:</p> <p><i>"The council recognises the wider benefits of trees, woodlands and hedgerows and therefore development proposals will be supported where they:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. propose on or off-site tree planting, using the Council Tree Planting and Management Strategy as a guide to planting the right type of tree in the right place.</i> <i>ii. Retain trees, woodlands and hedges on site wherever possible, especially where they are of high amenity.</i> <i>iii. Avoid direct and indirect harmful impacts on trees, woodlands and hedges, and where this is not possible mitigation should be provided.</i> <i>iv. Provide a minimum 15 metre buffer between new development and ancient woodland (where relevant). Where assessment shows impacts will extend beyond 15 metres, larger buffers will be required, and any buffer should contribute to wider ecological networks and become part of the green infrastructure for the area;"</i> 	
Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar / Solent and	Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land (offsite)	Recommended that the following safeguard measures are implemented at the project level:	The following sites have received planning permission, including P/00328/18: Off Hawthorn Meadow, Saunders Way and HA060: Westridge Cross Dairy and land to the north of Bullen Road. However, should these planning permissions lapse then the mitigation detailed in the HRA will be	Provided that the above mitigation measures are incorporated into the plan, and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and Solent and Dorset

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Dorset Coast SPA		<p>Wintering or and breeding bird surveys are required for sites with high or moderate suitability to support these qualifying bird species to determine their individual and cumulative importance for these species and inform mitigation proposals.</p> <p>A commitment to mitigation is required within the plan, dependent on the findings of bird surveys. In the unlikely but possible event that cumulative numbers of SPA and Ramsar birds affected are likely to exceed thresholds of significance (i.e. >1% of the population of associated European Site), appropriate mitigation in the form of habitat creation and management in perpetuity, either on-site</p>	<p>required. This should be detailed in Appendix 3 of the plan in relation to site specific requirements. Core areas, which are vital for the function of this ecological network and have been identified by the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy will be protected by the policy wording in EV2 Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement in the plan through the following wording:</p> <p><i>"Development should be located away from the most sensitive locations in accordance with the following hierarchy of nature conservation designations...Development proposals will only be permitted in the most sensitive locations in accordance with the hierarchy if it can be clearly demonstrated that the integrity of the national site network will not be adversely affected, other than in exceptional circumstances relating to overriding public interest."</i></p> <p>This is supported by the following supporting text:</p> <p><i>"All designated sites form some of the Island's environmental assets and are shown individually on the Policies Map. These comprise of SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites.... and also include the core areas identified in the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020. Development will be steered away from these locations to ensure the most environmentally sensitive areas are protected. Any plan or development which is considered to have a likely significant effect upon a European and/or Ramsar site will be subject to an</i></p>	Coast SPA, as a result of offsite damage and loss of habitat will be avoided.

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		or through provision of strategic sites for these species elsewhere on the Island, will be required. If required, mitigation will need to create and manage suitably located habitat which maximises feeding productivity for these SPA and Ramsar species, and such mitigatory habitat would need to be provided and be fully functional prior to development which would affect significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar birds.	<p><i>Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations Assessment in order to ascertain whether an adverse effect on the site integrity can be excluded. Such development and may be required to demonstrate no adverse effect on integrity through a project level Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) considering any avoidance, mitigation or compensatory measures."</i></p> <p>Policy EV3: Recreation Impact on the Solent Marine Sites states:</p> <p><i>"Any development resulting in the loss of areas identified in the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy will be required to deliver appropriate alternative areas with sufficient funding in place to secure and maintain these alternative areas in perpetuity."</i></p> <p>In addition to this, policies within the plan will provide safeguards and mitigation measures from physical damage and loss of habitats. This includes: EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, EV13: Managing our Water Resources, EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development and EV16: Managing our Coast.</p>	
Briddlesford Copses SAC	Non-physical disturbance	Appropriate mitigation measures will be required.	The plan includes wording in EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which specifies that:	Provided that the policy wording is incorporated into the plan, and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Briddlesford Copses SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA,
Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site	Non-physical disturbance	Sites identified in the HRA will require appropriate mitigation measures as detailed to ensure no adverse effects	"Development proposals will only be permitted in the most sensitive locations in accordance with the hierarchy if it can be clearly demonstrated that the integrity of the national site network will not be adversely affected, other than in exceptional	

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		on integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site.	circumstances relating to overriding public interest.	as a result of non-physical disturbance of habitat will be avoided.
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA		Due to the proximity of these proposed site allocations to the SPA, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity.	<p>The loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats will not be permitted except in wholly exceptional cases and then only when a suitable compensation strategy is provided.</p> <p>There are a number of habitats and features outside of designated sites that make a significant contribution to local biodiversity. Development proposals are expected to promote the maintenance and enhancement of the links between designated sites and to positively contribute to the aims and objectives of the Biodiversity Action Plans.</p> <p>Development proposals should demonstrate how they have considered the ecological network on the Island (as shown on the Policies Map) and have responded to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)"</p> <p>In addition to this, any sites that have been identified to contribute to and are classified as part of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy network will be required to provide mitigation that is in line with the requirements of the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy mitigation guidance .</p>	
Briddlesford Copses SAC	Air pollution	Potential for impacts to arise from increased air pollution to ancient woodland habitat located within the 3km CSZ of the	Broad mitigation measures outlined in the current AQA include planning measures such as encouraging the use of electric cars, traffic management and investment in public transport.	Following consultation with Natural England on the HRA of the Regulation 18 Island Planning Strategy, impacts from increased air pollution from the plan are considered unlikely to result

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		SAC and which lie within 200m of the primary road network. This includes New Copse, Elenors Grove and Lushington Copse, which lie immediately adjacent to the A3054.	This is being delivered through plan policies as detailed below. Policies already contained within the Plan will provide a degree of mitigation. These include T1: Supporting Sustainable Transport, T2: A Better Connected Island and T5: Electric Vehicle Charging. These policies encourage the reduction and use of sustainable transport to minimise impacts from vehicle emission. In addition, policy EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement provides safeguards and mitigation.	in adverse effects on the integrity of Briddlesford Copses SAC, taking into account mitigation already provided by the Plan, and therefore no further assessment is required to determine the impact to the SAC.
Isle of Wight Downs SAC	Recreation pressure	The SAC is subject to high levels of pedestrian visitors, which is particularly affecting the calcareous grassland habitat through trampling and erosion, as well as from nutrient enrichment from dogs being walked within the site. A review of site allocations proposed as part of the plan identified 757 new dwellings proposed within 7km of the SAC.	Provision of alternative natural green space and green infrastructure (GI) represents an important aspect of mitigation for non-coastal European sites, such as Isle of Wight Downs SAC. Therefore, the strategic approach to incorporating protective measures specified in the plan is considered likely to provide an effective contribution in mitigating significant effects associated with recreation. This mitigation is provided in the plan through Policy EV6 Protecting and Providing Green and Open Spaces. Site specific planning applications, especially larger ones in proximity to these European sites, will need to consider the requirement to undertake project level HRA, and where appropriate would be expected to incorporate necessary safeguards in line with the policy safeguards included within the plan. Detail of this requirement is outlined in policy EV2 Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement.	No adverse effect on integrity as a result of increased recreational pressure in relation to all European sites provided that the following safeguards and mitigation measures are required by the plan and successfully implemented. This includes: Provision of Open Spaces. Project-level HRA, where site allocations are proposed in close proximity to these European sites. Financial Contribution / Developer-led Mitigation Scheme for the Solent European Sites. Watercraft – Code of Conduct.
Solent and Southampton Water SPA		A review of site allocations proposed as part of the plan identified		

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and Ramsar site		<p>the following number of proposed dwellings within the ZOI of each of the European sites: Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar: 5390new dwellings. This includes proposed development at West Wight Regeneration Area, West Medina Regeneration Area, Newport Regeneration Area, East Medina Regeneration Area, Ryde Regeneration Area and the Bay Regeneration Area.</p>	<p>Development proposals that will result in a net gain of residential housing within 5.6km of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar will be required to provide mitigation through either a financial contribution or a developer- led mitigation scheme that achieves the requirements of the Bird Aware Solent Strategy. The level of financial contribution will be subject to the net increase in residential housing proposed. This mitigation is provided in the plan through Policy EV3 Recreation Impact on the Solent European Sites.</p> <p>Water-based recreational activities have the potential impact coastal and marine habitats. These activities can be difficult to manage and monitor the location and frequency of these activities because they are less predictable and take place in inaccessible locations. As a result, it is recommended that the most appropriate means of reducing the frequency and severity of such activities is by promoting a Code of Conduct and encouraging increased self-regulation from participants. This is being delivered as part of the Bird Aware Solent Strategy through rangers who are present on site.</p>	
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA		<p>Impacts from recreation are considered to be primarily restricted to water-based activities.</p>	<p>Policies in the plan already provide some safeguards and mitigation from recreational impacts. These include: EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which provides safeguards and mitigation to European protected sites, and EV3 Recreation Impact on the Solent</p>	

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			Marine Sites and EV6 Protecting and Providing Green and Open Spaces, which provide the mechanism for providing mitigation in the plan.	
European sites that are hydrologically connected to the WRZ	Water quantity	The Hampshire South and Isle of Wight WRZ's are at risk of large supply deficits and as such will require appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures to ensure that there is no adverse effects on integrity to European sites that are hydrologically connected to the WRZ.	Policies detailed within the plan will provide, to some degree, safeguards and a level of mitigation to European sites. This includes EV2: Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement, which outlines protection measure to European designated sites, and EV13: Managing our Water Resources, EV14: Managing Flood Risk in New Development and EV15: Monkton Mead Catchment Area, which outline safeguards and mitigation measures specifically in relation to management of water resources and preventing flooding.	Provided that the policy wording incorporated into the plan is implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Solent Maritime SAC, South Wight Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons, Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and River Itchen SAC, as a result of impacts from water quantity on habitat will be avoided.
WwTW that discharge into the Solent European sites and/or waterbodies that subsequently discharge into these designated sites	Water quality	Proposed development as part of the plan on the Isle of Wight has the potential to contribute to increased levels of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Solent causing eutrophication of the European sites.	EV4 Water Quality Impact on Solent Marine Sites, which specifically addresses the potential impacts to water quality in the Solent from nutrient enrichment that may arise from proposed development in the plan. In addition, the Isle of Wight Council has prepared a position statement ¹ on this issue that sets out the Council's approach to both new housing development being proposed on the island and island land being used to offset mainland development. This position statement has been agreed with Natural England and will be regularly	Provided that the mitigation is incorporated into the plan, and implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site and Solent, Dorset Coast SPA Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar site and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of impacts from water quality of habitat will be avoided.

¹ Isle of Wight Council, Isle of Wight Council Position Statement: Nitrogen neutral housing development

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			reviewed and updated to reflect any changes on this issue.	