

The East Hampshire District Local Plan

Consultation Draft Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Screening Statement - Determination under Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Screening Statement – Determination under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

Final Determination

October 2017



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This statement sets out the Council's determination under Regulation 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for the 'Consultation Draft Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- 1.2 This statement also sets out the Council's determination as to whether Appropriate Assessment is required under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.3 Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive)) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) specific types of plans that set out the framework for future development consent of projects must be subject to an environmental assessment.
- 1.4 There are exceptions to this requirement for plans that determine the use of a small area at a local level and for minor modifications if it has been determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.5 In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (Regulation 9(1)), the Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment. Where the Council determines that SEA is not required then under Regulation 9(3) the Council must prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination. The need for SEA is considered under Section 3 of this report.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.6 Under separate legislation (the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated Regulations), the Council is required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for all Development Plan Documents. This considers the social and economic impacts of a plan as well as the environmental impacts.
- 1.7 In accordance with current Regulations (Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012) SA is not required to be carried out for SPD. However, despite this, it is still necessary to determine the need for SEA.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.8 Habitats Regulations Assessment is required to determine whether a plan or project would have significant adverse effects upon the integrity of internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance, or Natura 2000 sites. The need for HRA is set out within the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EC and transposed into British Law by Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. In accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 the District Council must determine if a plan requires Appropriate Assessment. Section 4 of this report deals with the need for Habitats Regulation Assessment.

2. Scope of the 'Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area' SPD

2.1 The scope of the SPD is to provide guidance for applicants where development proposals will result in a net increase in residential development (including Traveller Accommodation and affordable housing in rural areas) within 400 metres of the Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area (SPA). It sets out the approach that the Council and the South Downs National Park Authority will take to help meet the needs for these specific residential uses where the need cannot be met solely outside of the 400 metre buffer zone.

2.2 The SPD will elaborate upon policies CP14: Affordable Housing in Rural Communities, CP15: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and CP22: Internationally Designated Sites of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (adopted June 2014) and applies to the whole of the District including the area within the South Downs National Park Authority.

2.3 The SPD will include the following:

- Information and evidence to support the need to safeguard the remaining capacity for specific types of residential accommodation (Traveller Accommodation and Affordable Housing in rural areas) within 400 metres of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA.

3. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The SEA Screening Process

- 3.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. In order to screen, it is necessary to determine if a plan will have significant environmental effects using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations. A determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted: The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.
- 3.2 Within 28 days of making its determination the authority must publish a statement such as this one, setting out its decision. If it determines that an SEA is not required, the statement must include the reasons for this.

SEA Determination and Reasons for Determination

- 3.3 Before making a determination under Regulation 9 the three consultation bodies were consulted. The responses received are as set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Comments received by Consultation bodies

| Consultation Body | Comments |
|---|---|
| Environment Agency Date responded 28 th November 2017 | We agree with your conclusion paragraph 3.5 – and that the ‘Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area’ SPD is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. |
| Historic England Date responded 20 th November 2017 | Having considered the content and purpose of the Draft Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA Supplementary Planning Document, Historic England concurs with the District Council’s (and National Park Authority’s) opinion that the Draft SPD is unlikely to have any significant (historic) environmental effects and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. |
| Natural England Date responded 29 th November 2017 | By requiring the applications that fall within the Safeguarding Criteria in this SPD to be tested through individual Habitat Regulations Assessments. This SPD contains sufficient safeguards for the protection of the European designated sites. |

Table 2 - SEA Screening for the Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area SPD

| Criteria (from Annex II) of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations) | EHDC Comments |
|---|--|
| Characteristics of the plan or programme | |
| a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regards to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. | The Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA SPD sits at the lowest tier of the development plan system. It offers specific guidance to implement Policy CP22 (Internationally Designated Sites) of the Joint Core Strategy and is relevant to Policy CP14 Affordable Housing for Rural Communities and Policy CP15 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. |
| b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy. | The SPD is an implementation tool for delivering already adopted development plan policies at a higher tier (the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy) which have already been subject to SA/SEA. |
| c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development. | <p>The SPD sets out the need to safeguard specific types of residential development within 400 metres of the SPA until such time as the agreed limit has been met.</p> <p>Any development proposals will still need to be tested through the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>In this respect, the SPD encourages and promotes sustainable development and does not have a significant environmental impact on environmental considerations.</p> |
| d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme. | The SPD is an implementation tool for delivering already adopted development plan policies at a higher tier which have already been subject to SA/SEA. |
| e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community (EU) legislation on the environment (for example plans | Under the EU Habitats Directive which is transposed into British law and is known as the UK Habitats Regulations, the SPD links to the adopted Joint Core Strategy: Habitats Regulations Assessment (July 2013) and the |

| Criteria (from Annex II) of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations) | EHDC Comments |
|--|---|
| and programmes linked to waste management or water protection). | 'Potential for altering the number of new dwellings allowed within 400m of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA (AECOM, November 2015). |
| Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected | |
| a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects. | <p>The SPD will not in itself set out or bring forward development plans or projects. It sets out guidance for how the Council and the South Downs National Park Authority will interpret aspects of its strategic policies in its JCS: policies CP14, CP15 and CP22.</p> <p>The SPD should provide positive effects.</p> |
| b) The cumulative nature of the effects | The SPD is not anticipated to have any significant cumulative effects. Cumulative effects are addressed in the Joint Core Strategy: HRA. With regard to individual proposals, cumulative effects will be addressed through their HRAs. |
| c) The transboundary nature of the effects | The SPD considers effects within 400 metres of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA covering East Hampshire District (including the areas in the South Downs National Park). |
| d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) | The SPD presents no direct risks to human health or the environment. |
| e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) | The SPD will cover the area of East Hampshire District (including the areas in the South Downs National Park). |
| f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ii) Exceeding environmental | The SPD is an implementation tool for delivering already adopted development plan policies at a higher tier (the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy) which have already been subject to SA/SEA. |

| Criteria (from Annex II) of SEA Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations) | EHDC Comments |
|---|--|
| quality standards or limit values; ii) Intensive land-use | Development proposals will need to be consistent with Policy CP22 and tested through the Habitats Regulations. |
| g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, community or international protection status. | <p>The SPD is an implementation tool for delivering already adopted development plan policies at a higher tier (the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy) which have already been subject to SA/SEA.</p> <p>In line with Policy CP22 any development proposals will still need to be tested through the Habitats Regulations.</p> |

Other Considerations

3.4 In reviewing these criteria and coming to a conclusion, the Council has also had regard to the following:

- The SPD does not present new policies but seeks to clarify the Council's and the South Downs National Park Authority's approach to meeting the needs for residential uses where the need cannot be met solely outside of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA 400 metre buffer zone (specifically Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation and rural affordable housing exception sites).

SEA Conclusion

3.5 Having regard to the considerations above, the Council considers that the 'Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area' SPD is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

3.6 This determination was made on **16th October 2017**.

4 Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

4.1 This part of the report seeks to determine whether the Council's policies and proposals set out in the 'Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area' SPD will have any significant impacts on nearby Natura 2000 sites.

- 4.2 This SPD will support Policy CP22 (Internationally Designated Sites) in the adopted East Hampshire District: Joint Core Strategy. The Joint Core Strategy was subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment which was prepared in consultation with Natural England. The SPD is also further supported by evidence produced in 2015 which reassessed the windfall allowance within 400 metres of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA (AECOM, November 2015). This further guidance is also supported by Natural England. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of plans and/or projects against the conservation objectives of a European site. The assessment must determine whether the plan and / or project would adversely affect the integrity of the site in terms of its conservation objectives. Where adverse effects are identified these effects should be avoided or mitigated.
- 4.3 The Appropriate Assessment stage of HRA is only required should the preliminary screening assessment not be able to rule out likely significant effect.
- 4.4 The Directive states that any plan or project not connected to or necessary for a sites management, but likely to have significant effect thereon shall be subject to appropriate assessment. There are 4 distinct stages in HRA namely:

Step 1: Screening – Identification of likely impacts on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans/projects and consideration of whether these are significant. This can include the consideration of avoidance measures.

Step 2: Appropriate Assessment – consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects with respect to the sites structure, function and conservation objectives. Where there are significant effects, step 2 should consider potential mitigation measures.

Step 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions – Assessing alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan/project which avoid impacts; and

Step 4: Assessment of Compensatory Measures – Identification of compensatory measures should impact not be avoided and no alternative solutions exist and an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) deems that a project should proceed.

- 4.5 Should screening (step 1) reveal that significant effects are likely or effect cannot be discounted because of uncertainty, then it is necessary to move onto step 2: Appropriate Assessment. If step 2 cannot rule out significant effect even with mitigation, then the process moves onto step 3 and finally step 4 if no alternative solutions arise.

Step 1 - Screening

- 4.6 There are four stages to consider in a screening exercise:

Stage 1: Determining whether the plan/project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site;

Stage 2: Describing the plan/project and description of other plan/projects that have the potential for in-combination impacts;

Stage 3: Identifying potential effects on the European site(s); and

Stage 4: Assessing the significance of any effects

Stage 1

- 4.7 It can be determined that the 'Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA' SPD is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of the site.

Stages 2 to 4

- 4.8 Information about the scope of the SPD can be found in Section 2 of this document. Table 3 overleaf identifies the European sites assessed through the East Hampshire District Joint Core Strategy HRA process as having the potential to have some likely significant effect and identifies the significance of possible effects from the 'Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA' SPD. The SPD supports Core Strategy policies (already subject to a full HRA) and will not identify any new policies or levels of development.

Table 3: Significant Effects Matrix for the Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area SPD

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>East Hampshire Hangers SAC</p> <p>Contains the Habitats Directive Annex I habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, including important orchid sites • Beech forests on neutral to rich soils: the site is extremely rich in terms of vascular plants; • Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes • Dry grasslands or scrublands on chalk or | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low nutrient runoff from surrounding land • Maintenance of grazing • Controlled off-track recreational activity (i.e. trampling) • Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition may cause reduction in diversity, sulphur deposition can cause acidification) • Absence of direct fertilisation • Well-drained soils | <p>None</p> | <p>Potential effects from the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) development on urbanisation, recreational disturbance and air pollution were assessed and the JCS HRA concludes that it has been possible to determine that significant urbanisation, recreation and air quality effects on the East Hampshire Hangers SAC as a result of Joint Core Strategy development are unlikely.</p> | <p>Not specifically arising from the SPD.</p> <p>In combination effects have been subject to appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy</p> |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>limestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yew-dominated woodland <p>The site contains the Habitats Directive Annex II species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i>, | | | | |
| <p>Shortheath Common SAC</p> <p>The site contains the Habitats Directive Annex I habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface: this habitat forms the focal point of the SAC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful management of water levels; • Good air quality; • Careful management of recreational activity. | None | Potential effects from the Joint Core Strategy development on urbanisation, recreational disturbance, air pollution and water quality were assessed and the JCS HRA concludes that significant effects on Shortheath Common SAC as a result of Joint Core Strategy development are inherently unlikely, other | <p>Not specifically arising from the SPD.</p> <p>In combination effects have been subject to appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy</p> |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry heaths • Bog woodland | | | <p>than recreational and air quality effects arising from Whitehill & Bordon and these will be rendered unlikely through the implementation of the recommendations generated by the Whitehill & Bordon HRA.</p> | |
| <p>Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA and Woolmer Forest SAC</p> <p>Wealden Heaths Phase 2 qualifies as a SPA for its breeding bird species. The site contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.3% of the British breeding population of nightjar • 2.5% of the British breeding population of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate management • Management of disturbance during breeding season • Minimal air pollution • Absence or control of urbanisation effects, such as fires and introduction of invasive non-native Species | None | <p>Potential effects from the Joint Core Strategy development on urbanisation, recreational disturbance, air pollution and water quality were assessed and appropriate mitigation provided in the JCS.</p> <p>Further work commissioned by East Hampshire District Council reassessed the windfall allowance within 400 metres of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. The results of this work</p> | <p>Not specifically arising from the SPD.</p> <p>In combination effects have been subject to appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy</p> |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>woodlark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1% of the British breeding population of Dartford warbler <p>The SAC interest features of Woolmer Forest are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds • Dry heaths • Depressions on peat substrates • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of appropriate water levels • Maintenance of water quality | | <p>demonstrated that the windfall allowance could be increased to 43 dwellings (AECOM, November 2015).</p> <p>In line with Policy CP22 any development proposals as a result of the SPD will need to be individually tested through the Habitats Regulations.</p> | |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 'quaking' surface | | | | |
| <p>Butser Hill SAC</p> <p>The site contains the Habitats Directive Annex I habitats of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone: the richest terricolous lichen flora of any chalk grassland site in England. • Yew-dominated woodland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of grazing • Minimal air pollution – nitrogen deposition may cause reduction in diversity, sulphur deposition can cause acidification • Absence of direct fertilisation • Well-drained soils Controlled recreational pressure • No spray-drift (i.e. eutrophication) from surrounding intensive arable land. | None | Potential effects from the Joint Core Strategy development on recreational pressure and air quality were assessed and appropriate mitigation provided in the JCS. | <p>Not specifically arising from the SPD.</p> <p>In combination effects have been subject to appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy</p> |
| Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of grazing and other traditional | None | Potential effects from the Joint Core Strategy | Not specifically arising from the SPD. |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>(Wealden Heaths Phase 1) SPA, Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham SAC and Thursley & Ockley Bogs Ramsar site</p> <p>Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons SPA is designated for its breeding bird populations, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.6% of the British breeding population of nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> • 1.8% of the British breeding population of woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i> • 1.3% of the British breeding population of Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia</i> | <p>management practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Un-fragmented habitat • Minimal recreational pressure and a low incidence of wildfires; • Maintenance of water levels. | | <p>development on urbanisation, recreational disturbance, recreational pressure, water resources and air quality were assessed and appropriate mitigation provided in the JCS.</p> | <p>In combination effects have been subject to appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy</p> |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p><i>undata</i></p> <p>Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham qualifies as a SAC for its habitats. The site contains the Habitats Directive Annex I habitats of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath • Dry heaths: This site contains a series of large fragments of once-continuous heathland • Depressions on peat substrates | | | | |
| <p>Solent European Sites</p> <p>Solent Maritime qualifies as</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed | None | Potential effects from the Joint Core Strategy on water quality, water resource and | Not specifically arising from the SPD. |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>a SAC for both habitats and species. Firstly, the site contains the following Habitats Directive Annex I habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Cord-grass swards • Atlantic salt meadows • Subtidal sandbanks • Intertidal mudflats and sandflats • Lagoons (coastal lagoons) • Annual vegetation of drift lines | <p>retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats. • Unpolluted water. • Absence of nutrient enrichment. • Absence of non-native species. • Maintenance of freshwater inputs. • Balance of saline and non-saline conditions. • Maintenance of grazing. | | <p>air quality effects are unlikely to occur and that the Council's ongoing commitment to the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy will enable adequate strategic mitigation to be delivered for recreational pressure.</p> | <p>In combination effects have been subject to appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy</p> |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves • Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Shifting dunes with marram <p>Secondly, the site contains the following Habitats Directive Annex II species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> • Portsmouth Harbour qualifies as a SPA for its passage bird species. The site contains: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze. • Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource for Brent goose. | | | |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dark-bellied Brent Goose | | | | |
| <p>Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC</p> <p>The Solent and Isle of Wight lagoons qualifies as a SAC for the following Habitats Directive Annex I habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lagoons: for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salinity is the key water quality parameter for these lagoons. Therefore the relative balance of saltwater to freshwater inputs is critical. At the moment, most of these lagoons are considered to have a salt concentration that is below the desirable level (15 – 40%). • Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze. • No dredging or land-claim of coastal habitats. | None | Potential effects from the Joint Core Strategy development on water quality and water resources are unlikely to occur. | <p>Not specifically arising from the SPD.</p> <p>In combination effects have been subject to appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy</p> |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpolluted water. • Absence of nutrient enrichment. • Absence of non-native species. | | | |
| <p>River Itchen SAC</p> <p>The River Itchen qualifies as a SAC for both habitats and species. Firstly, the site contains the Habitats Directive Annex I habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water crowfoot: The Itchen is a classic example of a sub-type 1 chalk river. <p>Secondly, the SAC also contains the following</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of flow velocities - low flows interact with nutrient inputs from point sources to produce localised increases in filamentous algae and nutrient-tolerant macrophytes at the expense of <i>Ranunculus</i>. • Low levels of siltation, • Unpolluted water and low nutrient inputs. | None | Potential effects from the Joint Core Strategy development on water resources are unlikely to occur. | <p>Not specifically arising from the SPD.</p> <p>In combination effects have been subject to appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the adopted East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy</p> |

| Site description/Qualifying Features | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the SPD | Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc. | Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects arising from the SPD |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Annex II species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern damselfly • Bullhead • White-clawed crayfish • Otter • Atlantic salmon • Brook lamprey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of grazing pressure is essential for Southern damselfly habitat. | | | |

HRA Screening Conclusion

4.9 On the basis of the above and having regard to the scope of the 'Joint Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area' SPD and the considerations set out in paragraph 3.5 of this report, the Council considers that the SPD will not have a significant adverse effect on any Natura 2000 sites and that a full appropriate assessment is therefore not required. The SPD will support the delivery of Joint Core Strategy Policies CP14, CP15 and CP22 which have been subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment, including of any in-combination effects with other plans and/or projects.

Date of Determination

4.10 This determination was made on **30th November 2017**.