

## Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Application reference:	15/01985/REM & 16/00148/REM
Application address:	Former Vosper Thornycroft Site and River Frontage Victoria Road, Southampton
Application description:	<p>Construction of 185 residential dwellings, 508 sqm of A3/A4 retail space and a multi storey car park within buildings ranging in height from 6-store to 11-storeys with associated works.</p> <p>Reserved Matters approval sought for access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping as agreed under Outline Planning Permission reference 08/00389/OUT for Phase 4B of the Centenary Quay development comprising 157 dwellings in a 26-storey building and an extension to the basement car park within Phase 3 (Environmental Impact Assessment Development) - description amended following validation</p>
HRA completion date:	14/03/2016

HRA completed by:	
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<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The site is currently a part built mixed use residential and retail development. The project being assessed would lead to the provision of up to 342 residential dwellings 75m to the north of a section of the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site and approximately 5km from The New Forest SAC and the New Forest SPA/Ramsar site. Atlantic salmon, a feature of interest of the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located 4.4km to the north of the development, pass the site on route to and from breeding grounds in the upper reaches of the river.</p> <p>Construction stage impacts are therefore possible for the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site and the River Itchen SAC but not the New Forest SPA/Ramsar site. Mitigation measures for construction stage impacts were identified in an appropriate assessment of the outline planning application in 2008. These measures were secured through planning conditions and have been successfully implemented on earlier stages of the development.</p> <p>Concern has been raised, that the proposed development, in-combination with other residential developments across south Hampshire, could result in recreational disturbance to the features of interest of the New Forest SPA/Ramsar site and the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site during its operational phase.</p> <p>The findings of the initial assessment concluded that a significant effect was possible. A detailed appropriate assessment was therefore conducted on the proposed development. Following consideration of a number of avoidance and mitigation measures designed to remove any risk of</p>
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a significant effect on the identified European sites, it has been concluded that **the significant effects which are likely in association with the proposed development can be overcome.**

## Section 1 - details of the plan or project

European sites potentially impacted by plan or project:

European Site descriptions are available in Appendix I of the City Centre Action Plan's Habitats Regulations Assessment Baseline Evidence Review Report, which is on the city council's website at

- New Forest SPA
- The New Forest Ramsar site
- The New Forest SAC
- River Itchen SAC
- Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site

Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?

No – the development consists of new residential and commercial premises which are neither connected to, nor necessary for, the management of any European site.

Are there any other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?

- Southampton Core Strategy (amended 2015) (<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/Amended-Core-Strategy-inc-CSPR-%20Final-13-03-2015.pdf>)
- City Centre Action Plan (<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/adopted-plans/city-centre-action-plan.aspx>)
- South Hampshire Strategy ([http://www.push.gov.uk/work/housing-and-planning/south\\_hampshire\\_strategy.htm](http://www.push.gov.uk/work/housing-and-planning/south_hampshire_strategy.htm) )

The South Hampshire Strategy plans for 55,200 new homes, 580,000m<sup>2</sup> of office development and 550,000m<sup>2</sup> of manufacturing or distribution floorspace across the South Hampshire area between 2011 and 2026.

Southampton aims to provide a total of 16,300 net additional dwellings across the city between 2006 and 2026 as set out in the Amended Core Strategy.

Whilst the dates of the two plans do not align, it is clear that the proposed development of the Centenary Quay site is part of a far wider reaching development strategy for the South Hampshire sub-region which will result in a sizeable increase in population and economic activity.

Regulation 68 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) is clear that the assessment provisions, i.e. Regulation 61 of the same regulations, apply in relation to granting planning permission on an application under Part 3 of the TCPA 1990. The assessment below constitutes the city council's assessment of the implications of the development described above on the identified European sites, which is set out in Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations.

## Section 2 - Assessment of implications for European sites

### Test 1: the likelihood of a significant effect

- This test is to determine whether or not any possible effect could constitute a significant effect on a European site as set out in Regulation 61(1) (a) of the Habitats Regulations.

The proposed development is located 75m to the north of a section of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site and approximately 5km from The New Forest SAC and the New Forest SPA/Ramsar site. Atlantic salmon, a feature of interest of the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located 4.4km to the north of the development, pass the site on route to and from breeding grounds in the upper reaches of the river.

A full list of the qualifying features for each site is provided at the end of this report. The development could have implications for these sites which could be temporary arising from the construction phase and permanent arising from the operational phase of the development.

The appropriate assessment of the outline planning application, 08/00389/OUT, identified the following impacts:

- Indirect loss of habitat available to features for which the site is designated, due to disturbance associated with construction phase and consequent displacement of interest.
- Disturbance to habitats resulting from post construction human activity and building effects such as lighting.
- Impacts on quality of designated habitat primarily through the potential for pollution resulting from remediation and construction works as well as shading and effects on sight lines.
- Effects on migratory salmon caused by construction noise and vibration, particularly piling.

In their response to the consultation on this planning application, dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 Natural England requested that an ecological assessment of impacts of the operational phase of the development on the New Forest SPA/Ramsar and SAC was undertaken.

The following mitigation measures have been proposed as part of the development:

#### Construction Phase:

- An update of the existing Construction Environmental Management Plan

#### Operational Phase:

- Building design solutions such as reducing the extent of glazing and use of UV coated glass, sunshades, louvres and external blinds;
- A lighting design plan
- Approximately 120m of footpath at Miller's Pond Local Nature Reserve (LNR) will be resurfaced to provide an improved circular walk within the site and a connection into the adjacent section of greenway.
- High quality, vandal-resistant signage is to be installed that will highlight the attractions of, and access to, various local semi-natural greenspaces

- All residents are to be issued with an information pack detailing various semi-natural greenspace areas in the walkable vicinity and explaining the sensitivity of Weston Shore.

#### Conclusions regarding the likelihood of a significant effect

This is to summarise whether or not there is a likelihood of a significant effect on a European site as set out in Regulation 61(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations.

The project being assessed would lead to the provision of a total of up to 342 residential units, 508 sqm of retail space and a multi storey car park located approximately 75m from Solent and Southampton SPA/Ramsar site, 4.4km from the River Itchen SAC and 5km from the New Forest SPA/Ramsar site.

The site is currently a part built residential development having been previously used as a shipyard. It is located within close proximity of a section of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar site but a significant distance from the New Forest European sites. There is therefore the possibility of impacts during both the construction and operational phases.

In particular, concern has been raised that the proposed development, in-combination with other residential developments across south Hampshire, could result in recreational disturbance to the features of interest of the New Forest and Solent European sites.

The applicant has provided details of several avoidance and mitigation measures which are intended to reduce the identified impacts. However, without more detailed analysis, it is not possible to determine whether the proposed measures are sufficient to reduce the identified impacts to a level where they could be considered not to result in a significant effect on the identified European sites. As such, a full appropriate assessment of the implications for the identified European sites is required before the scheme can be authorised.

#### Test 2: an appropriate assessment of the implications of the development for the identified European sites in view of those sites' conservation objectives

The analysis below constitutes the city council's assessment under Regulation 61(1) of the Habitats Regulations

The identified potential effects are examined below to determine the implications for the identified European sites in line with their conservation objectives and to assess whether the proposed avoidance and mitigation measures are sufficient to remove any potential impact.

In order to make a full and complete assessment it is necessary to consider the relevant conservation objectives. These are available on Natural England's web pages at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6528471664689152>.

The conservation objective for Special Protection Areas is to, "Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive."

Ramsar sites do not have a specific conservation objective however, under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), they are considered to have the same status as European sites.

#### **TEMPORARY, CONSTRUCTION PHASE EFFECTS**

##### **River Itchen SAC and Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site**

Potential impacts arising from construction activity including noise, vibration, visual disturbance and lighting upon the features of interest of the River Itchen SAC and the Solent and

Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site were considered in an appropriate assessment of the outline planning application in 2008. That assessment concluded that, with mitigation, no likely significant effects would arise.

Mitigation measures were set out in a Construction Environmental Management Plan which has been updated with each phase of the development. Mitigation measures pertinent to construction activities of Phase 4 are set out in section 5.1.2 of the Ecological Appraisal, Biodiversity by Design, 28 September 2015. These measures will be incorporated into a further revision of the CEMP which will be secured by a planning condition. It should be noted that there can be a good level of confidence in the efficacy of the mitigation measures to date as monitoring data has identified no discernible change in the usage of adjacent intertidal mudflats by waterfowl.

#### **New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar site**

The distance between the site and the New Forest SAC, New Forest SPA and the New Forest Ramsar site is sufficiently great to avoid construction phase impacts.

#### **PERMANENT, OPERATIONAL EFFECTS.**

#### **River Itchen SAC and Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site**

##### **Lighting**

Increased lighting levels on the site were considered to have potential for adverse impacts. However, it was concluded that careful design of exterior lighting and encouraging residents to close blinds and curtains would be sufficient to reduce the risk to a negligible level. A lighting design plan will be secured through a condition.

##### **Collision Risk**

The 2008 appropriate assessment concluded that the height of the proposed buildings posed a slight collision risk to birds. A study undertaken by Southampton City Council, the Southampton Bird Flightpath Study 2009, has subsequently shown that the vast majority of flights by waterfowl occur over water and as such there is only a low risk of collision with the proposed buildings. The residual risk will be reduced further through design solutions such as reducing the extent of glazing and use of UV coated glass, sunshades, louvres and external blinds. These measures will be secured through a planning condition.

##### **Recreational Disturbance**

The potential for recreational disturbance to waterfowl as a consequence of recreational activity from the development, on its own and in-combination with recreational activity from other developments, was identified as a potential adverse impact in the 2008 appropriate assessment.

Impacts on the section of SPA/Ramsar site immediately adjacent to the development site have been addressed through a provision of a vegetated riverside terrace, which provides visual screening and prevents access to the foreshore, and an information pack provided to new residents. Solutions in respect of the wider SPA/Ramsar site were still being developed in 2008 however, a sum of £5172 was secured through a section 106 agreement to be spent in the locality on measures to mitigate recreational impacts.

Although a mitigation strategy, the Interim Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, has now been developed it will not be possible to forward the financial contribution to this scheme as the section 106 agreement specifically links the funding to the provision of measures in the Shoreburs

Greenway, Peartree Green and Weston Shore which are semi-natural open spaces located close to the development site.

The research underpinning the Interim Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy indicated that Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs), located close to people's homes, could be effective in diverting recreational activity away from the shore if it was easy to access and of a suitable quality. The Shoreburs Greenway is a good example of such a SANG being a 4.5km wooded stream valley supporting a range of semi-natural habitats, including woodland, wetlands and grassland, located just 110m from the Centenary Quay development. There is currently a footpath network within the greenway providing opportunities for extensive walks however, this network is in need of improvement. The intention therefore is to use the financial contribution to an upgrade a section of footpath at the Miller's Pond LNR, in the centre of the greenway, which will provide an improved circular walk around the LNR and a connection into the adjacent section of the greenway.

### **The New Forest SAC**

#### **Air quality**

The Centenary Quay development is likely to result in an additional five recreational movements to the New Forest per day. This increase would most likely be well within the daily fluctuation in traffic flows experienced along any route on any given day and would be very unlikely, even in-combination with other projects, to result in a likely significant effect in terms of nitrogen deposition in any of the New Forest's sensitive sites.

#### **The New Forest SPA/Ramsar site**

##### **Recreational disturbance**

The issue of recreational disturbance to features of interest in the New Forest SPA/Ramsar site was not considered within the 2008 appropriate assessment but has been raised in an objection from Natural England to the current planning application. Although the Centenary Quay site is approximately 5km distant in a straight line and 13.8km by road, there is concern that recreational activity from Phase 4 of the development, in-combination with recreational activity arising from other residential developments close to the New Forest, could lead to adverse impacts upon the features of interest of the SPA and Ramsar site.

The key issues regarding recreational disturbance are as follows:

- The species of particular concern are Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark.
- Breeding success can be significantly lower close to paths, and that proximity to housing has a negative relationship on size of population.
- The most common cause of breeding failure for these ground nesting species is due to daytime predation of eggs when disturbance causes incubating birds to leave nests.
- Birds in heavily disturbed areas (e.g., close to access points and car parks) delay the start of their breeding by up to six weeks, preventing multiple broods and so reducing annual productivity.
- The majority of this disturbance was found to come from dog walkers. Dogs are encouraged to run through the vegetation chasing thrown sticks.

##### **Recreational disturbance effects**

Although Southampton, and the Centenary Quay site, benefits from an extensive network of common land, green corridors, city and district parks, and other local green spaces, it is



reasonable to assume that a proportion of Centenary Quay Phase 4 residents would also be likely to visit the New Forest (including its three European Sites) and that some of these would do so to exercise their dogs. The key question is whether any increase in visitors, and in particular dog walkers, would make a significant contribute to increased recreational disturbance to the qualifying features of the Site.

The development is predicted to generate 5 extra visits per day to the New Forest and less than 1 dog walker per day, see pages 12 – 13 of the Centenary Quay Phases 4a & b, Statement to Inform Screening for Habitats Regulations Assessment, Biodiversity by Design, Rev 3, January 2016 for the calculation. It is noted in the Statement to Inform that the increase in dog walking visits is likely to be less than might otherwise be expected as households without gardens are significantly less likely to own dogs than those with gardens. Given the large size of the New Forest the increase in visitors attributable to Centenary Quay Phase 4 is likely to be spread over a number of different sites, thereby diffusing the recreational disturbance impact. Any recreational disturbance effect caused by the Centenary Quay Phase 4 development alone is therefore likely to be *de minimis* and no likely significant effects are anticipated.

The increase in dog walkers to the New Forest attributable to Centenary Quay Phase 4, would represent 0.1% of the 619 per day predicted increase in dog walkers by 2026. In terms of in-combination effects, this represents only a small proportion of the total predicted change in visitor numbers. However, as likely significant effects in-combination cannot be ruled out mitigation measures to reduce impacts to *de minimis* are proposed.

#### **Off-site local greenspaces**

On-site accessible greenspace areas within Centenary Quay Phase 4 or the wider development will be, with the exception of vegetated shingle and maritime heath along the shoreline, and also the predominantly inaccessible green roofs, mostly formal in appearance and generally unsuitable for off-lead dog walking. These will therefore be unlikely to have any meaningful SANGS function.

However, an extensive network of accessible greenspaces exists a short distance from Centenary Quay (see Appendices 2, 3 and 4). Of particular note are Jurd's Lake and Shoreburs Greenway, which form a broad contiguous 4.5km long corridor extending east from Victoria Road, approximately 110m south of Centenary Quay, as far as Netley Common, a heathland on the eastern edge of the city. These sites include a variety of semi-natural habitats including woodland, shrub, meadow, wetland, heather and gorse. Sites incorporated within the greenway include Miller's Pond LNR and Sholing Wood. The greenways are also directly abutted by other greenspaces including Mayfield Park and Archery Rec Local Park. All of these sites combined cover approximately 81ha.

Just to the south of the entrance to Jurd's Lake is Weston Shore City Park, which covers a further 85ha and includes Westwood Woodland Park. and directly north of Westwood Woodland Park is Tickleford Gulley, an accessible wooded river valley. In addition, Peartree Green, which covers around 18ha and is only 600m north of Centenary Quay, is another accessible area of semi-natural meadow and wood/shrub habitat.

Combined the Jurd's Lake and Shoreburs greenways, Westwood Woodland Park and Peartree Green provide approximately 184ha accessible semi-natural greenspace on the development's doorstep.



These sites provide multiple opportunities in a semi-natural environment, for dog walking, including for allowing dogs-off-lead and for making circular walks (see Appendix 5). The mosaic of habitat types also has many similarities to that found in the New Forest. There is a risk however, that additional dog walking activity at Weston Shore could lead to adverse impacts on over-wintering waterfowl so the emphasis for the mitigation measures will therefore be on encouraging residents to use Jurd's Lake and the Shoreburs greenway.

### **Mitigation measures**

The mitigation measures will provide a combination of improved infrastructure within the Shoreburs Greenway and information to enable residents to easily access local SANGs.

#### ***Improved infrastructure***

The footpath improvements, described earlier in this HRA, which are intended to mitigate recreational impacts upon the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site will also serve to accommodate recreational activity diverted from the New Forest sites. There is unlikely to be a conflict in demand due to seasonal variation in the sensitive periods for the respective designated sites and the extensive nature of the greenway.

#### ***Environmental Signage***

High quality, vandal-resistant signage is to be installed that is to highlight the attractions and access to the various greenspaces discussed above. Regarding Weston Shore any signage will describe the key assets of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, and the sensitivity of its waterfowl to disturbance in particular by off-lead dogs. The signage strategy will be agreed with Southampton City Council and Natural England prior to implementation.

#### ***Residents' Information Pack***

All residents are to be issued with an attractive information pack detailing the history of the scheme, the special interventions planned along the riverside planned for future phases, the concept and value of living roofs, and a guide to biodiverse garden planting/permaculture. These information packs will also point out the various semi-natural greenspace areas in the walkable vicinity and stress the sensitivity of Weston Shore with respect to Solent and Southampton Water SPA. The residents' information pack will be agreed with Southampton City Council and Natural England prior to implementation

Conclusions regarding the implications of the development for the identified European sites in view of those sites' conservation objectives

### **Conclusions**

The following conclusions can be drawn from the evidence provided:

- Construction activities could lead to adverse impacts including noise and visual disturbance to over-wintering waterfowl and Atlantic salmon;
- There is a slightly increased risk of birds colliding with buildings;
- Increased illumination of the inter-tidal area could affect feeding waterfowl;
- Centenary Quay Phase 4 will generate a low number of additional dog walking visits to the New Forest and it is concluded that the development alone will not lead to likely

significant effects;

- When considered in-combination, although the increase constitutes a very small proportion of the projected increase in visits arising from development across south west Hampshire it is not possible to rule out likely significant effects; and
- Mitigation measures in the form of improved infrastructure within the Shoreburs Greenway, which is local to the development site, and information to enable new residents to access and enjoy local semi-natural greenspace are anticipated to reduce recreational pressure arising from the development to a *de minimis* level.

The following mitigation measures have been proposed as part of the development:

- An update of the existing Construction Environmental Management Plan;
- Building design solutions such as reducing the extent of glazing and use of UV coated glass, sunshades, louvres and external blinds;
- A lighting design plan;
- Approximately 120m of footpath at Miller's Pond LNR will be resurfaced to provide an improved circular walk and a connection into the adjacent section of greenway;
- High quality, vandal-resistant signage is to be installed that will highlight the attractions of and access to various local semi-natural greenspaces; and
- All residents are to be issued with an attractive information pack detailing various semi-natural greenspace areas in the walkable vicinity and explaining the sensitivity of Weston Shore.

As such, visitor pressure on European and other protected sites in the New Forest arising from the proposed development is likely to be extremely low and it can therefore be concluded that, subject to the implementation of the identified mitigation measures, **significant effects arising from recreational disturbance will not occur.**

## **References**

Biodiversity By Design (2016). Statement to Inform HRA Screening for Centenary Quay Phases 4a & 4b

Southampton City Council (2008) Record of Appropriate Assessment: Centenary Quay – Application by Crest Nicholson for redevelopment of the former Vosper Thornycroft Shipyard for a mix of uses

## European Site Qualifying Features

### The New Forest SPA

The New Forest SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive by supporting breeding populations of European importance of the following Annex I species:

- Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*
- Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*
- Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
- Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

The SPA qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive by supporting overwintering populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

### New Forest Ramsar Site

The New Forest Ramsar site qualifies under the following Ramsar criteria:

- Ramsar criterion 1: Valley mires and wet heaths are found throughout the site and are of outstanding scientific interest. The mires and heaths are within catchments whose uncultivated and undeveloped state buffer the mires against adverse ecological change. This is the largest concentration of intact valley mires of their type in Britain.
- Ramsar criterion 2: The site supports a diverse assemblage of wetland plants and animals including several nationally rare species. Seven species of nationally rare plant are found on the site, as are at least 65 British Red Data Book species of invertebrate.
- Ramsar criterion 3: The mire habitats are of high ecological quality and diversity and have undisturbed transition zones. The invertebrate fauna of the site is important due to the concentration of rare and scarce wetland species. The whole site complex, with its examples of semi-natural habitats is essential to the genetic and ecological diversity of southern England.

### River Itchen SAC

The River Itchen SAC qualifies under Article 3 of the Habitats Directive by supporting the following Annex I habitat:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation

River Itchen SAC also qualifies under Article 3 of the Habitats Directive by supporting the following Annex II species:

- Southern Damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial* (primary reason for selection)
- European Bullhead *Cottus gobio* (primary reason for selection)
- White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*
- European Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*
- European River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
- Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*
- European Otter *Lutra lutra*

### Solent and Southampton Water SPA

Solent and Southampton Water SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive by supporting breeding populations of European importance of the following Annex I species:

- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

- Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
- Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*
- Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*
- Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

The SPA qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive by supporting overwintering populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
- Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
- Teal *Anas crecca*

The SPA also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl, including the following species:



- Gadwall *Anas strepera*
- Teal *Anas crecca*
- Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
- Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
- Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
- Wigeon *Anas penelope*
- Redshank *Tringa tetanus*
- Pintail *Anas acuta*
- Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
- Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
- Curlew *Numenius arquata*
- Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

### **Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site**

The Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site qualifies under the following Ramsar criteria:

- Ramsar criterion 1: The site is one of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland in European waters, exhibiting an unusual strong double tidal flow and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It includes many wetland habitats characteristic of the biogeographic region: saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.
- Ramsar criterion 2: The site supports an important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates. At least 33 British Red Data Book invertebrates and at least eight British Red Data Book plants are represented on site.
- Ramsar criterion 5: A mean peak count of waterfowl for the 5 year period of 1998/99 – 2002/2003 of 51,343
- Ramsar criterion 6: The site regularly supports more than 1% of the individuals in a population for the following species: Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* and Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*.

**Table 6.1: Greenspaces in close proximity to Centenary Quay**

Site description	Image
<p>Site name: Jurds Lake Local Park</p> <p>Distance from Centenary Quay: 115m</p> <p>Area: ca. 6.1ha</p> <p>Description: Woodland, wetland and other semi-natural/naturalistic greenspace</p>	
<p>Site name: Weston Shore City Park</p> <p>Distance from Centenary Quay: 400m to the south</p> <p>Area: ca. 85ha</p> <p>Description: This is a ca.85 hectare site in the Weston area, on the east side of Southampton. The park runs alongside the Solent from Abbey Hill to Jurds Lake and includes West Wood and the associated green space know as West Wood Park. West Wood is an Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland managed in partnership with Hampshire County Council.</p>	



## Site description

## Image

Site name: Peartree Green

Distance from Centenary Quay:  
600m to the north

Area: ca. 18ha

Description: Peartree Green is an open space on high ground on the east bank of the River Itchen in Southampton. Peartree Green is a remnant of the Ridgeway Heath that today consists of two parts; the original "village green" and the land below it that is bounded by the railway and Sea Road. The Old Common has long been valued as a recreational amenity. Habitats include meadow, copse, scrub and boggy ground.



Site name: Shoreburs  
Greenway


Distance from Centenary Quay:  
760m to the east

Area: ca. 46ha

Description: 3.7km long greenway extending from the eastern end of Jurd's Lake to Netley Common. Includes a wide range of different environments from formal parkland, play areas and ponds to woodland, heather and gorse scrub. Half way along the greenway is Millers Pond Local Nature Reserve, which includes woodland and a fishing pond. The north-eastern end of the greenway includes Sholing Wood.





Site description	Image
<p>Site name: Archery Rec Local Park</p> <p>Distance from Centenary Quay: 800m to the south-east</p> <p>Area: ca. 3.6ha</p> <p>Description: Mosaic of woodland and amenity grassland. Adjacent to Shoreburs Greenway.</p>	
<p>Site name: Mayfield City Park</p> <p>Distance from Centenary Quay: 1300m to the east</p> <p>Area: ca. 12.1ha</p> <p>Description: Mayfield Park is an attractive partly wooded park adjacent to Shoreburs Greenway. A footpath runs through an area of beech woodland passing alongside a play area, skatepark and Fox's Memorial. This is the most extensive area of beech woodland in Southampton. Beech trees cast a very deep shade and little vegetation grows beneath them. A greater variety of plants can be found along the stream including water mint and marsh marigold.</p>	
<p>Site name: Netley Common LNR</p> <p>Distance from Centenary Quay: 4km</p> <p>Area: ca. 12.75ha</p> <p>Description: Netley Common is on the eastern edge of Thornhill, Southampton, close to Junction8 M27, off the A27. It is the city's last remaining piece of open heathland including grassland with islands of scrub and gorse, surrounded by a mixed woodland fringe. Netley Common connects with the eastern end of Shoreburs Greenway. Beyond Netley Common is woodland.</p>	

**Site description**

Site name: Chessel Bay LNR  
and Local Park

Distance from Centenary Quay:  
2000m

Area: ca. 12.9ha

Description: Chessel Bay Local Nature  
Reserve (LNR) is a  
riverside (Itchen) site including a narrow  
strip of woodland.

**Image**

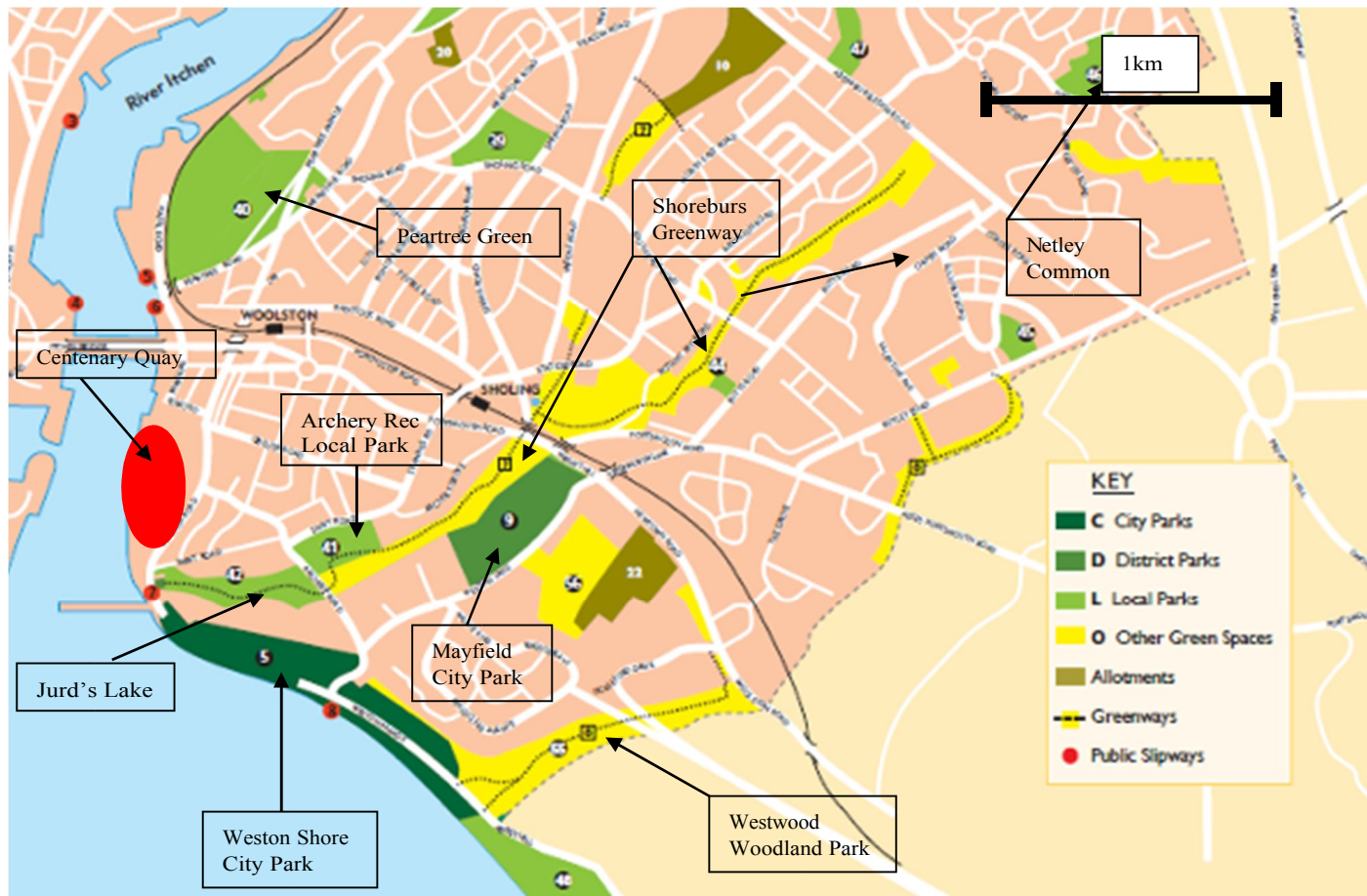


Figure 6.1: Greenspaces in the vicinity of Centenary Quay Table 6.2 : Compliance of the design of the SANGS with Natural England’s SANGS ‘checklist’ as set out in Guidelines for the Establishment of

**Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANG) Quality Standards for the Dorset Heaths**

SANGS checklist	Meeting the criteria?	Evidence
Parking on all sites unless the site is intended for use within 400m only	✓	While there is public parking available at the entrance of the Jurd's Lake / Shoreburs Greenway, residents could easily walk from Centenary Quay which is only ca. 115m south of the site. Various parking areas are also available for the Weston Shore City Park.
Car parks easily and safely accessible by car, open in nature and sign posted	✓	Easily accessible parking is available at the entrance to Jurd's Lake / Shoreburs Greenway and at various points along Weston Shore City Park.
Easy access between development or car park and SANG; able to safely let dog out of car into SANG	✓	There is safe access from the car parks into the adjoining greenspaces.
Access points with signage outlining the layout of the SANGS and routes available to visitors	✓	Signage is included at Jurd's Lake / Shoreburs Greenway and Weston Shore City Park. Signage is also being provided at Centenary Quay directing people towards the Jurd's Lake / Shoreburs Greenway
Paths easily used and well maintained but mostly unsurfaced	✓	Footpaths Jurd's Lake / Shoreburs Greenway and Weston Shore City Park



SANGS checklist	Meeting the criteria?	Evidence
Circular walk start and end at car park	✓	<p>Although the Jurd's Lake / Shoreburs Greenway is a linear greenway it is relatively broad and includes a number of park areas which allow for circular walks, e.g. Archery Rec Local Park, Mayfield City Park, Millers Pond Local Nature Reserve, and (at the eastern extremity) Netley Common. Weston Shore City Park. Various other circular walks are available which completely avoid the need retrace steps on the return journey (see Figure 6.2). These include: <u>Walk 1 – ca.10.5km.</u> Follow Jurd's Lake / Shoreburs Greenway as far as Netley Common and then return along the eastern edge of Southampton via Tickleford Gulley, Westwood Woodland Park and Weston Shore City Park.</p> <p><u>Walk 2 – ca.9.5km.</u> Shorten Walk 1 using a section of Bursledon Road.</p> <p><u>Walk 3 – ca. 6.5km.</u> Shorten Walk 1 using a section of Portsmouth Road.</p> <p><u>Walk 4 – ca. 5.5km.</u> Shorten Walk 1 using a section of Wright's Hill/Newtown Road.</p> <p><u>Walk 5 – ca. 3km.</u> Shorten Walk 1 using a section of Weston Lane.</p> <p><u>Walk 6 – ca. 2km.</u> Shorten Walk 1 using a section of Archery Road.</p> <p><u>Walk 7 - ca. 5.8km.</u> Westwood Woodland Park and Weston Shore City Park walk.</p>
	✓	A ca. 2.5km circular walk is also possible around Peartree Green via Hazel Road.
Circular walk of between 2.3 - 2.5 km	✓	See evidence for Number 6.
SANG design so that they feel safe for visitors	✓	The various greenspaces discussed above all already have a high degree of usage and are not considered unsafe.
Clearly sign posted or advertised in some way	✓	Signage already exists although further signage is also being installed at the Centenary Quay site. As discussed above further information will be provided in home welcome packs.
Leaflets or website advertising their location to potential users	✓	As discussed above further information will be provided in home welcome packs.
Perceived as semi-natural space, without too much urban intrusion	✓	As discussed, the various greenspaces discussed above include a wide variety of semi-natural habitat types and experiences. The suggested shorter circular walks do include road sections although these are all relatively short. Views across neighbouring housing are mostly restricted by woodland.

Contains a variety of different habitats		Habitats include woodland, shrub, meadow, wetland, heather and gorse. The Weston Shore City Park also provides a coastal element to the experience.
Access unrestricted – plenty of space for dogs to exercise freely and safely off the lead		There are no dogs-on-lead restrictions. However, no dogs should be allowed off-lead along the shoreline adjacent to Weston Shore City Park.
Site is free from unpleasant intrusions		The Site is free from unpleasant intrusions. The abundance of woodland provides a strong buffer against neighbouring housing.



Figure 6.2: Circular walks incorporating semi-natural habitats within close proximity to the Centenary Quay site



