

APPENDIX D: Letter from Natural England

Date: 02 August 2024
Our Ref: 455682



Anna Parry –
Partnership Manager, Bird Aware Solent

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Anna,

Further to our letter dated June 2023 we would like to re-iterate our support for the hard work that the project team have delivered on behalf of the Partnership.

We continue to be very supportive of the Bird Aware Strategy and its ability to address recreational disturbance impacts in the Solent region. I can confirm Natural England **are supportive** of the resourcing plan that has been drafted to set out the aims and focus of the Bird Aware Solent strategy over the next five years.

We recognise the significant amount of detailed planning work that has been undertaken to reach these conclusions, following an external review of the Partnership's work to date¹. This study concluded that *"limited resources are a recurrent theme from [this] review – given the scale of the coast, the volume of new development and levels of access"*.

We therefore support the recommendations for additional resource and welcome the breadth of work covered by the delivery strands in order to influence visitor behaviour positively.

Natural England welcome the consideration of designated breeding birds within the revised strategy following the publication of further evidence by Footprint Ecology². This concludes "that the scope for likely significant effects to be triggered will depend on the plan or project that is being assessed. All five of the breeding species considered...are vulnerable to impacts from recreation... Any plan or project that has the potential to result in elevated levels of recreation in the period from April to August could trigger likely significant effects for any of the species." We were pleased to see the detailed work undertaken to identify the best use of potential resource to address this issue.

We are supportive of the emphasis on ongoing monitoring and on collaboration with various stakeholders to share best practise which will continue to strengthen the effectiveness of the strategy into the future.

We believe Bird Aware Solent's adaptable approach to changing trends in coastal use will deliver the greatest impact.

Kind Regards,

Jack Baribeau
Sustainable Development Senior Officer
Thames Solent Team

¹ Liley, D., Panter, C., Saunders, P., & Caals, Z. (2022) Initial review of the effectiveness of the Bird Aware Solent Strategy. Report by Footprint Ecology

² Liley, D., Saunders, P., & Rush, E. (2023). Review of the likelihood of impacts on breeding birds around the Solent from increasing recreational disturbance from new housing, Report by Footprint Ecology