UE ASSOCIATES

# Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Isle of Wight Local Transport Plan 3: Volume 2

## Site Descriptions, Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives

November 2010

# Habitats Regulations Assessments for The Isle of Wight LTP3: Volume 2

## Site Descriptions, Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives

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# CONTENTS

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# Chapter I: Introduction

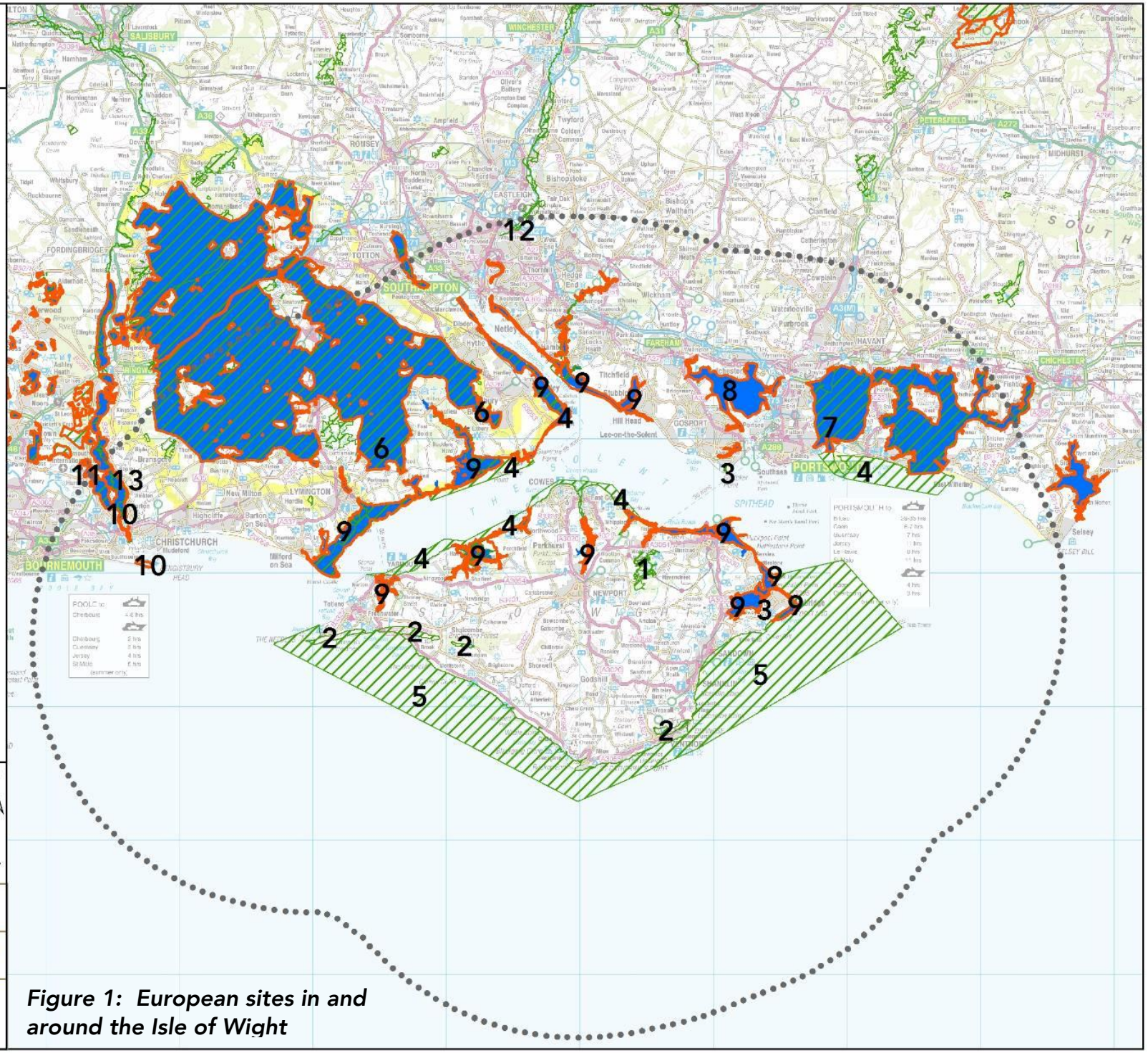
## 1.1 Purpose of this Document

This document has been prepared by UE Associates on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council. It supports the HRA process by presenting information about all Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites within 20km of the Isle of Wight. The sites are collectively referred to as European sites, and the following information is presented for each:

- An ecological description of the designated area;
- The qualifying features of the site (the reasons for which the site was designated);
- The site's conservation objectives, where available; and
- Key environmental conditions that support the site's integrity.

The document accompanies the HRA Screening Statement for the Isle of Wight LTP3 and cross-refers to **Chapter Three** of the report.

# European Sites within 20km of the Isle of Wight

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| Scale | Date |
|---|---|
| 1:182,500 | June '10 |
| **Created by** | **Reviewed by** |
| HLG | ND |

**Drawing Number**
UE-0076_European Sites_2_090610HG

*Figure 1: European sites in and around the Isle of Wight*

# Chapter II: Ecological descriptions

| Site | Type | Site Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Briddlesford Copses** | SAC | The Briddlesford Copse complex of woodlands represents the most varied, structurally diverse and species-rich cluster of ancient broadleaved woodland on the Isle of Wight and supports an important breeding population of the rare Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*. The bats use holes and crevices in mature trees for roosting and the interconnecting woodlands for feeding. |
| **Dorset Heaths** | SAC | This is a complex site which includes 37 SSSIs, most of which include fine transitions between European dry heaths and wet lowland heathland and mires, as well as other habitats such as woodland, grassland, pools, saltmarsh and reedswamp. The common characteristics of the Erica tetralix – Sphagnum compactum wet heaths are the dominance of cross-leaved heath Erica tetralix, heather Calluna vulgaris and purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea, and the presence of a diverse group of rare species. These include Dorset heath Erica ciliaris (which readily hybridises with E. tetralix), white beak-sedge Rhynchospora alba, brown beak-sedge R. fusca, marsh gentian Gentiana pneumonanthe, great, round- and oblong-leaved sundews Drosera anglica, D. rotundifolia and D. intermedia, and marsh clubmoss Lycopodiella inundata. Typical mosses of the wet heath include Sphagnum compactum, S. pulchrum and S. tenellum. These sites are a stronghold for invertebrates, particularly dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies and spiders, including the Annex II species Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale. Within the UK, some of these invertebrates are restricted to the Dorset heaths.<br>This site displays fine transitions between Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, dry heaths and other habitats. Dry heath NVC types include H2 Calluna vulgaris – Ulex minor, H3 Ulex minor – Agrostis curtisii, H4 Ulex gallii – Agrostis curtisii and H8 Calluna vulgaris – Ulex gallii. The area of heathland has been reduced and fragmented, with about 86% lost since the mid- 18th century. However, the Dorset heaths represent some of the biggest and finest remaining areas of lowland heathland in the UK. The dry heath occurs on very infertile soils and is not very diverse botanically, but occasionally some nationally scarce plants occur, such as mossy stonecrop Crassula tillaea and yellow centaury Cicendia filiformis. In places, where heather occurs in mature stands, lichens of the genus Cladonia are very abundant. Uncommon features of the south-eastern heathlands are the localised presence of bilberry Vaccinium myrtillus and the co-existence in some areas of western gorse Ulex gallii and dwarf gorse U. minor. The dry heaths support populations of European importance of several species, including rare butterflies (e.g. silver-studded blue Plebejus argus), grasshoppers and spiders. Among birds, the dry heath is very important for woodlark Lullula arborea, nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus, Dartford warbler Sylvia undata and some migrants such as hen harrier Circus cyaneus and Eurasian hobby Falco |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
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| | | subbuteo. All six species of native British reptiles, including the Annex IV species sand lizard Lacerta agilis and smooth snake Coronella austriaca, occur within the Dorset Heaths.<br>The two Dorset Heaths cSACs, together with the New Forest, support a large proportion of the resource of depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion within England. The habitat is widespread on the Dorset Heaths, both in bog pools of valley mires and in flushes. There are numerous valley mires within the Dorset Heaths, and the habitat type is most extensively represented here as part of a habitat mosaic. This location shows extensive representation of brown-beak sedge and is also important for great sundew and bog orchid Hammarbya paludosa. This site in south-west England, along with Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) and Studland Dunes, represents the Dorset stronghold of southern damselfly. The large size of the two cSACs, and a long history of records indicating well-established populations, should ensure the future viability of the small populations that occur here. |
| **Isle of Wight Downs** | SAC | The Isle of Wight Downs represents one of the best examples of chalk grassland in the south of England under maritime influence. The exposed and weathered cliff tops provide a range of sheltered and exposed conditions. The most exposed chalk cliff tops support important assemblages of nationally rare lichens, including Fulgensia fulgens. The western end of the site adjoins the cliffs of the South Wight Maritime cSAC. Here, species-rich calcareous grassland vegetation is present on the cliff tops. The instability and maritime influence has altered the chalk grassland vegetation to include maritime species such as yellow horned-poppy Glaucium flavum, rock samphire Crithmum maritimum, wild cabbage Brassica oleracea, and buck's-horn plantain Plantago coronopus, together with calcareous grassland species such as common restharrow Ononis repens, wild carrot Daucus carota, carline thistle Carlina vulgaris and lesser hawkbit Leontodon saxatilis. This site represents an uncommon transition from chalk grassland species to sea cliff vegetation, which can include the Annex II species Early gentian Gentianella anglica.<br>This site comprises tracts of semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) together with areas of dry heath belonging to NVC type H2 Calluna vulgaris – Ulex minor heath. The dry heath supports small breeding populations of Dartford warbler Sylvia undata and a wide range of invertebrates and plants. There are also some stands of the rare chalk heath (not defined by the NVC), with features intermediate between Festuca ovina – Avenula pratensis grassland and Calluna – Ulex heath. Heathland on deep gravel overlying chalk is an unusual biological feature in the UK.<br>The Isle of Wight Downs complex consists of large areas of semi-natural dry grassland on chalk at the southern extremity of its UK range. It provides extensive examples of Festuca ovina – Avenula pratensis grassland in both inland and coastal situations on a variety of aspects and slope gradients. Locally, the Festuca – Avenula grassland grades into Festuca ovina – Carlina vulgaris grassland, particularly on south-facing slopes on the coast. This open, stony grassland contains one of the most important examples of lichen-rich maritime chalk grassland in the UK. Smaller areas of Bromus erectus grassland occur on the eastern parts |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
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| | | of the chalk outcrop. Semi-natural dry grassland is locally replaced by European dry heaths where superficial deposits overlie the chalk. |
| **River Avon** | SAC | The Avon in southern England is a large, lowland river system that includes sections running through chalk and clay, with transitions between the two. Five aquatic Ranunculus species occur in the river system, but stream water-crowfoot Ranunculus penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans and river water-crowfoot R. fluitans are the main dominants. Some winterbourne reaches, where R. peltatus is the dominant water-crowfoot species, are included in the SAC. There is an extensive population of Desmoulin's whorl snail Vertigo moulinsiana along about 20 km of the margins and associated wetlands of the Rivers Avon, Bourne and Wylye. This is one of two sites representing the species in the south-western part of its range, in chalk stream habitat. It occurs here in a separate catchment from the Kennet and Lambourn, within an environment more heavily dominated by arable agriculture. The Avon represents sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus in a high-quality river in the southern part of its range. There are excellent examples of the features that the species needs for survival, including extensive areas of sand and gravel in the middle to lower reaches of the river where sea lampreys are known to spawn.<br>The Avon is a high-quality river that represents the southern part of the range of brook lamprey Lampetra planeri. A healthy, stable population occurs in the main river and in a number of tributaries. The main river, and in particular its tributaries, provides clean beds of gravel for spawning and extensive areas of fine silt for juveniles to burrow into.<br>The Avon in southern England represents a south coast chalk river supporting Atlantic salmon Salmo salar. The salmon populations here are typical of a high-quality chalk stream, unaffected by the introduction of genetic stock of non-native origin. The Avon has an excellent mosaic of aquatic habitats, which include extensive areas of gravels essential for spawning and growth of juvenile fry. There has been limited modification of the river course by comparison with many other southern lowland rivers in England.<br>The Avon represents bullhead Cottus gobio in a calcareous, relatively unmodified river in the southern part of its range in England. The River Avon has a mosaic of aquatic habitats that support a diverse fish community. The bullhead is an important component of this community, particularly in the tributaries. |
| **River Itchen** | SAC | The Itchen is a classic example of a sub-type 1 chalk river. The river is dominated throughout by aquatic Ranunculus spp. The headwaters contain pond water-crowfoot Ranunculus peltatus, while two Ranunculus species occur further downstream: stream water-crowfoot R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans, a species especially characteristic of calcium-rich rivers, and river watercrowfoot R. fluitans.<br>Strong populations of Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale occur here, estimated to be in the hundreds of individuals. The site in central southern England represents one of the major population centres in the UK. It also represents a population in a managed chalk-river flood plain, an unusual habitat for this species in the UK, rather than on heathland. |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
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| | | The Itchen is a classic chalk river that supports high densities of bullhead Cottus gobio throughout much of its length. The river provides good water quality, extensive beds of submerged plants that act as a refuge for the species, and coarse sediments that are vital for spawning and juvenile development. |
| **Solent Isle of Wight Lagoons** | SAC | The Solent 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 Chichester 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*. The lagoons in Keyhaven - Pennington Marshes are part of a network of ditches and ponds within the saltmarsh behind a sea-wall.<br>Farlington Marshes is an isolated lagoon in marsh pasture that, although separated from the sea by a sea-wall, receives sea water during spring tides. The lagoon holds a well-developed low-medium salinity insect-dominated fauna. Gilkicker Lagoon is a sluiced lagoon with marked seasonal salinity fluctuation and supports a high species diversity. The lagoons at Bembridge Harbour have formed in a depression behind the sea-wall and sea water enters by percolation. Species diversity in these lagoons is high and the fauna includes very high densities of *N. vectensis*. |
| **Solent Maritime** | SAC | The Solent encompasses a major estuarine system on the south coast of England with four coastal plain estuaries (Yar, Medina, King's Quay Shore, Hamble) and four bar-built estuaries (Newtown Harbour, Beaulieu, Langstone Harbour, Chichester Harbour). The site is the only one in the series to contain more than one physiographic sub-type of estuary and is the only cluster site. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime of four tides each day, and for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive estuarine flats, often with intertidal areas supporting eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and green algae, sand and shingle spits, and natural shoreline transitions. The mudflats range from low and variable salinity in the upper reaches of the estuaries to very sheltered, almost fully marine, muds in Chichester and Langstone Harbours. Unusual features include the presence of very rare sponges in the Yar estuary and a sandy 'reef' of the polychaete *Sabellaria spinulosa* on the steep eastern side of the entrance to Chichester Harbour.<br>Solent Maritime is the only site for smooth cord-grass *Spartina alterniflora* in the UK and is one of only two sites where significant amounts of small cord-grass *S. maritima* are found. It is also one of the few remaining sites for Townsend's cord-grass *S. x townsendii* and holds extensive areas of common cord-grass *Spartina anglica*, all four taxa thus occurring here in close proximity. It has additional historical and scientific interest as the site where *S. alterniflora* was first recorded in the UK (1829) and where *S. x townsendii* and, later, *S. anglica* first occurred. |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
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| | | The Solent contains the second-largest aggregation of Atlantic salt meadows in south and south-west England. Solent Maritime is a composite site composed of a large number of separate areas of saltmarsh. In contrast to the Severn estuary, the salt meadows at this site are notable as being representative of the ungrazed type and support a different range of communities dominated by sea-purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*, common sea-lavender *Limonium vulgare* and thrift *Armeria maritima*. As a whole the site is less truncated by man-made features than other parts of the south coast and shows rare and unusual transitions to freshwater reedswamp and alluvial woodland as well as coastal grassland. Typical Atlantic salt meadow is still widespread in this site, despite a long history of colonisation by cord-grass *Spartina spp*. |
| **South Wight Maritime** | SAC | The southern shore of the Isle of Wight, off the coast of southern England, includes a number of subtidal reefs that extend into the intertidal zone. This site is selected on account of its variety of reef types and associated communities, including chalk, limestone and sandstone reefs. To the west and south-west some of the most important subtidal British chalk reefs occur, representing over 5% of Europe's coastal chalk exposures, including the extensive tide-swept reef off the Needles and examples at Culver Cliff and Freshwater Bay. These support a diverse range of species in both the subtidal and intertidal. Other reef habitats within the site include areas of large boulders off the coast around Ventnor. There is a large reef of harder limestone off Bembridge and Whitecliff Bay, where the horizontal and vertical faces and crevices provide a range of habitats. The bedrock is extensively bored by bivalves. Their presence, together with the holes they create, give shelter to other species, which adds further to habitat diversity. Intertidal pools support a diverse marine life, including a number of rare or unusual seaweeds, such as the shepherd's purse seaweed *Gracilaria bursa-pastoris*. A number of other species reach their eastern limit of distribution along the English Channel at the Isle of Wight.<br>South Wight Maritime on the south coast of England represents contrasting Cretaceous hard cliffs, semi-stable soft cliffs and mobile soft cliffs. The western and eastern extremities of the site consist of high chalk cliffs with species-rich calcareous grassland vegetation, the former exposed to maritime influence and the latter comparatively sheltered. At the western end, the site adjoins the Isle of Wight Downs, providing an unusual combination of maritime and chalk grassland. The most exposed chalk cliff tops support important assemblages of nationally rare lichens, including *Fulgensia fulgens*. The longest section is composed of slumping acidic sandstones and neutral clays with an exposed south-westerly aspect. The vegetation communities are a mixture of acidic and mesotrophic grasslands with some scrub and a greater element of maritime species, such as thrift *Armeria maritima*, than is usual on soft cliffs. This section supports the Glanville fritillary butterfly *Melitaea cinxia* in its main English stronghold. A small, separate section of the site on clays has a range of successional stages, including woodland, influenced by landslips. These cliffs are minimally affected by sea defence works, which elsewhere disrupt ecological processes linked to coastal erosion, and |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
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| | | together they form one of the longest lengths of naturally-developing soft cliffs on the UK coastline.<br>The southern shore of the Isle of Wight, off the coast of southern England, includes a number of either submerged or partially submerged sea caves. The exposure of the south coast of the island to high wave energy has allowed the erosion of the Cretaceous calcareous hard cliffs to form sea caves. Examples of this habitat can be found from the Needles along the south-west coast of the Island to Watcombe Bay, and also in Culver Cliff on the south-east coast of the Island. This site also contains the only known location of subtidal chalk caves in the UK. The large littoral caves in the chalk cliffs are of ecological importance, with many hosting rare algal species, which are restricted to this type of habitat. The fauna of these sea caves includes a range of mollusc species such as limpets *Patella spp.* and the horseshoe worm *Phoronis hippocrepia*. |
| **The New Forest** | SAC | The New Forest contains the most extensive stands of lowland northern Atlantic wet heaths in southern England, mainly of the M16 *Erica tetralix Sphagnum compactum* type. M14 *Schoenus nigricans Narthecium ossifragum* mire is also found on this site. The wet heaths are important for rare plants, such as marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe* and marsh clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*, and a number of dragonfly species, including the scarce blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura pumilio* and small red damselfly *Ceriagrion tenellum*. There is a wide range of transitions between wet heath and other habitats, including dry heath, various woodland types, *Molinia* grasslands, fen, and acid grassland. Wet heaths enriched by bog myrtle *Myrica gale* are a prominent feature of many areas of the Forest. Unlike much lowland heath, the New Forest heaths continue to be extensively grazed by cattle and horses, favouring species with low competitive ability.<br>The New Forest represents European dry heaths in southern England and is the largest area of lowland heathland in the UK. It is particularly important for the diversity of its habitats and the range of rare and scarce species which it supports. The New Forest is unusual because of its long history of grazing in a traditional fashion by ponies and cattle. The dry heaths of the New Forest are of the H2 *Calluna vulgaris Ulex minor* heath type, and H3 *Ulex minor Agrostis curtisii* heath is found on damper areas. There are a wide range of transitions between dry heath and wet heath, *Molinia* grassland, fen, acid grassland and various types of scrub and woodland. Both the New Forest and the two Dorset Heath SACs are in southern England. All three areas are selected because together they contain a high proportion of all the lowland European dry heaths in the UK. There are, however, significant differences in the ecology of the two areas, associated with more oceanic conditions in Dorset and the continuous history of grazing in the New Forest.<br>The New Forest represents *Molinia* meadows in southern England. The site supports a large area of the heathy form of M24 *Molinia caerulea Cirsium dissectum* fen-meadow. This vegetation occurs in situations of heavy grazing by ponies and cattle in areas known locally as lawns, often in a fine-scale mosaic with Northern Atlantic wet heaths and other mire and grassland communities. These lawns occur on flushed soils on slopes and on level terrain on the floodplains of rivers and streams. The New Forest *Molinia* |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
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| | | meadows are unusual in the UK in terms of their species composition, management and landscape position. The grasslands are species-rich, and a particular feature is the abundance of small sedges such as carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, common sedge *C. nigra* and yellow-sedge C. *viridula ssp. oedocarpa*, and the more frequent occurrence of mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and petty whin *Genista anglica* compared to stands elsewhere in the UK.<br>The New Forest, one of three sites selected in southern England, is considered to hold the largest area in England of Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*, in complex habitat mosaics associated primarily with the extensive valley bogs of this site. The habitat type is developed in three situations: in natural bog pools of patterned bog surfaces, in flushes on the margins of valley mires and in areas disturbed by peat-digging, footpaths, tracks, ditches etc. In places the habitat type is rich in brown mosses *Cratoneuron spp*. and *Scorpidium scorpioides*, suggesting flushing by mineral-rich waters. The mosaics in which this habitat type occurs are an important location for bog orchid *Hammarbya paludosa*.<br>The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland in Britain and represents Atlantic acidophilous beech forests in the most southerly part of the habitat's UK range. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodland is open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system.<br>The New Forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech Fagus sylvatica woodland in Britain; much of it is a form of W14 *Fagus sylvatica  Rubus fruticosus* woodland that conforms to the Annex I type *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests. The mosaic with other types of woodland and heath has allowed unique and varied assemblages of epiphytic lichens and saproxylic invertebrates to be sustained, particularly in situations where the woodlands are open and the tree trunks receive plenty of light. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system.<br>The New Forest is representative of old acidophilous oak woods in the southern part of its UK range. It is the most extensive area of active wood-pasture with old oak *Quercus spp*. and beech *Fagus sylvatica* in north-west Europe and has outstanding invertebrate and lichen populations. This site was preferred over other sites that lack a succession of age-classes because, although scattered over a wide area, the oak stands are found within a predominantly semi-natural landscape with a more balanced age-structure of trees. The traditional common grazing in the Forest by cattle and ponies provides opportunities to explore the impact of large herbivores on the woodland system. The New Forest has been identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989).<br>Within the New Forest, in southern England, birch willow *Betula Salix* stands occur over valley bog vegetation, with fringing alder |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
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| | | *Alnus - Sphagnum* stands where there is some water movement. These stands appear to have persisted for long periods in stable association with the underlying *Sphagnum* bog-moss communities. The rich epiphytic lichen communities and pollen record provide evidence for the persistence of this association. The Bog woodland occurs in association with a range of other habitats for which the site has also been selected.<br>The New Forest contains many streams and some small rivers that are less affected by drainage and canalisation than those in any other comparable area in the lowlands of England. Associated with many of the streams, particularly those with alkaline and neutral groundwater, are strips of alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland which, collectively, form an extensive resource with a rich flora. In places there are examples of transitions from open water through reedswamp and fen to alder woodland. The small rivers show natural meanders and debris dams, features that are otherwise rare in the lowlands, with fragmentary ash *Fraxinus excelsior* stands as well as the alder strips. In other places there are transitions toOld acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains and Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion*), for which this site has also been selected.<br>The New Forest in central southern England is an outstanding locality for southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale*, with several population centres and strong populations estimated to be in the hundreds or thousands of individuals and with a long history of records. With Preseli, Dorset Heaths and the River Itchen, it represents one of the four major population centres in the UK.<br>The New Forest represents stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* in its Hampshire/Sussex population centre, and is a major stronghold for the species in the UK. The forest is one of the most important sites in the UK for fauna associated with rotting wood, and was identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna by the Council of Europe (Speight 1989) |
| **Avon Valley** | SPA | The Avon Valley SPA encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain on the south coast of England. The site extends for approximately 20km between Bickton and Christchurch. The River Avon displays wide fluctuations in water level and parts of the valley are regularly flooded in winter. Consequently, the valley includes one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadows and grazing marsh under low– intensity agricultural systems. These extensive floodplain grasslands support wintering Bewick's swan Cygnus columbianus bewickii in numbers of European importance, and Blashford Lakes Gravel Pits within the SPA are particularly important for wintering gadwall Anas strepera. |
| **Chichester and Langstone Harbours** | Ramsar | Chichester and Langstone Harbours are located on the south coast of England in Hampshire and West Sussex. They are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive sand and mudflats exposed at low tide. The two harbours are joined by a stretch of water that separates Hayling Island from the mainland. Tidal channels drain the basin and penetrate far inland. The mud-flats are rich in invertebrates and also support extensive beds of algae, especially *Enteromorpha* species, and eelgrasses *Zostera spp*. The |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
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| | | basin contains a wide range of coastal habitats supporting important plant and animal communities. The site is of particular significance for waterbirds, especially in migration periods and in winter. It also supports important colonies of breeding terns. |
| **Dorset Heathlands** | SPA | The Dorset Heathlands cover an extensive complex of heathland sites at the western edge of the Hampshire Basin in southern England. The area is centred around the large estuary of Poole Harbour and lies in close proximity to the urban conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole. Past losses of the heathland (an estimated 75% during the twentieth century to development, agriculture and afforestation) have left the remaining heaths in a highly fragmented state. Despite this decline and fragmentation, the heaths show a high degree of ecological cohesion. They contain large areas of dry heath, wet heath and acid valley mire, all habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. The examples of the Dorset Heathlands are among the best of their type in the UK. There are also transitions to coastal wetlands and floodplain fen habitats. The whole complex has an outstanding fauna in a European context, covering many different taxa. Many species have a specialist ecology, strongly associated with, or restricted to, heathland. The area is ornithologically important for specialist breeding birds of lowland heathland, as well as for some wintering raptors. |
| **Portsmouth Harbour** | SPA | Portsmouth Harbour is located on the central south coast of England. It is a large industrialised estuary and includes one of the four largest expanses of mud-flats and tidal creeks on the south coast of Britain. The mud-flats support large beds of Narrow-leaved Eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* and Dwarf *Eelgrass Z. noltii*, extensive green algae beds, mainly Enteromorpha species, and Sea Lettuce *Ulva lactuca*. Portsmouth Harbour has only a narrow connection to the sea via the Solent, and receives comparatively little fresh water, thus giving it an unusual hydrology. The site supports important numbers of wintering Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta b. bernicla*, which feed also in surrounding agricultural areas away from the SPA. |
| **Solent and Southampton Water** | SPA | The Solent and Southampton Water are located on the south English coast. The area covered extends from Hurst Spit to Hill Head along the south coast of Hampshire, and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises a series of estuaries and harbours with extensive mud-flats and saltmarshes together with adjacent coastal habitats including saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reedbeds, damp woodland and grazing marsh. The mud-flats support beds of *Enteromorpha spp*. and *Zostera spp*. and have a rich invertebrate fauna that forms the food resource for the estuarine birds. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and four species of terns. In winter, the SPA holds a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds, including geese, ducks and waders. Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta b. bernicla* also feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA. |
| **The New Forest** | SPA | The New Forest is located in southern Hampshire, west of the Solent in southern England. It comprises a complex mosaic of habitats overlying mainly nutrient-poor soils over plateau gravels. The major components are the extensive wet and dry heaths with their rich valley mires and associated wet and dry grasslands, the ancient pasture woodlands and inclosure woodlands, the |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
|---|---|---|
| | | network of clean rivers and streams, and frequent permanent and temporary ponds. The area supports important populations of breeding birds associated with such habitats, including Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*. Breeding Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* and wintering Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* are also notable. |
| **Avon Valley** | Ramsar | The site encompasses the lower reaches of the River Avon and its floodplain between Bickton and Christchurch. The River Avon displays wide fluctuations in water level and parts of the valley are regularly flooded in winter. The Avon valley has a greater range of habitats and a more diverse flora and fauna than any other chalk river in Britain. The valley includes one of the largest expanses of unimproved floodplain grassland in Britain, including extensive areas managed as hay meadow. |
| **Chichester and Langstone Harbours** | Ramsar | Chichester and Langstone Harbours are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive mud and sand flats exposed at low tide. The site is of particular significance for over-wintering wildfowl and waders and also a wide range of coastal and transitional habitats supporting important plant and animal communities. |
| **Dorset Heathlands** | Ramsar | Extensive and fragmented, these heathland areas are centred around the estuary of Poole Harbour and are adjacent to the urban conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole. The heathland contains numerous examples of wet heath and acid valley mire, habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. These heath wetlands are among the best of their type in lowland Britain. There are also transitions to coastal wetland and fen habitat types. The wetland flora and fauna includes a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce species, especially invertebrates. |
| **Portsmouth Harbour** | Ramsar | Portsmouth Harbour's mudflats support large beds of narrowleaved and dwarf eelgrass, extensive green alga and sea lettuce. The intertidal mudflat areas possess extensive beds of eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* and *Zostera noltei* which support the grazing dark-bellied brent geese populations. The mud-snail *Hydrobia ulvae* is found at extremely high densities, which helps to support the wading bird interest of the site. Common cord-grass *Spartina anglica* dominates large areas of the saltmarsh and there are also extensive areas of green algae *Enteromorpha spp*. and sea lettuce *Ulva lactuca*. More locally the saltmarsh is dominated by sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides* which gradates to more varied communities at the higher shore levels. The site also includes a number of saline lagoons hosting nationally important species. |
| **Solent and Southampton Water** | Ramsar | The area covered extends from Hurst Spit to Gilkicker Point along the south coast of Hampshire and along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats including intertidal flats, saline lagoons, shingle beaches, saltmarsh, reedbeds, damp woodland, and grazing marsh. The diversity of habitats support internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, important breeding gull and tern populations and an important assemblage of rare invertebrates and plants.<br>The estuaries and harbours of the Solent are particularly sheltered and form the largest number and tightest cluster of small |

| Site | Type | Site Description |
|---|---|---|
| | | estuaries anywhere in Great Britain. The Solent and Isle of Wight system is notable for its large range and extent of different habitats.<br>The intertidal area is predominantly sedimentary in nature with extensive intertidal mud and sandflats within the sheltered harbours and areas of gravel and pebble sediments on more exposed beaches. These conditions combine to favour an abundant benthic fauna and green algae which support high densities of migrant and over-wintering wildfowl and waders. Eelgrass Zostera beds occur discontinuously along the north shore of the Isle of Wight and in a few places along the northern shore of The Solent.<br>The Solent system supports a wide range of saltmarsh communities. Upper saltmarshes are dominated by sea purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*, sea plantain *Plantago maritima*, sea meadow grass *Puccinellia maritima* and sea lavender *Limonium vulgare*; locally thrift *Armeria maritima* and the nationally scarce golden samphire *Inula crithmoides* are abundant. Lower saltmarsh vegetation tends to be dominated by sea purslane, cord grass *Spartina spp.*, glasswort *Salicornia spp.* and sea-blite *Suaeda maritima*. Cord-grasses dominate much of the saltmarsh in Southampton Water and in parts of the Solent and it was the original location of the introduction of *Spartina alterniflora* and subsequent hybridisation with the native species.<br>There are several shingle spits including Hurst spit, Needs Ore Point, Calshot spit and Newtown Harbour spits which support a characteristic shingle flora.<br>A range of grassland types lie inshore of the intertidal zone including unimproved species-rich neutral and calcareous grasslands, brackish grazing marsh systems and reed dominated freshwater marshes.<br>The brackish water lagoons associated with grazing marsh systems behind the seawalls, e.g. Keyhaven-Lymington, Gilkicker lagoon, and at Brading Marshes contain internationally important communities of rare and endangered invertebrates and plants. |
| **The New Forest** | Ramsar | The New Forest is an area of semi-natural vegetation including valley mires, fens and wet heath within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. The habitats present are of high ecological quality and diversity with undisturbed transition zones.<br>The suite of mires is regarded as the *locus classicus* of this type of mire in Britain. Other wetland habitats include numerous ponds of varying size and water chemistry including several ephemeral ponds and a network of small streams mainly acidic in character which have no lowland equivalent in the UK.<br>The plant communities in the numerous valleys and seepage step mires show considerable variation, being affected especially by the nutrient content of groundwater. In the most nutrient-poor zones, *Sphagnum* bog-mosses, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, common cottongrass and similar species predominate. In more enriched conditions the communities are more fen-like. |

(Source: Adapted from Joint Nature Conservation Committee Protected Sites Information, 2010)

# Chapter III: Qualifying features

* denotes priority habitats and species under the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Briddlesford Copses** | SAC | Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii* | Annex II Species |
| **Dorset Heaths** | SAC | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix | Annex I Habitat |
| | | European dry heaths | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Alkaline fens | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale | Annex II Species |
| | | Great crested newt Triturus cristatus | Supporting Annex II Species |
| **Isle of Wight Downs** | SAC | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts | Annex I Habitat |
| | | European dry heaths | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Early gentian Gentianella anglica | Annex II Species |
| **River Avon** | SAC | Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation | Annex I Habitat |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Desmoulin`s whorl snail Vertigo moulinsiana | Annex II Species |
| | | Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus | Annex II Species |
| | | Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri | Annex II Species |
| | | Atlantic salmon Salmo salar | Annex II Species |
| | | Bullhead Cottus gobio | Annex II Species |
| **River Itchen** | SAC | Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale | Annex II Species |
| | | Bullhead Cottus gobio | Annex II Species |
| | | White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes | Supporting Annex II Species |
| | | Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri | Supporting Annex II Species |
| | | Atlantic salmon Salmo salar | Supporting Annex II Species |
| | | Otter Lutra lutra | Supporting Annex II Species |
| **Solent Isle of Wight Lagoons** | SAC | * Coastal lagoons | Annex I Habitat |
| **Solent Maritime** | SAC | Estuaries | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*) | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Sandbanks - slightly covered by sea water all the time | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Mudflats and sandflats - not submerged at low tide | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Annual vegetation drift lines | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Perennial vegetation of stony banks | Supporting Annex I Habitat |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Shifting white dunes with *Ammophila arenaria* | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | * Coastal lagoons | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* | Supporting Annex II Species |
| **South Wight Maritime** | SAC | Reefs | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Submerged or partially submerged sea caves | Annex I Habitat |
| **The New Forest** | SAC | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* | Annex I Habitat |
| | | European dry heaths | Annex I Habitat |
| | | *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*) | Annex I Habitat |
| | | *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains | Annex I Habitat |
| | | * Bog woodland | Annex I Habitat |
| | | * Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) | Annex I Habitat |
| | | Transition mires and quaking bogs | Supporting Annex I Habitat |
| | | Alkaline fens | Supporting Annex I Habitat |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* | Annex II Species |
| | | Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* | Annex II Species |
| | | Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* | Supporting Annex II Species |
| **Avon Valley** | SPA | Bewick's swan Cygnus columbianus bewickii, 135 individuals representing an average of 1.9% of GB overwintering population (5yr peak mean 1991/92-1995/96) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Gadwall Anas strepera, 667 individuals representing an average 2.2% of the population GB overwintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96) | Article 4.2 |
| **Chichester and Langstone Harbours** | SPA | Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 100 pairs representing up to 4.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992-1996) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Common tern *Sterna hirundo* (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding) 0.3% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1992-1996 | Article 4.1 |
| | | Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 158 pairs representing up to 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,692 individuals representing up to 3.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Northern pintail *Anas acuta* (North-western Europe) 1.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |
| | | Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata* (North-western/Central Europe) 1% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |
| | | Eurasian teal *Anas crecca* (North-western Europe) 0.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |
| | | Eurasian wigeon *Anas Penelope* (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe) 0.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |
| | | Ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (Western Palearctic - wintering) 0.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 17,119 individuals representing up to 5.7% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Sanderling *Calidris alba* (Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering) 0.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |
| | | Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 44,294 individuals representing up to 3.2% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 2,471 (on passage) individuals representing up to 4.9% of the Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* (North-western/Central Europe) 3% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |
| | | Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* (Europe - breeding) 1.6% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |
| | | Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 3,825 individuals representing up to 2.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.2 |
| | | *Common shelduck Tadorna tadorna* (North-western Europe) 3.3% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 | Article 4.2 |
| | | Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,788 individuals representing up to 1.2% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Birds Directive Assemblage Qualification (the area qualifies by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl): - Over winter, the area regularly supports 93,230 individual waterfowl (5yr peak mean 1998) (cf 93,142 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)) | Article 4.2 |
| **Dorset Heathlands** | SPA | Dartford Warbler Sylvia undata, 418 pairs representing at least 26.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (three count mean, 1991/2 & 4) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus, 436 pairs representing at least 12.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (two year mean 1991-2) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Woodlark Lullula arborea, 41 pairs representing at least 6.8% of the breeding population in Great | Article 4.1 |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Britain (three count mean 1991-2 & 4) | |
| | | Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus, 20 individuals representing 2.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count 1991/2) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Merlin Falco columbarius, 15 individuals representing 1.2% of the winter population in Great Britain (Count 1991/2) | Article 4.1 |
| **Portsmouth Harbour** | SPA | Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 31 individuals representing up to 0.4% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 2,847 individuals representing at least 0.9% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 5,123 individuals representing up to 1% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, 87 individuals representing up to 0.9% of the wintering North-western/Central Europe population (5year peak mean 1991/92 - 1995/96) | Article 4.2 |
| **Solent and Southampton Water** | SPA | Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 49 pairs representing at least 2.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 231 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 267 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1994-1998) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 2 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 1,125 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 7,506 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the | Article 4.2 |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7) | |
| | | Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 552 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Teal *Anas crecca*, 4,400 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7) | Article 4.2 |
| | | Birds Directive Assemblage Qualification (the area qualifies by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl): - Over winter, the area regularly supports 51,361 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998) (cf 53,948 individual waterfowl (5year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)) | Article 4.2 |
| **The New Forest** | SPA | Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, 538 pairs representing at least 33.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain | Article 4.1 |
| | | Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, 2 pairs representing at least 10.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain | Article 4.1 |
| | | Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, 300 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain | Article 4.1 |
| | | Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, 184 pairs representing at least 12.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997) | Article 4.1 |
| | | Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 15 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain | Article 4.1 |
| | | Eurasian hobby *Falco subbuteo* 5% of the population in Great Britain No count period specified. | Article 4.2 |
| | | Wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* at least 2% of the population in Great Britain No count period specified. | Article 4.2 |
| **Avon Valley** | Ramsar | Ramsar criterion 1:<br>- The site shows a greater range of habitats than any other chalk river in Britain, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland and small areas of woodland. | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 2:<br>- The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally- | Ramsar Convention 1971 |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | rare species. | |
| | | Ramsar criterion 6:<br>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:<br>- Gadwall Anas strepera strepera, NW Europe, 537 individuals, representing an average of 3.1%, of the GB over-wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)<br>- Northern pintail Anas acuta, NW Europe, 715 individuals representing an average of 1.1% of the ovr-wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)<br>- Black-tailed godwit, Limosa limosa islandica, Iceland/W Europe, 1142 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the over-wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| **Chichester and Langston Harbours** | Ramsar | Ramsar criterion 1:<br>Two outstanding estuarine basins | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 5:<br>Winter assemblage of 76,480 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99 - 2002/03) | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 6:<br>- Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula, Europe*/Northwest Africa, 853 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)<br>- Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe, 906 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)<br>- Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*, 2577 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3<br>- Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 12987 individuals, representing an average of 6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)<br>- Common shelduck, Tadorna tadorna, NW Europe 1468 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)<br>- Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*, W Siberia/W Europe, 3436 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) | Ramsar Convention 1971 |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - Little tern, *Sterna albifrons albifrons*, W Europe, 130 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 1.1% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)<br>- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 127 apparently occupied representing an average 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Seabird 2000 Census)<br>- Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 47 apparently occupied nests representing an average 43.5% of the Great Britain breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)<br>- Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, 3,180 apparently occupied nests, representing an average 2.4% of the GB breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)<br>- Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, 224 individuals representing up to 13.5% of the (on passage) population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 3,403 individuals, representing an average 1% of the (on passage) GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, 192 individuals, representing an average 6.4% of the (on passage) GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03 - spring peak)<br>- Eurasion Curlew *Numenius arquata*, 3,108 individuals, representing an average 2.1% of the (on passage) GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,189 individuals representing up to 1.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1998/99 - 2002/03)<br>- Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, 306 individuals, representing an average 3.1% of the GB wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Teal *Anas crecca*, 2,226 individuals representing an average 1.1% of the wintering GB population (5 year peak mean, 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, 131 individuals, representing an average 1.6% of the GB wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 1 individual, representing an average 1.1% of the GB wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03) | |
| **Dorset Heathlands** | Ramsar | Ramsar criterion 1:<br>- particularly good example of northern Atlantic wet heaths with cross-leaved heath Erica | Ramsar Convention 1971 |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | tetralix<br>- particularly good example of acid mire with Rhynchosporion<br>- largest example in Britain of southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heathErica ciliaris and cross-leaved heath Erica tetralix. | |
| | | Ramsar criterion 2:<br>1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species, and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species. | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 3:<br>High species richness and high ecological diversity of wetland habitat types and transitions, and lies in one of the most biologically-rich wetland areas of lowland Britain, being continuous with three other Ramsar sites: Poole Harbour, Avon Valley and The New Forest. | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| **Portsmouth Harbour** | Ramsar | Ramsar criterion 3:<br>Species assemblage of importance to maintaining biogeographic biodiversity | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 6:<br>- Dark-bellied Brent Goose Branta bernicla bernicla, 2,105 individuals, representing an average of 2.1% of the GB over-wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Little Egret Egretta garzetta, 47 individuals representing an average 2.8% of the (on passage) population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa islandica, 343 individuals representing an average 2.2% of the (on passage) GB population (5 year peak mean, 1998/9-2002/3) | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| **Solent and Southampton Water** | Ramsar | Ramsar criterion 1:<br>Several outstanding wetland habitat types, including unusual double tidal flow, a major sheltered channel, saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 2:<br>Nationally rare species assemblage | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 5: | Ramsar Convention 1971 |

| Site | Type | Qualifying Feature | Listing |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Winter assemblage of 51,343 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99 - 2002/03) | |
| | | Ramsar criterion 6:<br>- Ringed plover, Charadrius hiaticula, Europe/Northwest Africa, 397 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the (on passage) GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)<br>- Black-tailed godwit, Limosa limosa islandica, Iceland/W Europe, 1,240 individuals, representing an average of 3.5% of the over-wintering GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)<br>- Dark-bellied brent goose, Branta bernicla bernicla, 6,456 individuals, representing an average of 3% of the over-wintering GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)<br>- Eurasian teal Anas crecca, NW Europe, 5,514 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB over-wintering population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)<br>- Sandwich tern Sterna sandvicensis 231 pairs (1.7%GB)<br>- Common tern Sterna hiruno 267 pairs (2.2%GB)<br>- Little tern Sterna albifrons 49 pairs (2%GB)<br>- Roseate Tern Sterna dougallii, 2 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean, 1993-1997) | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| **The New Forest** | Ramsar | Ramsar criterion 1:<br>Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain. | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 2:<br>The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate. | Ramsar Convention 1971 |
| | | Ramsar criterion 3: | Ramsar Convention 1971 |

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

(Source: Adapted from Joint Nature Conservation Committee Protected Site Information, 2010)

# Chapter IV: Conservation Objectives

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| **Briddlesford Copses** | SAC | To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Broad-leaved, Mixed & Yew Woodland - lowland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| **Dorset Heaths** | SAC | **Ferndown Common**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Turbary and Kinson Commons**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Bourne Valley**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Parley Common**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | **Hurn Common**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Poole Harbour**<br>n/a |
| | | **Arne**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland – lowland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Ebblake Bog**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Lions Hill**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Canford Heath** |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Holt and West Moors Heaths**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Holton and Sandford Heaths**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>- Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland – lowland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Horton Common**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Ham Common**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Rempstone Heaths** |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **St Leonards and St Ives Heaths**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Corfe Mullen Pastures**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Verwood Heaths**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Moors River System**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Cranbourne Common**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*): |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Christchurch Harbour**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Lowland heathland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Upton Heath**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Town Common**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Corfe and Barrow Hills**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Slop Bog and Uddens Heath**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | (*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Avon Valley**<br>n/a |
| **Isle of Wight Downs** | SAC | **Compton Down**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Calcareous grassland<br>- Supralittoral Rock<br>- Assemblage of plants<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Mottistone Down**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Calcareous grassland<br>- Lowland acid grassland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Ventnor Down**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Calcareous grassland - lowland<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Compton Chine to Steephill Cove**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Supralittoral rock<br>- Littoral rock<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Headon Warrow and West High Down** |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Calcareous grassland<br>- Supralittoral rock<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| **River Avon** | SAC | **River Till**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Rivers and streams<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **River Avon System**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Rivers and streams<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Lower Woodford Water Meadows**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp habitat for Desmoulin's whorl snail<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **East Harnham Meadows**<br>n/a |
| | | **Porton Meadows**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Jones's Mill** |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Fen, Marsh and Swamp habitat for Desmoulin's whorl snail (River Avon SAC species)<br>- Lowland neutral meadows<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Britford Water Meadows**<br>n/a |
| | | **Christchurch Harbour**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Lowland heathland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **The New Forest**<br>To maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*):<br>- Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland<br>- Dwarf shrub heath<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>- Standing open water<br>- Amphibians<br>- Invertebrates<br>- Non-vascular plants -Lichen assemblages in wood pasture & parkland, Lichen assemblage on heathland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Avon Valley (Bickton-Christchurch)**<br>n/a |
| **River Itchen** | SAC | The conservation objectives for the European interests on the site are to maintain*, in favourable condition, the river as a habitat for:<br>- floating formations of water crowfoot (Ranunculus) of plain and sub-mountainous rivers<br>- populations of Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)<br>- populations of bullhead (Cottus gobio) |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - populations of brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)<br>- populations of white-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)<br>and the river and adjoining land as habitat for:<br>- populations of southern damselfly (Coenagrion mercuriale)<br>- populations of otter (Lutra lutra)<br>* maintenance implies restoration, if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| **Solent Isle of Wight Lagoons** | SAC | **Gilkicker Lagoon**<br>The conservation objective for the European interest on the site is, subject to natural change, maintain* in favourable condition, the:<br>- lagoon<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges**<br>The conservation objective for the European interest on the site is, subject to natural change, maintain* in favourable condition, the:<br>- lagoon<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Langstone Harbour**<br>The conservation objective for the European interest on the site is, subject to natural change, maintain* in favourable condition, the:<br>- lagoon<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Hurst Castle & Lymington River Estuary**<br>The conservation objective for the European interest on the site is, subject to natural change, maintain* in favourable condition, the:<br>- lagoon<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| **Solent Maritime** | SAC | **Medina estuary**<br>Subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated:<br>- Littoral sediment |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | (*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Yar estuary**<br>Subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated:<br>- Littoral sediment<br>- Coastal lagoon<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Boulder and Hamstead Cliffs**<br>Subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated:<br>- Littoral sediment<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Langstone Harbour**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the estuary in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Saltmarsh communities<br>- Intertidal mudflat communities<br>- Intertidal sandflat communities<br>- Intertidal mixed sediment commuities<br>- Subtidal sediment communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain*, in favourable condition, the |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - saline lagoons<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Hurst Castle and Lymington River estuary**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the saline lagoons in favourable condition<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Eling and Bury Marshes**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain * the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain * the Cordgrass swards (Spartinion) in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) Communities<br>- Townsend's cordgrass (*Spartina townsendii*) Communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Hythe to Calshot Marshes**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Cordgrass swards (Spartinion) in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) Communities<br>- Townsend's cordgrass (*Spartina townsendii*) Communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **King's Quay Shore**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the estuary in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Saltmarsh communities<br>- Intertidal mudflat communities<br>- Intertidal sandflat communities<br>- Intertidal mixed sediment commuities<br>- Subtidal sediment communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen estuary**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the estuary in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Saltmarsh communities<br>- Intertidal mudflat communities<br>- Intertidal mixed sediment commuities |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - Subtidal sediment communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Lincegrove to Hackett's Marshes**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Estuary in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Saltmarsh communities<br>- Intertidal mudflat communities<br>- Intertidal mixed sediment commuities<br>- Subtidal sediment communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Lower Test Valley**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Newtown Harbour**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain*, in favourable condition, the estuary, with particular reference to:<br>- Saltmarsh communities<br>- Intertidal mudflat communities<br>- Intertidal mixed sediment commuities<br>- Subtidal sediment communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain*, in favourable condition, the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia), with particular reference to:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain*, in favourable condition, the Cordgrass swards (Spartinion) with particular reference to:<br>- Small cordgrass (*Spartina maritima*) commumities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **North Solent**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the estuary in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Saltmarsh communities<br>- Intertidal mudflat communities<br>- Intertidal mixed sediment commuities<br>- Subtidal sediment communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) in favourable condition, in particular: |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Thorness Bay**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the Estuary in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Intertidal mudflat communities<br>- Intertidal mixed sediment commuities<br>- Subtidal sediment communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Upper Hamble estuary and woods**<br>Subject to natural change, maintain* the estuary in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Saltmarsh communities<br>- Intertidal mudflat communities<br>- Intertidal mixed sediment commuities<br>- Subtidal sediment communities<br>Subject to natural change, maintain the Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco - Puccinellietalia) in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Pioneer marsh communities<br>- Low marsh communities<br>- Mid-marsh communities<br>- High-marsh communities<br>- Transitional high marsh communities<br>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| **South Wight Maritime** | SAC | Subject to natural change, to maintain*, in favourable condition, the:<br>- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | Subject to natural change, to maintain*, the reefs in favourable condition, in particular:<br>- Rocky shore communities<br>- Sea cave communities<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| **The New Forest** | SAC | **Langley Wood and Homan's Copse**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the:<br>- Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus exclesior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)<br>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Loosehanger Copse and Meadows**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the:<br>- Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus exclesior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)<br>- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)<br>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **White Parish Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the:<br>- Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests<br>- Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains<br>- Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)<br>- Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici - Fagenion)<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of:<br>- Stag beetle (Lucanus cervus)<br>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **The New Forest**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the:<br>- Alkaline fens |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanaem Salicion albae)<br>- Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests<br>- Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)<br>- Bog woodland<br>- Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhyncosporion<br>- European dry heath<br>- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)<br>- North Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix<br>- Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains<br>- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and or of the Isoeto-Naonjuncetea<br>- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains: Littorelletalia uniflora<br>- Transition mires and quaking bogs<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of:<br>- Great crested newt (Triturus cristatus)<br>- Southern damselfly (Coenagrion mercuriale)<br>- Stag beetle (Lucanus cervus)<br>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Landford Bog**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the:<br>- Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhyncosporion<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of:<br>- Southern damselfly (Coenagrion mercuriale)<br>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| **Avon Valley** | SPA | **River Avon System**<br>n/a |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | **Christchurch Harbour**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Lowland heathland<br>+ Nightjar, Dartford warbler<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Town Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>+ Dartford warbler, nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>+ Dartford warbler, nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **The New Forest**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>- Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland<br>- Acid grassland |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | + Hobby, snipe, curlew, redshank, cuckoo, nightjar, woodlark, tree pipit, whinchat, stonechat, wheatear, grasshopper warbler, Dartford warbler, linnet, hen harrier, honey buzzard<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath – lowland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Avon Valley (Bickton-Christchurch)**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Neutral grassland<br>- Standing open water<br>+ Bewick's swan<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Rivers and streams<br>- Fens, marsh and swamp<br>- Neutral grassland<br>- Standing open water<br>+ Gadwall<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| **Chichester and Langstone Harbours** | SPA | **Chichester Harbour**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- shingle<br>- shallow coastal waters<br>+ sandwich tern, common tern and little tern |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- shallow coastal waters<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal sand and mudflat<br>+ grey plover, sanderling, dunlin, redshank, dark bellied brent geese, shelduck and teal.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- shallow coastal waters<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal sand and mudflats<br>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Langstone Harbour**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- shingle<br>- shallow coastal waters<br>+ sandwich tern, common tern and little tern.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- shallow coastal waters |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - saltmarsh<br>- intertidal sand and mudflat<br>+ grey plover, sanderling, dunlin, redshank, dark bellied brent geese, shelduck and teal.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- shallow coastal waters<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal sand and mudflat<br>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| **Dorset Heathlands** | SPA | **Ferndown Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Turbary and Kinson Commons**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Bourne Valley**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Parley Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>- Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland – lowland<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Hurn Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Poole Harbour**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Coastal lagoons<br>- Littoral sediment<br>- Dwarf shrub heath<br>- Assemblage of breeding birds – lowland open waters and their margins<br>- Assemblage of breeding birds – sand dunes and saltmarshes<br>- Aggregations of non-breeding birds<br>+ Mediterranean gull, Common tern<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Coastal lagoons<br>- Littoral sediment<br>- Neutral grassland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>- Aggregations of non-breeding birds<br>+ black-tailed godwit, shelduck,<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Coastal lagoons<br>- Littoral sediment<br>- Neutral grassland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - Aggregations of non-breeding birds<br>- Internationally important assemblage of waterfowl (>20,000)<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Arne**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Ebblake Bog**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Lions Hill** |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Canford Heath**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Studland and Godlingston Heaths**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | (*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Holt and West Moors Heaths**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Horton Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Ham Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to: |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Rempstone Heaths**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **St Leonards and St Ives Heaths**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | **Verwood Heaths**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Moors River System**<br>n/a |
| | | **Cranborne Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Christchurch Harbour**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Lowland heathland<br>+ Dartford warbler and nightjar<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Upton Heath** |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Town Common**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Corfe and Barrow Hills**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Slop Bog and Uddens Heath**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Dwarf shrub heath –lowland<br>- Fen, swamp and marsh<br>+ Nightjar, woodlark, hen harrier, merlin |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | (*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Avon Valley (Bickton-Christchurch)**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Neutral grassland<br>- Standing open water<br>+ Bewick's swan<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Rivers and streams<br>- Fens, marsh and swamp<br>- Neutral grassland<br>- Standing open water<br>+ Gadwall<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| **Portsmouth Harbour** | SPA | To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- shallow coastal waters<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal sand and mudflat<br>+ Dark bellied brent geese *Branta bernicla bernicla*, red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and dunlin *Calidris alpina*.<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| **Solent and Southampton** | SPA | **Medina estuary**<br>Subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| **Water** | | component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated:<br>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)<br>- Neutral grassland<br>- Fen, marsh and swamp<br>- Broad-leaved woodland<br>- Littoral sediment<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Yar estuary**<br>Subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated:<br>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)<br>- Grazing marsh comprising neutral grassland<br>- Supra Littoral sediment<br>- Littoral sediment<br>- Coastal lagoon<br>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable. |
| | | **Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- boulder and cobble shores<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal sand and mudflat<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- boulder and cobble shores<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Lymington River Reedbeds**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- reedbed<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- reedbed<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Ryde Sands and Wooton Creek**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to: |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal and ringed plover.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- intertidal sand and mudflats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Sowley Pond**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species +of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>+ teal.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Titchfield Haven**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Reedbeds and open water with marshy grassland and scrub<br>+ Common Tern.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species +of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Reedbed and open water with marshy grassland and scrub<br>+ teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Reedbed and open water with marshy grassland and scrub<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Hurst Castle and Lymington River**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- intertidal with saltmarsh and shingle<br>+ Mediterranean gull, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Little Tern<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- intertidal with saltmarsh and shingle<br>- grazing marsh<br>- permanent grassland<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- intertidal with saltmarsh and shingle<br>- grazing marsh<br>- permanent grassland<br>- reedbed/open water<br>- vegetated shingle<br>- saline lagoons<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Eling and Bury Marshes**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- intertidal mudflat |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - saltmarsh and fringing habitats<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- intertidal mudflat<br>- saltmarsh and fringing habitats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Hythe to Calshot Marshes**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition , the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>- mixed sediment shores<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition , the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>- mixed sediment shores<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **King's Quay Shore**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose and teal.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen estuary**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Estuarine habitats<br>- intertidal mudflats and shingle<br>- coastal and inundation grasslands<br>+ Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Teal, Ringed Plover and Black-tailed Godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Estuarine habitats<br>- intertidal mudflats and shingle<br>- coastal and inundation grasslands<br>- reedbeds<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Lincegrove to Hackett's Marshes**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Estuarine and marginal habitats<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Estuarine and marginal habitats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | **Lower Test Valley**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species +of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- marshy grassland/fen meadow<br>- grazed swamp<br>- reedbed<br>- saltmarsh<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- marshy grassland/fen meadow<br>- grazed swamp<br>- reedbed<br>- saltmarsh.<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Newtown Harbour**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- shingle<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>- shallow coastal waters<br>+ Sandwich tern, Common tern, Mediterranean Gull<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | - saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **North Solent**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition , the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- standing water<br>- shallow coastal waters<br>- shingle<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>+ mediterranean gull, sandwich tern, roseate tern, common tern and little tern.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- saltmarsh<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Thorness Bay**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- saltmarsh<br>- reedbeds<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>- mixed sediment shores<br>+ Dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover, black-tailed godwit<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- coastal grassland<br>- standing water<br>- saltmarsh<br>- reedbeds<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>- mixed sediment shore<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Upper Hamble estuary and woods** |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| | | To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Estuarine and marginal habitats<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose, teal, ringed plover and black-tailed godwit.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- Estuarine and marginal habitats<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| | | **Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges**<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>- boulder and cobble shores<br>+ dark-bellied brent goose and ringed plover.<br>To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br>- boulder and cobble shores<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |
| **The New Forest** | SPA | To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 bird species + of European importance, with particular reference to:<br>- dry heathland<br>- dry grassland<br>- enclosure and pasture woodlands<br>+ Honey Buzzard, Nightjar, Woodlark, Dartford Warbler, Hen Harrier.<br>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition. |

| Site | Type | Conservation Objectives |
|---|---|---|
| **Avon Valley** | Ramsar | n/a |
| **Chichester and Langston Harbours** | Ramsar | n/a |
| **Dorset Heathlands** | Ramsar | n/a |
| **Portsmouth Harbour** | Ramsar | n/a |
| **Solent and Southampton Water** | Ramsar | n/a |
| **The New Forest** | Ramsar | n/a |

(Source: Adapted from Joint Nature Conservation Committee Protected Site Information, 2010)

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# Chapter V: Key Environmental Conditions Supporting Site Integrity

**Briddlesford Copses SAC**

- Coppice management

**Dorset Heaths SAC**

- Protection from development pressure and fragmentation causing edge and patch size effects (for example from works to A31, Bournemouth airport and extant mineral extraction permissions)
- Absence of recreational pressure and wildfires
- Management of visitor activity to prevent erosion
- Appropriate management to prevent succession to woodland and invasion by conifer and scrub (esp Rhododendron)

**Isle of Wight Downs SAC**

- Early gentian Gentianella anglica is associated with a grazing regime that maintains a short turf and a proportion of bare ground
- 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

**River Avon SAC**

- 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 Ranunculus

- Low levels of siltation
- Unpolluted water and low nutrient inputs

**River Itchen SAC**

- 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 Ranunculus
- Low levels of siltation
- Unpolluted water and low nutrient inputs
- Maintenance of grazing pressure is essential for Southern damselfly habitat

**Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC**

- 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
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment
- Absence of non-native species

**Solent Maritime SAC**

- 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
- 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

**South Wight Maritime SAC**

- No dredging or land-claim of cliff habitats
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment
- Absence of non-native species
- Maintenance of grazing pressure

**The New Forest SAC**

- Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools
- Acid soils
- Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time)
- Unpolluted water
- Minimal nutrient inputs
- Low recreational pressure
- Maintenance of grazing regime

**Avon Valley SPA**

- Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment
- Absence of non-native species

- Appropriate grazing regime

**Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA**

- Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment of water
- Absence of non-native species e.g. from shipping activity
- Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime, e.g. freshwater flows at heads of channels are important for birds to preen, drink and feed
- Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource for Brent goose

**Dorset Heathlands SPA**

- Acid soils
- Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time)
- Unpolluted water
- Unfragmented habitat
- Minimal recreational pressure and a low incidence of wildfires
- Appropriate grazing pressure

**Portsmouth Harbour SPA**

- 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
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment

- Absence of non-native species
- Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore and offshore can avoid disturbance effects during sensitive (over-wintering) periods
- Freshwater inputs are of value for providing a localised increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking
- Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource

**Solent and Southampton Water SPA**

- 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
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment
- Absence of non-native species
- Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore and offshore can avoid disturbance effects during sensitive (over-wintering) periods
- Freshwater inputs are of value for providing a localised increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking
- Low amounts of silt loss
- Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource

**The New Forest SPA**

- Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools
- Acid soils
- Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time)
- Unpolluted water
- Minimal nutrient inputs

- Low recreational pressure
- Appropriate grazing regime

**Avon Valley Ramsar**

- 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 Ranunculus
- Low levels of siltation
- Unpolluted water and low nutrient inputs

**Chichester and Langstone Harbour Ramsar**

- Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment
- Absence of non-native species e.g. from shipping activity
- Maintenance of appropriate hydrological regime, e.g. freshwater flows at heads of channels are important for birds to preen, drink and feed
- Short grasslands surrounding the Ramsar site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource for Brent goose

**Dorset Heathlands Ramsar**

- Acid soils
- Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time)
- Unpolluted water
- Unfragmented habitat
- Minimal recreational pressure and a low incidence of wildfires

**Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar**

- 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
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment
- Absence of non-native species
- Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore and offshore can avoid disturbance effects during sensitive (over-wintering) periods
- Freshwater inputs are of value for providing a localised increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking
- Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource

**Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar**

- 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
- Unpolluted water
- Absence of nutrient enrichment
- Absence of non-native species
- Low levels of recreational pressure both on shore and offshore can avoid disturbance effects during sensitive (over-wintering) periods
- Freshwater inputs are of value for providing a localised increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking
- Low amounts of silt loss
- Short grasslands surrounding the site are essential to maintaining interest features as they are now the key foraging resource

**The New Forest Ramsar**

- Carefully balanced hydrological regime to maintain wet heath, mires and pools
- Acid soils
- Minimal air pollution (nitrogen deposition can cause compositional changes over time)
- Unpolluted water
- Minimal nutrient inputs
- Low recreational pressure
- Maintenance of grazing regime

**END**

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