PLEASE NOTE: Undertaking the HRA process is the responsibility of the decision maker as the Competent Authority for the purpose of the Habitats Regulations, however, it is the responsibility of the Qualifying Body to provide the Competent Authority with the information that they require for this purpose.

Stage 1 - Details of the plan or project	
Neighbourhood Plan:	Hunston Neighbourhood Development Plan (2019 – 2037) **Reg 15 Submission Plan**
No houses indicated by Chichester Local Plan Review for the Neighbourhood Plan Area:	Preferred Approach Local Plan Review identified Hunston parish for a strategic allocation of **200** dwellings; revised distribution strategy for testing for Local Plan Review December 2020 proposed **300** dwellings *(N.B. In the Preferred Approach version of the Local Plan Review **200** dwellings were proposed in Policy AL11 as a strategic parish allocation to be delivered through the Hunston Neighbourhood Plan. The proposed figure currently included in the CDC Local Plan Review revised distribution strategy and being tested against the evidence base is for **300** dwellings. No figures have not yet been confirmed for inclusion in the submission version of the Local Plan Review and may therefore be subject to change).*
No houses proposed by the Neighbourhood Plan:	The Hunston Neighbourhood Plan is currently required to allocate a minimum number of dwellings to meet the proposed parish allocation figure. This was identified in the Preferred Approach version of the LPR as a minimum of 200 dwellings but has now risen to a proposed minimum figure of 300 dwellings in the revised distribution strategy. The draft submission version of the neighbourhood plan identifies sites for up to **200** dwellings and a copy of the plan is included along with the SA work undertaken to date. However, as noted above, figures may be subject to change as the LPR progresses on to submission and examination.
Will the Neighbourhood Plan result in a net increase in residential development?	Yes - by the allocation of sites currently shown in the draft submission plan for a minimum of 200 dwellings for the parish.
Other than residential development, what other key policy areas does the plan cover?	The draft plan also includes policies for local green spaces, biodiversity corridors, locally distinct views and vistas, as well as design, infrastructure, the natural and historic environment, trees and hedgerows, and sustainable design and construction.
Status of Neighbourhood Plan:	Draft submission documents submitted to Chichester District Council

European site potentially impacted - Is the plan area within: • 5.6km radius of a Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA • 3.5km of Pagham Harbour SPA • 6.5km or 12km of Ebernoe Common SAC / The Mens SAC / Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC • 400m or 5km of Wealden Heaths Phase 2 SPA • The Chichester Harbour Fluvial Catchment • An area served by a Wastewater Treatment Plant that discharges to Chichester Harbour	**Yes** **Yes** **Yes, the northernmost part of the Parish is within the 12km zone for Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC** **No** **No (the canal forms the boundary of the catchment and the parish)** **No (Pagham WwTW)**
Are any allocations within any of the above zones of influence?	The sites are identified in the draft Hunston Neighbourhood Plan by Policy H1 Housing sites allocation (Page 48) and are shown on the Proposals Map (Page 58) as Farmfield, Ridgeway Nurseries and Hunston Dairy.
Are there any other projects or plans that together with the plan / application being assessed could affect the site?	Yes, the Chichester Local Plan and all other neighbourhood plans within the Zones of Influence for Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA and Pagham Harbour SPA
Lead Planning Officer: Valerie Dobson (Principal Planning Policy Officer)	

Stage 2 - HRA screening assessment
Test 1: The Significance Test – The Qualifying Body to provide evidence so that a judgement can be made as to whether there could be any potential significant impacts of the development on the integrity of the SPA/SAC/Ramsar.
Without mitigation there would be a likely significant effect on Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar site and on Pagham Harbour SPA / Ramsar site due to recreational disturbance impacts. Strategic schemes of mitigation are in place for both these sites but these can only considered at Appropriate Assessment stage (stage 3) Impact on Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC has been screened out as no likely significant effect as all the proposed housing allocation sites in the NP are in the part of the parish outside the 12km zone for this site **Stage 2 Conclusion** - Would the proposal lead to likely significant effects on the integrity of a European Site? **Yes** (If yes, continue to Stage 3)

Stage 3 - HRA – Appropriate Assessment

Test 2: The Integrity Test – If there are any potential significant impacts, the competent authority must be satisfied that adequate mitigation is in place to allow the AA to be carried out. Other than for Bird Aware Solent and the Joint Pagham Scheme of Mitigation, the competent authority must also be satisfied that all details which demonstrate any long term management, maintenance and funding of any solution have been provided.

The likely effectiveness and long-term financial robustness of both Bird Aware Solent and the Pagham Joint Scheme of Mitigation have already been examined by Natural England, so the Neighbourhood Plan does not need to provide its own evidence base on the effectiveness of these schemes. Appropriate contributions to these schemes of mitigation will be secured from new residential developments under Policy 50 and Policy 51 of the adopted Chichester Local Plan 2014-2029. In practice, for areas where the zones of influence overlap, then because residents of new development cannot access both sites simultaneously, a contribution is required only for the whichever scheme requires the greater contribution (currently Pagham, except for 5 bed room properties for which it is Bird Aware Solent). This contribution is then split between the two mitigation schemes. See https://www.chichester.gov.uk/planningadvice for details on the schemes.

Recreational Disturbance

Section 1: Supporting text

Conservation objectives for both SPA sites

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site

Qualifying features (Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA):

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)
A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)
A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)
A069 *Mergus serrator*; Red-breasted merganser (Non-breeding)
A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)
A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)
A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)
A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)
A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)
A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Qualifying features (Chichester and :Langstone Harbours Ramsar Site)

- Branta bernicla bernicla, Dark-bellied brent goose
- Charadrius Hiaticula, Ringed plover
- Pluvialis squatarola, Grey plover
- Calidris alpina, Dunlin
- Limosa limosa Black-tailed Godwit

Qualifying Features (Pagham Harbour SPA)

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)
A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Qualifying Features (Pagham Harbour Ramsar Site)

- *Branta bernicla bernicla* Dark-bellied brent goose

Section 2 Assessment of Effects on Site Integrity

Assessment Matrix (Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar site – Recreational Disturbance)

Identification of the potential effects and their impacts on the Conservation Objectives

Potential Effect	Site Conservation Objective(s)	Qualifying features	Potential for Impact?	Relevant Mitigation Measures
Decrease in survival rates and populations of over-wintering birds due to increase in disturbance, caused by increasing human population (in combination with other plans and projects)	Maintain or restore the population of each of the qualifying features. Maintain or restore the distribution of the qualifying feature within the site.	All for Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Chichester and Langstone Harbour Ramsar Site	Yes. Indirect impact. Without mitigation, bird populations would be reduced and/or re-distributed by increased numbers of visitors leading to increased disturbance	Bird Aware Solent Strategy The Strategy proposes:- • a team of 5-7 coastal rangers to advise people on how to avoid bird disturbance, liaise with landowners, host school visits, etc.; •communications, marketing and education initiatives; • initiatives to encourage responsible dog walking; • preparation of

				codes of conduct for a variety of coastal activities; • site-specific projects to better manage visitors and provide secure habitats for the birds; • providing new/enhanced greenspaces as an alternative to visiting the coast;
Direct loss of habitat	Maintain or restore the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features.	All for Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Chichester and Langstone Harbour Ramsar Site.	No. Direct effect, however development within the zone of influence but outside the SPA boundary will not lead to loss of habitat, either alone or in combination.	N/a. No impact so no mitigation can be provided.

Assessment Matrix (Pagham Harbour SPA/Ramsar site and Medmerry Compensatory Habitat – Recreational Disturbance)

Potential Effect	Site Conservation Objective(s)	Qualifying features	Potential for Impact?	Relevant Mitigation Measures
Decrease in survival rates and populations of over-wintering and breeding birds due to increase in disturbance, caused by increasing human population (in combination with other plans and projects)	Maintain or restore the population of each of the qualifying features. Maintain or restore the distribution of the qualifying feature within the site.	All for Pagham Harbour SPA and Pagham Harbour Ramsar Site	Yes. Indirect impact. Without mitigation, bird populations would be reduced and/or re-distributed by increased numbers of visitors leading to increased disturbance.	Pagham Joint Scheme of Mitigation The scheme includes: • Provision of 1.5FTE Visitor Experience officer (VEO) post at RSPB Pagham. The role of the VEO will be to educate and inform visitors and the surrounding community about recreational

				disturbance, its impacts on birds and wildlife-friendly ways to behave when visiting the coast and Pagham in particular. •Provision of general 'Dog Initiatives' – a broad range of measures (jointly with Bird Aware Solent) to encourage responsible dog ownership at the coast and visits to alternative dog –friendly sites. • Independent monitoring surveys (every two or three years).
Direct loss of habitat	Maintain or restore the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features.	All for Pagham Harbour SPA, Pagham Harbour Ramsar site and all habitats at Medmerry Compensatory Habitat.	No. Direct effect, however development within the zone of influence but outside the SPA or compensatory habitat boundaries will not lead to loss of habitat, either alone or in combination	N/a. No impact so no mitigation can be provided.

Stage 4 – Summary of the Appropriate Assessment (To be carried out by the Competent Authority (the local planning authority) in liaison with Natural England

Conclusion

Having considered the proposed mitigation and avoidance measures to be provided in-perpetuity through:

- Contributions to Bird Aware Solent (Chichester Local Plan 2014-2029, Policy 50)
- Contribution to the Pagham Harbour joint scheme of mitigation (Chichester Local Plan 2014-2029, Policy 51)

Chichester District Council concludes that with mitigation the plan will not have an Adverse Effect

on the Integrity of the European protected sites.

Having made this appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan for the sites in view of those sites' conservation objectives, and having consulted Natural England and fully considered any representation received (see below), the authority may now give effect to the land use plan under regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Natural England Officer:

Summary of Natural England's comments:

Natural England agrees with the conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment, that the Neighbourhood Plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar site due to the recreational disturbance mitigation measures secured.

Tom Scott-Heagerty
Lead Adviser

Date: 12 August 2021

Does the Hunston Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019-2037 Reg 15 Submission Plan (December 2020) require amending as a result of Natural England's comments? NO

If 'YES', what needs to change?