

# Marine consultation summary document for the Solent and Dorset Coast potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)

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## Contents

1. Purpose of this document .....	2
2. Site maps .....	2
3. Natural England's proposal for the Solent and Dorset Coast as a potential Special Protection Area .....	2
4. Site summary .....	2
6. How to respond .....	3
7. Confidentiality .....	4

## 1. Purpose of this document

This document provides guidance to stakeholders for the formal consultation on the Solent and Dorset Coast potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)

### It explains:

- Natural England's proposal
- the background information which is helpful in understanding Natural England's proposal
- how to respond

## 2. Site maps

Available to view on the consultation page

## 3. Natural England's proposal for the Solent and Dorset Coast as a potential Special Protection Area

The UK Government has an ongoing obligation under the Birds Directive to "classify in particular the most suitable territories in number and size as Special Protection Areas for the conservation of these species in the geographical sea and land area where this Directive applies".

Natural England is responsible for recommending potential SPAs in English waters (out to 12 nautical miles) to Defra for classification. As part of that recommendation, Natural England, upon reviewing information from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) breeding seabird data within the Solent and Dorset Coast, have identified a marine area and species that need to be considered for protection. The recommendations developed so far propose a new marine designation for 3 species of bird; common, sandwich and little tern.

The site summary and the potential economic impacts summary provide the background information to support the proposal.

The Departmental Brief provides the full scientific rationale for the proposal.

## 4. Site summary

The site is located on the south coast within the English Channel. The site is approximately 259.7 nm<sup>2</sup> (89,078.02 Ha)<sup>1</sup> and extends from the Isle of Purbeck in the West to Bognor Regis in the East, following the coastline on either side to the Isle of Wight and into Southampton Water.

There are already four Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the Greater Solent that are designated for breeding terns. These are Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA (for Sandwich and Little tern), the Solent and Southampton Water SPA (for Common, Sandwich and Little tern) and Pagham

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<sup>1</sup> The increase in site area of 4.5nm<sup>2</sup> (1,543.46 Ha) to that presented in the original Consultation Summary Document is due to the mapping anomaly as described in the Stakeholder Consultation letter.

Harbour SPA (Little tern). The fourth associated SPA lies within Poole Harbour (Common Tern and Sandwich tern). The new SPA covers the area that the breeding terns use for foraging during April - September. Whilst management measures are already in place in this foraging area due to the existing SPA, the classification of this new site will provide clarity to stakeholders about the areas the terns forage within and the species that require consideration.

The recommendations developed so far propose a new marine designation which will include the sub-tidal areas not currently encompassed in the existing SPA's. It will have its landward boundary at mean low water (MLW) where it abuts any existing SPA where terns are already a feature. Elsewhere the landward boundary will be mean high water (MHW) so as to afford the birds protection within the intertidal areas; for example at Portsmouth Harbour.

## 5. Summary of potential economic impacts

A preliminary assessment of the potential economic impacts of classifying the Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA has been completed. This concluded that the costs imposed by the site's classification were relatively low as the site covers important foraging areas for breeding terns at existing SPAs. As these birds are already associated with existing SPAs they are already afforded a degree of protection.

The potential costs that can be attributed directly to the classification of the site are those required for additional site monitoring. Based on similar monitoring, it has been estimated that Natural England will need to spend an additional £20,000 every 6 years to assess and report on the condition of the site. No other significant costs have been identified.

The estimated costs of classifying the Solent and Dorset Coast pSPA are too low to trigger a requirement for Natural England to produce a full socio-economic impact assessment.

## 6. How to respond

This consultation runs for 13 weeks from 18<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and is run in accordance with the [government consultation principles](#).

- Read the departmental brief - setting out the scientific case for the pSPA

You may also find it useful to read:

- [Establishing marine Special Protection Areas \(TIN120\)](#)

Use these documents to help with your response. Submit your response by completing the survey on the consultation page.

Results from the consultation will be submitted as a report to the Secretary of State for the Environment (SoS). The SoS will decide if this site is suitable for designation as a European Marine Site and make a recommendation to the European Commission.

If you prefer not to respond via the online survey please contact us for a feedback form.

## **7. Confidentiality**

Using and sharing your consultation response

Natural England will publish a summary of all responses on GOV.UK. It will include a list of names of organisations that responded to the consultation but not the names, addresses or other contact details of individual respondents. See Natural England's [personal information charter](#) on how your information is handled.

If you don't want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information - publicly available, explain clearly why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

Natural England will acknowledge your explanation, but can't give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances, such as a request for release of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be regarded as binding on Natural England.

## **8. Use of maps**

Natural England has provided maps which show the complete boundary and additional maps where necessary to support the explanations given for the boundary locations.

Maps which accompany the site summary should ideally be printed on A3 paper. If you don't have this facility:

- print the relevant chapter text
- view the associated map on your computer screen, using the zoom tool to view it at a suitable size