

Royal Southern Yacht Club

Hamble-le-Rice, Southampton,
SO31 4HB

Supporting Statement, WaFD and WFD
Assessments for Pontoon Rearrangement

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1. Introduction

This document relates to a small rearrangement of existing pontoons with two new finger pontoons installed. This is for recreational use by a well-established sailing club in Hamble.

2. Site Location

The Royal Southern Yacht Club was established in 1837 and is located on the west bank of the River Hamble. The current berthing layout was constructed in 2015.

The image below shows the current berthing area outlined in blue.



3. Proposed works

The works involve the relocation of an existing length of main walkway and installation of two new finger pontoons. One pile will be removed completely and one relocated.

The existing walkway is used to moor vessels, but when relocated it will provide access only. The two new finger pontoons will provide the lost moorings. There is therefore no increase in berth numbers.

The works are within an existing mooring area used by the club and the works can have no impact on main river navigation. There will be a localised alteration to navigation within the existing area, this is considered an improvement.

Drawing 10907/1A shows the proposed works.

4. Pontoons

The pontoons consist of a metal frame with timber decking, supported on fibre reinforced concrete cased floats. This is all a standard arrangement used widely in these applications and marinas.

5. Method Statement

A spud-legged crane barge will be employed for the works. The barge will arrive with the two new fingers on board.

The existing pile in the section to be removed will be extracted and the walkway section unbolted. The extracted pile will be stored on the deck of the crane barge. The walkway section will then be towed into the new position (using a small workboat) and bolted in place.

The pile to be relocated will be extracted and redriven in the new location. Vibro piling methods will be employed to minimise impact.

Timing of the works is dependent upon marine plant availability. However, it is common practice for such small scale works in this location to be undertaken without timing restrictions. Whilst this can mean conflict with the over wintering bird season the nature of the site is such that the works will not increase the human impact.

It is anticipated that the works should be completed within 1 week.

6. Flood Risk Assessment

The proposed works are a fully water compatible minor development.

The actual works cannot be affected by flooding. Nor will the works themselves increase the risk of flooding.

As this is a water compatible minor development the following should be considered:

- i. Would the works have an adverse effect on the watercourse, floodplain or its flood defences?* The impact on the river flow is insignificant. There is no impact on the floodplain nor any flood defences.
- ii. Would the works impede access to flood defence and management facilities?* There are no such facilities in the locality and full access to the area remains.
- iii. Would the cumulative impact of the development have a significant effect on local flood storage capacity or flood flows?* No, the impact of the works is insignificant.

7. Waste Framework Directive

This section follows the guidance contained in the Guidelines on the interpretation of key provisions of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste.

The waste hierarchy sets out 5 methods of dealing with waste – Prevention, Preparing for re-use, Recycling, Other recovery and Disposal.

7.1 Prevention

Article 3(12) WaFD defines ‘prevention’ as:

‘Measures taken before a substance, material or product has become waste that reduce:

- the quantity of waste, including through the re-use of products or the extension of the life span of products;
- the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health; or
- the content of harmful substances in materials and products.

Whilst prevention is not technically a waste management operation it does trigger whether the material becomes waste.

The works are necessary improvements so there is no prevention option.

The works are all new and there is no waste produced.

The works therefore comply with the WaFD.

8. Protected Areas

South Marine Plan – This application is for improvements to an existing facility. The works are compliant with the plan. The following Policies are relevant:

S-TR-1 & 2 – supports and improves recreational facilities – the proposal is a minor alteration to an existing facility and will improve access.

S-ACC-1 – improvements to access

S-CC-2 – structure is fully compliant with climate change (sea level rise).

This is also compliant with the Marine Policy Statement.

The site is not within a Marine Conservation Zone, either designated, proposed, or recommended.

The proposed works are within an existing mooring area, with high leisure usage and within the following protected sites –

SAC – Solent Maritime (UK0030059)

Solent & Dorset Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) – UK9020330. No impact likely.

Coastal Sensitive Areas (Eutrophic) – Hamble Estuary (UKENCA123), Nitrate sensitivity. The nature of the existing activities and the proposed works is such that there will be no change to eutrophication.

The works are nearby to the following sites:

Ramsar - Solent and Southampton Water (UK11063). No impact likely

SPA - Solent & Southampton Water (UK9011061). No impact likely

Shellfish Waters, Approaches to Southampton Water (36). No impact likely

SSSI – Lee on Solent to Itchen Estuary. No impact likely

Local Nature Reserve – Hook with Warsash. No impact likely

Further details regarding potential impacts are detailed in the accompanying document Environmental Information 10907 Rpt2a.

WFD Habitats – higher sensitivity – saltmarsh on the opposite side of the river (100m) and to the south (300m) of the works area.

WFD Habitats – lower sensitivity – intertidal soft sediment indicated on MAGIC website on both west and east bank of the river. **This is incorrect**, the area is all sub tidal on the west bank (works area).

9. Background to Water Framework Directive Assessment

The purpose of a Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment is to determine whether the proposed works will compromise the attainment of a WFD objective or result in the deterioration of the current ecological status of the relevant waterbodies.

The process consists of 3 stages –

Stage 1 – The Screening Stage

This stage is used to identify activities which need to be considered further (i.e. excludes those which do not require further assessment). Activities conducted between 2009-2014 are excluded as they would have been covered by the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) evidence collection process. This typically applies to maintenance activities including dredging.

Stage 2 – The Scoping Stage

This stage identifies the potential risks to the following receptors:

- Hydromorphology
- Biology – habitats
- Biology – fish
- Water quality
- Protected areas

Stage 3 – Impact Assessment

This stage examines whether the activity will have a significant non-temporary effect on each receptor.

10. WFD Assessment

The assessment uses the online EA tables which are reproduced in the following pages.

The Catchment Data Explorer provides data updated 01:02:22.

10.1 Screening & Scoping Stage - WFD Tables for activities in estuarine and coastal waters

Works take place in or affect more than one water body, complete a template for each water body – *single water body*

Works include several different activities or stages as part of a larger project, complete a template for each activity as part of your overall WFD assessment – *single activity*

Activity	Description, notes or more information
Applicant name	<i>Royal Southern Yacht Club</i>
Application reference number (where applicable)	<i>n/a</i>
Name of activity	<i>Pontoon modifications, removal of one pile, relocation of one pile</i>
Brief description of activity	<i>Pontoon modification and installation of two new pontoons for upgraded access facilities</i>
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	<i>448524,106822</i>
Footprint of activity (ha)	<i>0.011 ha</i>

Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	<i>Dependent upon Marine Licence and plant availability.</i>
Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	<i>Anticipated to take 1 week.</i>
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	<i>No</i>

Water body¹	Description, notes or more information
WFD water body name	<i>Southampton Water</i>
Water body ID	<i>GB20704202800</i>
River basin district name	<i>South East</i>
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	<i>Transitional Water (Estuarine in summary table)</i>
Water body total area (ha)	<i>3123.51</i>
Ecological status (2019)	<i>Moderate</i>
Chemical status (2019)	<i>Fail</i>
Target water body status and deadline	<i>Ecological moderate by 2015, Chemical good by 2027</i>
Hydromorphology status of water body (2015)	<i>Supports good</i>
Heavily modified water body and for what use	<i>Yes – coastal, flood protection, navigation ports and harbours</i>
Higher sensitivity habitats present	<i>Yes</i>
Lower sensitivity habitats present	<i>No</i>
Phytoplankton status	<i>High from summary table</i>
History of harmful algae	<i>No</i>
WFD protected areas within 2km	<i>Yes</i>

Specific risk to receptors -

Section 1: Hydromorphology

Consider if hydromorphology is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find out the hydromorphology status of the water body, if it is classed as heavily modified and for what use.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Hydromorphology risk issue(s)
Could impact on the hydromorphology (for example morphology or tidal patterns) of a water body at high status	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	Yes

Record the findings for hydromorphology and go to section 2: biology.

Section 2: Biology

Habitats

Consider if habitats are at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table and Magic maps, or other sources of information if available, to find the location and size of these habitats.

Higher sensitivity habitats ²	Lower sensitivity habitats ³
chalk reef	cobbles, gravel and shingle
clam, cockle and oyster beds	intertidal soft sediments like sand and mud
intertidal seagrass	rocky shore
maerl	subtidal boulder fields
mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel	subtidal rocky reef
polychaete reef	subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud
saltmarsh	
subtidal kelp beds	
subtidal seagrass	

² Higher sensitivity habitats have a low resistance to, and recovery rate, from human pressures.

³ Lower sensitivity habitats have a medium to high resistance to, and recovery rate from, human pressures.

Consider if the footprint ⁴ of your activity is:	Yes	No	Biology habitats risk issue(s)
0.5km ² or larger	Yes to one or more – requires		No
1% or more of the water body's area			No

Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat	impact assessment	No to all – impact assessment not required	Yes
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			No

⁴ Note that a footprint may also be a temperature or sediment plume. For dredging activity, a footprint is 1.5 times the dredge area.

Fish

Consider if fish are at risk from your activity, but only if your activity is in an estuary or could affect fish in or entering an estuary.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Biology fish risk issue(s)
Is in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary, outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it or could affect fish migrating through the estuary	Continue with questions	Go to next section	No
Could impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier, noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No

Record the findings for biology habitats and fish and go to section 3: water quality.

Section 3: Water quality

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find information on phytoplankton status and harmful algae.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
Could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No.

Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity through the use, release or disturbance of chemicals.

If your activity uses or releases chemicals (for example through sediment disturbance or building works) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No

If your activity has a mixing zone (like a discharge pipeline or outfall) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals released are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	Requires impact assessment ⁵	Impact assessment not required	No

⁵ Carry out your impact assessment using the Environment Agency's surface water pollution risk assessment guidance, part of Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.

Record the findings for water quality go on to section 4: WFD protected areas.

Section 4: WFD protected areas

Consider if WFD protected areas are at risk from your activity. These include:

- special areas of conservation (SAC)
- special protection areas (SPA)
- shellfish waters
- bathing waters
- nutrient sensitive areas

Use Magic maps to find information on the location of protected areas in your water body (and adjacent water bodies) within 2km of your activity.

Consider if your activity is:	Yes	No	Protected areas risk issue(s)

Within 2km of any WFD protected area ⁶	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	Yes
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⁶ Note that a regulator can extend the 2km boundary if your activity has an especially high environmental risk.

Record the findings for WFD protected areas and go to section 5: invasive non-native species.

Section 5: Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Consider if there is a risk your activity could introduce or spread INNS.

Risks of introducing or spreading INNS include:

- materials or equipment that have come from, had use in or travelled through other water bodies
- activities that help spread existing INNS, either within the immediate water body or other water bodies

Consider if your activity could:	Yes	No	INNS risk issue(s)
Introduce or spread INNS	Requires impact assessment	Impact assessment not required	No

Summary

Receptor	Potential risk to receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	Yes	HMWB for same use
Biology: habitats	Yes	Saltmarsh and subtidal sediments
Biology: fish	No	
Water quality	No	
Protected areas	Yes	SPA, SAC, Ramsar, SSSI
Invasive non-native species	No	

11. WFD Impact Assessment & Mitigation

The assessment has identified potential risks to the following:

Hydromorphology –

The works are improvements to an existing facility. Whilst the use is as the HMWB classifications (ports and harbours) there is no change. There can therefore be no negative impact or risk.

Protected areas -

These have been assessed in the attached report - Environmental Information 10907 Rpt2

Biology –

The saltmarsh is over 100m away and there can be no possible impact. The subtidal sediment will not be altered.

Summary

By following EA guidance, it is concluded that the proposal will not have a negative impact on the water body.