

PROJECT PROFILE



Client: Havant Borough Council

Project: Habitats Regulations
Assessment for the Havant
Core Strategy



Emerging from the work carried out for the Habitats Regulations Assessment at the sub-regional level for the Partnership of Urban South Hampshire, Havant Borough Council appointed UE Associates to undertake HRA of their forthcoming Core Strategy in September 2007.

Havant Borough lies between the coast and the South Downs in the south east of Hampshire on the border with West Sussex. There are 13 European Sites (either SPA, SAC or RAMSAR) within or part of a 10km buffer zone of Havant Borough, each of which was assessed in terms of potential effects from the Core Strategy's 17 preferred options.

The Draft Screening Report was produced in September 2007. The assessment methodology has drawn on the DCLG Draft HRA Guidance (August, 2006) and incorporated English Nature's draft unpublished HRA guidance for RSSs.

Informal consultation with Natural England and the Environment Agency suggests that this is currently the preferred guidance document of the statutory agencies.

Key issues identified in the Screening Report are associated with recreational disturbance, provision of new infrastructure, water abstraction and supply. Havant's position amongst several European Sites has involved extensive scrutiny of habitat vulnerability and in particular over-wintering bird populations in nearby coastal sites.

The Screening Report identified various potentially significant adverse effects and UE Associates proceeded to carry out 'full' Appropriate Assessment in October 2009.

