

Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project

May 2017



Defining the Issue

- SDMP managed by the Solent Forum
- The Solent European Marine Sites Scheme of Management (SEMS) found repeated evidence of disturbance to birds from shore based recreation in the Solent, in annual monitoring
- Solent Forum Natural Environment Group tasked with improving the evidence (NEG comprises Local Authorities, Harbour Authorities, Statutory Authorities & Others in Solent)

Overview of Programme

TOTAL PROJECT COST APPROX> £200,000

- Phase 1 – Desk Research/Literature Review/whole project methodology – 2009
- Phase 2 – Primary Research – 2012
- Phase 3 – Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy – 2013
- Phase 4 – Transition to Implementation – 2014 -2017

All outputs on Solent Forum Website - http://www.solentforum.org/forum/sub_groups/Nature_Conservation_Group/

Methodology

- Project steered by a Project Group from planning, ecology and land management
- Methodology approved by Project Group and each report output agreed and consulted extensively
- Project Group met regularly. Overall Project Management by Solent Forum. Over 24 meetings. Plus 3 workshops

Key Primary Research

- Bird Surveys assessing disturbance to overwintering birds – 1st Year Report 2009 (Jonathan Cox) and 2nd year report Dec 2010 (Footprint Ecology).
- Visitor Surveys by Footprint Ecology.
- Household Survey and Visitor Model by Footprint Ecology.
- Modelling the impact of disturbance to birds, by Bournemouth University. A workshop held in November 2010 disseminated preliminary results and developed mitigation scenarios that can be used for modelling.

Project Evidence

- Natural England Peer reviewed data and produced a position statement – data robust - Evidence suggested some adverse affects with current housing and more with future housing
- The Project Group strongly advocate a strategic approach where possible, especially for sites further away from the coast
- NE confirmed that they expected mitigation for developments of 50 + dwellings within the 5.6km; case by case basis for 11-49 dwellings; would not expect mitigation to come forward for 10 or less. In future, they would expect mitigation to come forward for all net increases is residential dwellings.

Project Evidence

NE confirmed that they expected mitigation to come forward for developments of 50 or more dwellings within the 5.6km; they would look at developments of 11-49 on a case by case basis, and would not expect mitigation to come forward for 10 or less. In future, they would expect mitigation to come forward for all net increases in residential dwellings.

Towards a Mitigation Strategy

SDMP included an Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy,

The strategy produced the guidance required to set-up a Local Authority Strategy to deliver, manage and monitor mitigation

Solent Forum managing project until Delivery Officer recruited. Delivery Officer tasked with setting up the Solent Recreation and Mitigation Partnership (SRMP), and Bird Aware

SRMP set-up in 2014 by Local Authorities. An interim strategy was set-up within 5.6 km of the Solent Coastline