

An explanation on why the summary table in the Wader and Wildfowl report and the North Solent SMP policy units + wader assessment V2.xls table are different

The last column in the Summary Table provides a brief summary of the habitats and use of these by waterfowl from the SPAs derived from the Workshops. It makes no reference to the relationship between the use of sites as roosts or for terrestrial feeding by waterfowl and the threat to these from sea level rise and marine inundation as a consequence of any coast defence policy option. It includes 'natural' sites on saltmarshes and shingle structures as well as artificial sites on sea walls and pontoons as well as sites such as grazing marshes that are dependent upon the maintenance of sea defences. Sites that are likely to need protection through maintenance of coast defences are identified as 'red' sites in SMP policy units + wader assessment V2.xls. The loss of these sites through coastal inundation would be likely to have adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA and would be difficult or impossible to compensate for. 'orange' sites are also important and their loss through coastal inundation would need to be compensated for but this is likely to be possible. 'yellow' sites are also important to the functioning of the SPA, but they are located on natural features such as chenier banks and saltmarshes whose conservation is not related to the management of coast defences.

An explanation on the criteria used to identify the 3 sites to HTL for 1st epoch in the North Solent SMP policy units + wader assessment V2.xls table

The three sites identified for Hold the Line were; Saltgrass Lane to Lymington Yacht Haven, Farlington Marshes and Thorney Island. These are all large grazing marsh complexes used by large numbers of waterfowl both for roosting and feeding. They appear to be central to the functioning of the SPA in maintaining the range and population of a number of species within the two SPA involved. It is considered difficult or impossible to compensate for the loss of these large and complex sites and maintain the integrity of the SPAs and hence they have been singled out for protection through HTL. By contrast the large number of sites identified as being 'orange' are also important but they provide more closely defined function to the SPA, either as a wader roost or as a wet grassland feeding site and generally in a relatively small area of number of birds. It is felt that these functions can be compensated and hence, if compensation can be provided, there is no need to HTL. For these sites the network of sites is more important than the value of any individual site.