

Appendix A:

Eastney Beach Habitat Restoration and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document

Consultation Statement

1. This statement sets out who the city council consulted when preparing the Eastney Beach Habitat Restoration and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), a summary of the responses raised and how those issues have been addressed in the final SPD. Preparation of this statement is a requirement of Regulation 12(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
2. The draft SPD was approved for consultation on 7th October 2014¹. Following this, a targeted consultation took place between 8th October 2014 and 5th November 2014 focussed mostly on bodies with an interest in nature conservation, those who live close to Eastney Beach and those who visit the beach.
3. All specific and general consultation bodies with an interest in nature conservation or the coast were sent either a letter or email notifying them of the consultation. In addition, a further 203 letters were sent to those who live close to Eastney Beach and posters were displayed along the beach highlighting the consultation to those who visit the beach. A copy of the neighbour notification area and the poster which was displayed are at appendix 1. The draft SPD was made available on the city council's website, at the city council's offices and at Southsea Library.
4. A total of 10 representations were received. No representations were made on the Strategic Environmental Assessment & Sustainability Appraisal draft screening statement. The issues which were raised by the respondents and the consequent changes to the SPD are set out in the table below.

¹ <http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=158&MIId=2349&Ver=4>

Eastney Beach Habitat Restoration and Management Plan Supplementary Planning document consultation

Respondent	Comments which were made during the consultation	The city council's response to the comments	Changes which will be made to the SPD
General comments			
Natural England	Welcome city council's decision to produce an SPD to help restore and safeguard the rare and important vegetated shingle community present along Eastney Beach.	Support noted.	None.
L Higgins	<p>Congratulates the city council on an excellent document outlining the Eastney Beach draft:- Habitat Restoration and Management Plan.</p> <p>The report is more than sufficient to know PCC knows the importance to the flora and to a lesser extent the fauna (mini beasts) of them. I might however add that I was asked the question if the vegetated shingle habitat died or was significantly destroyed what would be the effect to the stability of the beach and the coast defence upon which we rely? I am afraid I could not answer but may I request that this issue is investigated before any further action is taken.</p>	Support noted. The mitigation measures set out in the plan should ensure that there is no damage to the vegetated shingle habitat from development. The monitoring done to date is establishing a baseline condition for the habitat and annual monitoring in the future will detect any possible deterioration before the vegetated shingle could be considered significantly destroyed.	None.
N Llewellyn-Thomas	<p>Wish to register my objection to any development of Eastney Beach. I take issue with the assumption that in order to make Portsmouth the Great Waterfront City, we must 'develop' every part of the waterfront. As you acknowledge, the beauty and value of the Eastney Beach lies in the fact that the shingle beach environment has, so far, been preserved. Why would you then follow this statement with how a description of how you can then develop the area and "mitigate" the damage caused by this development by moving sensitive species? You also state how much the beach is "really valued by those who like to enjoy the wilder and more natural beach" but then follow this statement with a wish to change that status by "small-scale development opportunities". Opportunities for whom? Clearly not the people who value the beach as it is because they value it as it is. If we wish to retain a great waterfront then it would be far more sensible to restrict renewal to those areas further west that have already been developed. These are the busiest areas and should remain so leaving Eastney Beach intact as a quieter, more natural area. This would enhance the diversity of the waterfront giving a wide range of distinct areas along its length, from the Clarence Pier 'Entertainment' zone to the Eastney Beach</p>	The SPD proposes to put a framework in place to allow that development, the principal of which has been previously established in the Seafront Masterplan, to go ahead. However in doing this, it seeks to ensure that no net damage takes place to the Eastney Beach Local Wildlife site. This ensures that the natural habitat which makes Eastney so attractive is able to continue to thrive but there are sufficient facilities in place so that as many people as possible to get to enjoy one of Portsmouth's more natural areas.	None.

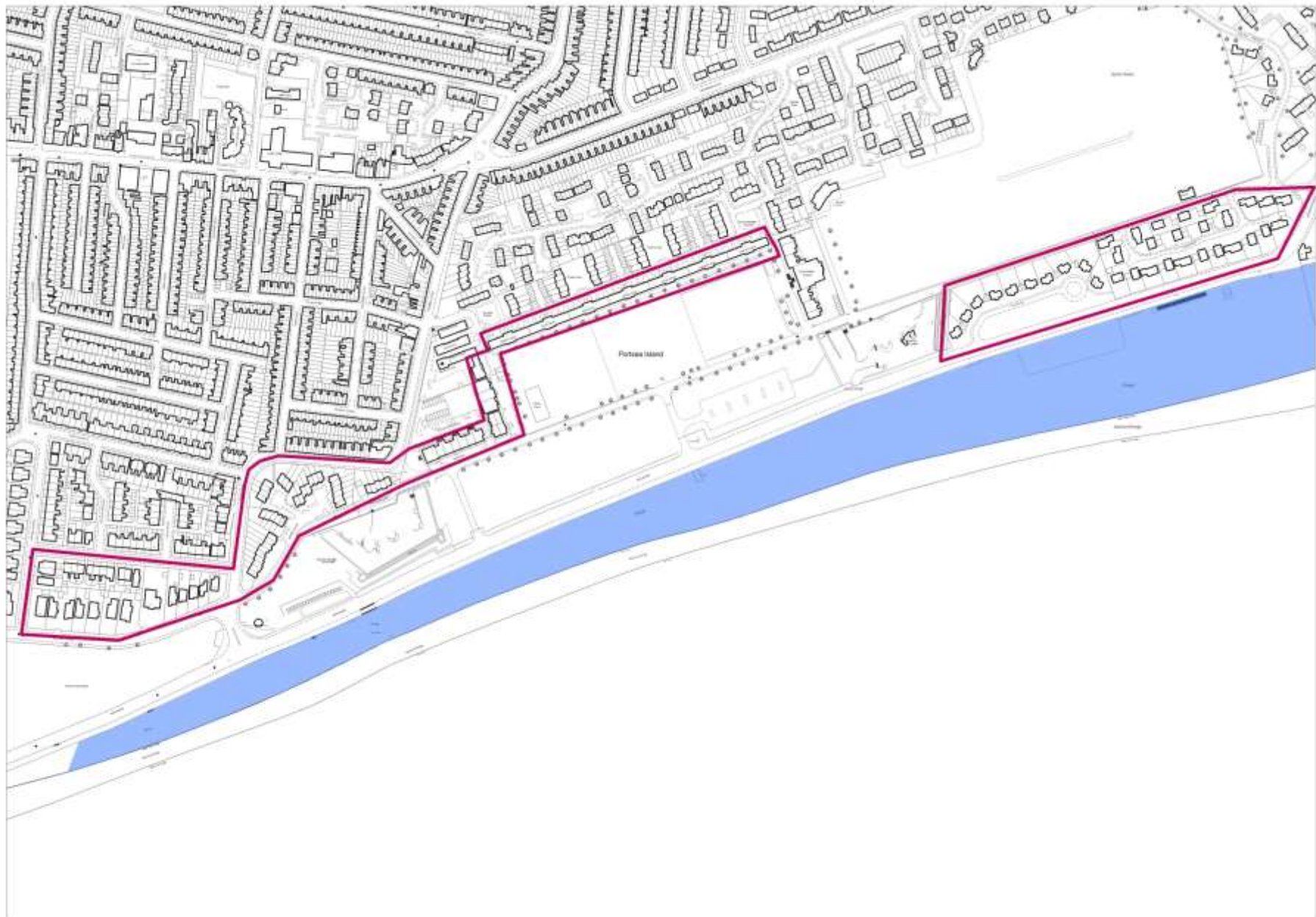
	'Eco' zone. A truly ecologically sensitive zone free from cafes (whether branded 'eco' or not) and motorised water sports facilities.		
J Jackson	Vegetated shingle is an internationally rare habitat supporting a large range of plant and animal life. It is a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity plan and designated a conservation area (source - information board on Eastney beach)	Noted - the SPD seeks to ensure that the habitat is preserved for the future.	None.
J Jackson	The area is 'wilder' and more tranquil than other parts of the seafront and is appreciated by many people because of this. Any development must not detract from this (source SPD age 2 and 8). Development is likely to cause habitat loss and increasing degradation (source SPD page 9), and lead to the area becoming less natural and tranquil.	The SPD proposes to put a framework in place to allow that development, the principal of which has been previously established in the Seafront Masterplan, to go ahead. However in doing this, it seeks to ensure that no net damage takes place to the Eastney Beach Local Wildlife site. This ensures that the natural habitat which makes Eastney so attractive is able to continue to thrive but there are sufficient facilities in place so that as many people as possible to get to enjoy one of Portsmouth's more natural areas.	None.
English Heritage MMO	No comment.	Noted.	None.
Impact on the nearby European sites			
Natural England	A significant part of the LWS provides supporting habitat for birds associated with the nearby Chichester Harbour and Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area. Given that SPA supporting habitat receives protection under the Habitats Regulations, we would recommend that the use of the site by SPA birds is made reference to in this document.	Agree this is the case. Further text will be added to highlight this fact and that developers will need to consider this.	Text regarding SPA designations and supporting habitat has been added at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5.
Indirect losses of habitat			
Natural England	The SPD refers to avoiding impact to the LWS as a result of the developments proposed in the seafront masterplan. It focuses on the direct loss of habitat that could occur but we would highlight that increased use of the LWS as a result of adjacent development - such as beach huts - could have impacts on both the vegetated shingle and the SPA. The management of these impacts is also likely to be relevant to the SPD.	Agree - more explicit reference should be made to the need to ensure that indirect habitat loss is accounted for.	Text regarding indirect habitat loss has been added to paragraph 3.18

Reasons for changes at Eastney			
G Bremer	It is unsafe to propose a single factor for the progression of the vegetated shingle westwards. I have noticed that use of the entire Southsea beach has declined in use over the past ten years. Would suggest this is a major factor in the westward spread of the vegetation.	Noted. The city council is committed to continuing the ecological monitoring of the beach on an annual basis.	None.
Targets and mitigation measures.			
G Bremer	Pleased that a plan has been set out and agree with target 1, but have reservations about some other aspects of the restoration and management prescriptions. Target 2b sets out proposals to enhance 4.2ha of habitat. The shingle community is self-regulating though. There will always be bare patches and colonised patches and the patterns of these will change over time. Similarly, composition of the community will change with time. Cannot see value in trying to grow seedlings for bare patches as these are an intrinsic part of the habitat. What is the nature of the "enhancement" and who decides what should be "enhanced". Fencing off areas may not have an impact - how would human interference be quantified?	The restoration would largely consist of the selected removal of non-native species and those which are not valuable to the vegetated shingle habitat and native species which are not typical of vegetated shingle (eg bramble), which is highlighted in paragraph 3.43. This will allow the more valuable species to thrive. It will not require seeding. The work would be overseen by the city council's ecologist.	None.
Monitoring			
G Bremer	The small scale habitat lends itself to simple quadrat and transect surveys which could form the basis for ongoing datasets.	Agree - this already takes place on an annual basis and is referred to in paragraph 3.48.	None.
N Llewellyn-Thomas	the quality of any development on any of the waterfront needs to be open to much closer scrutiny. Poor quality design and construction are the surest ways to undermine the goal of achieving a great waterfront (or any other part of the city). This is perfectly highlighted by the ongoing construction of the new Coffee Cup building. This is exactly the type of inappropriate and insensitive development and poor quality design that will ruin this beautiful area. How this got planning permission is beyond comprehension. In the context it is too big, too ugly and too permanent.	The SPD proposes to put a framework in place to allow that development, the principal of which has been previously established in the Seafrost Masterplan, to go ahead. However in doing this, it seeks to ensure that no net damage takes place to the Eastney Beach Local Wildlife site. This ensures that the natural habitat which makes Eastney so attractive is able to continue to thrive but there are sufficient facilities in place so that as many people as possible to get to enjoy one of Portsmouth's more natural areas.	None.
J Jackson	As a resident of Portsmouth for 26 years I have come to appreciate and enjoy Eastney beach. I am concerned that any development in the area between the new coffee house at St Georges road and east to Henderson road would be detrimental. I suggest that no development takes place	The SPD proposes to put a framework in place to allow that development, the principal of which has been previously established in the Seafrost Masterplan, to go ahead. However in doing this, it	None.

		seeks to ensure that no net damage takes place to the Eastney Beach Local Wildlife site. This ensures that the natural habitat which makes Eastney so attractive is able to continue to thrive but there are sufficient facilities in place so that as many people as possible to get to enjoy one of Portsmouth's more natural areas.	
Principals of the SPD			
R Drake	The Coffee Cup building under construction and the vehicles and other equipment that is on the building site has probably destroyed some of this habitat already. Why are you asking for comments when the city council has allowed the development to take place already? The harm to the habitat has already been done, unless you can advise me of actions that were taken to prevent this before Coffee Cup building work was stated...none I fear!!!!	The SPD proposes to put a framework in place to allow that development, the principal of which has been previously established in the Seafront Masterplan, to go ahead. However in doing this, it seeks to ensure that no net damage takes place to the Eastney Beach Local Wildlife site. This ensures that the natural habitat which makes Eastney so attractive is able to continue to thrive but there are sufficient facilities in place so that as many people as possible to get to enjoy one of Portsmouth's more natural areas.	None.
R Drake	Does anyone in the council realise that no everyone wants noise, development and YET MORE COFFEE OUTLETS but to have some undeveloped natural beach and seafront for the enjoyment of more nature loving residents?	The SPD proposes to put a framework in place to allow that development, the principal of which has been previously established in the Seafront Masterplan, to go ahead. However in doing this, it seeks to ensure that no net damage takes place to the Eastney Beach Local Wildlife site. This ensures that the natural habitat which makes Eastney so attractive is able to continue to thrive but there are sufficient facilities in place so that as many people as possible to get to enjoy one of Portsmouth's more natural areas.	None.
Other comments			
G Bremer	I have been observing the intriguing considerable westward expansion of the Eastney Beach community in the past two decades. Access to remote sensing images from this period may provide valuable data on the progression of colonisation of formerly bare areas of shingle.	Noted - this will be investigated with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. Analysis of historical aerial photographs and historic mapping has already been used. As a long term analysis tool, this could be	None.

		very useful.	
G Bremer	Would want to see recognition that the shingle resource would be an important resource for schools.	Agree	Paragraph 2.11 refers to educational value.
J Jackson	Development tends to lead to further development over time	Noted.	None.

Appendix 1 - neighbour notification area



Eastney Beach is home to a wide variety of different species which makes this area a quiet escape from city life. We want to make sure that some improvements can also take place which will improve Eastney Beach for the future whilst also protecting the habitats here and are asking for your views on these.

Eastney Beach, between the mouth of Langstone Harbour and St George's Road, is identified as a local wildlife site for the valuable and rare vegetated shingle habitat that has flourished here. The Seafront Masterplan recognises that the vegetated shingle is really valued by those who like to enjoy the wilder and more natural beach here. However some improvements and small-scale development opportunities have been identified in the masterplan to further improve the area.



These developments could cause harm to the vegetated shingle and so we have identified how much less valuable habitat currently exists on the beach and where restoration techniques could be used to restore and improve the habitat.



You can look at the draft plan on our website if you go to portsmouth.gov.uk and search for 'Eastney Beach' or you can come into the Civic Offices or Southsea Library to pick up a copy. We would like your comments on the proposals before taking the plan forward. You can email your comments to us at planningpolicy@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or you can write to Planning Policy Team, Portsmouth City Council, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2AU. If you would like to send us your comments on the plan, please get these to us by **5th November**.



The valuable habitat at Eastney Beach. From the top: Sea Holly, Yellow Horned Poppy and Sea Beet