

5 The Planning Framework

5.1 *Introduction*

This section provides an overview of the key policies and guidance at national, regional and local levels, which together provide the policy framework for the proposed scheme. Policies covering specific topics, for example air quality or noise, are considered in the sections dealing with those matters.

5.2 *Directing the Flow – Priorities for Future Water Policy*

In 2002 the Government defined its strategic vision for water policy in England and identified how this fits into the broader Government objectives of sustainable development and other key policy areas, including land use planning. The strategy also identifies main future priorities and direction over the longer term integrating other aspects of water policy such as the inland and coastal water environment, water resources and the water and sewerage industry and looks ahead to the next 20 years. One of the key challenges notes that a strong water industry with a secure future is essential for delivering public policy objectives on water. To achieve this “*it is vital that the industry is able to maintain and renew infrastructure to ensure that services can continue to be provided to the high standards currently required*” as well as achieving higher environmental and drinking water standards (paragraph 4.71).

The aims and key points of this strategy will be taken forward through the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the Water Act 2003.

5.3 *New Forest National Park*

The Shadow New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) came into being in April 2005 although will not take up its full statutory planning powers until April 2006. The Environment Act 1995 outlines the two main purposes of national parks as follows:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public.

The proposed works at Lepe and Mopley, which form part of the overall scheme lie within the New Forest National Park and national and local planning policies which apply to the national park have been fully considered.

The NPA had adopted the New Forest Strategy prepared by the former New Forest Committee as an Interim New Forest National Park Management Plan, which will be reviewed once the NPA takes up its full planning function.

5.4

National Planning Policy Guidance

Government guidance on the location and design of development is contained in Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs), Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Government Circulars. The technical specialists contributing to this EIA have taken this national guidance into consideration, which will be regarded as a material consideration when the Councils determine the planning applications.

PPS 1 General Policy & Principles describes the important role of the planning system in achieving sustainable development and building sustainable communities. Key principles should be followed to ensure planning for sustainable development through development plans and planning applications.

Of particular relevance to the proposed scheme, PPS 1 notes that the Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of the natural and historic environment with those areas of national and international designations receiving the highest level of protection. PPS 1 advises that planning decisions should be based on the potential impacts on the environment of development proposals and that planning authorities should seek to enhance the environment as part of development proposals. Significant adverse impacts on the environment should be avoided (paragraphs 19 and 20). The scheme has been specifically designed to minimise potential impacts on those areas of the highest designations being avoided wherever practicable.

PPS 1 advises on the promotion of the sustainable use of water resources (paragraph 22). The scheme has fully considered the existing and potential future water resources on the Isle of Wight as detailed in chapter 3 to ensure that demands for water on the Isle of Wight can be met in the future. PPS 1 specifically advises that local authorities should ensure that infrastructure and services are provided to support new and existing economic development and housing (paragraph 23 viii). The new twin pipelines will ensure secure water

supply to the Isle of Wight up to 2029 to supplement the Island's own indigenous sources.

In integrating sustainable development in development plans PPS 1 advises that local authorities should recognise that the impact of proposed development may adversely affect people who do not benefit directly using planning conditions or planning obligations to ameliorate such impacts. All impacts on the human environment have been carefully considered as part of the EIA, including any potential disturbance on the New Forest National Park.

PPS 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas One of the objectives of PPS7 is the continued protection of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for the most valued landscapes and environmental resources. Particular regard has to be paid to those areas statutorily designated for their landscape, wildlife or historic qualities where greater priority should be given to restraint of potentially damaging development. PPS7 advises that the conservation of natural beauty of the landscape and countryside and of its wildlife and cultural heritage should be given great weight in planning policies and development control decisions in national parks. Major development which raises issues of national significance should not take place in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances.

PPS7 is of particular relevance to the scheme as part of the proposed works lie within the New Forest National Park and the Isle of Wight AONB.

PPG 9 Nature Conservation gives guidance on how the Government's policies for the conservation of natural heritage are to be reflected in land use planning. It highlights that the key to wildlife conservation is the protection of habitats upon which it depends and requires that nature conservation objectives should be taken into account in all planning activities which affect rural and coastal land use.

The Government emphasises the consequences for the planning system of the importance it attaches to the various international obligations it has assumed and its determination to honour them. There is parallel recognition that the natural wildlife heritage is not confined to designated sites. PPG 9 states that with careful planning, conservation and development are compatible.

Guidance in PPG 9 on the priorities and procedures for dealing with proposals that may affect the conservation of internationally designated sites in the area of the proposed works are clearly material to the Cross-Solent scheme.

PPG 13 Transport has a general relevance to the assessment of the road traffic implications of construction. Once operational, the Cross-Solent pipelines scheme will generate very little traffic and this will be restricted to operational traffic only for maintenance purposes.

PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning sets out the Government's policy on archaeological remains on land, and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside. It emphasises that archaeological remains are finite and non-renewable resources, which are often fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. It is therefore important that steps are taken to ensure avoidable damage is prevented. There should be a presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important archaeological remains, scheduled or not. PPG 16 also provides guidance for developers if archaeological remains are unexpectedly discovered during construction. PPG 16 also advises that consideration should be given at the early stages of a proposed development to possible archaeological remains.

The potential for archaeological material has been assessed by an independent archaeological study for the area of the proposed scheme and further details are given in section 15 'Cultural and Archaeological Heritage'.

PPG 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation advises local authorities that they should avoid any erosion of recreational function and maintain and enhance the character of open spaces.

Careful design of the proposed scheme has ensured that the potential impacts on areas for recreation and open space including the adjacent Lepe Country Park on the Hampshire side of the scheme will be minimal.

PPG 20 Coastal Planning highlights issues that are particularly relevant to the coastal zone. Since these issues are often not exclusively coastal, the guidance needs to be read in conjunction with other PPGs, for example on nature conservation. The broad aim of Government policy is to protect and enhance the natural character and landscape of the undeveloped coastline. Development proposals should be assessed in terms of the potential impact on sites of

designated nature conservation and landscape value and on other interest such as fisheries and shellfisheries and archaeology. PPG20 advises, “before major developments are permitted it will be essential to demonstrate that a coastal location is required” (paragraph 3.10).

PPG 21 Tourism states that the Government is committed to encouraging tourism while at the same time conserving those qualities in the environment that are a major attraction to tourism. The guidance outlines the economic significance of tourism and its environmental impact and therefore its importance in land-use planning. Much of the guidance is concerned with tourism policies and development proposals. Its relevance to the Cross-Solent project lies in the recognition of the significance of tourism as an economic activity particularly to the economy of the Isle of Wight and Lepe Country Park as an important visitor feature within the New Forest National Park. In addition the Solent is an important for coast and water activities as a popular sailing area with a number of sailing clubs in the vicinity, such as Gurnard.

PPG 24 Planning and Noise outlines the issues to be considered in determining planning applications for both noise-sensitive developments and for activities which will generate noise. It introduces the concept of noise exposure categories for residential development, encourages their use and recommends appropriate levels for exposure to different sources of noise. It also advises planning authorities on the use of conditions to minimise the impact of noise.

Of less specific relevance, but nevertheless of possible consequence for certain aspects of the proposal, are the following PPGs, which have been considered by the technical specialists in preparing their technical statements.

- PPG 10 Planning & Waste Management
- PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment
- PPG 23 Planning and Pollution Control
- PPG 25 Development and Flood Risk

5.5

5.5.1

Regional Policy

RPG 9 – Regional Planning Guidance for the South East, 2001

The regional context for the proposed scheme is set out in Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG 9), published in March 2001. RPG 9 provides the regional framework for the preparation of local authority development plans and the spatial framework for other strategies and programmes.

RPG 9 calls for local authorities to establish or maintain ongoing liaison with the Environment Agency and water statutory undertakers in order to ensure timely and sustainable provision of infrastructure for the supply of water and sewage treatment and discharge systems.

5.5.2

South East Plan - Draft for Public Consultation January 2005

Produced by the South East England Regional Assembly, the South East Plan covers the period 2006 – 2026 and once approved, will replace RPG9 and form part of the Development Plan framework. This guidance sets out Government Policy for the south-east, establishes a framework for the region's development, and provides advice on the economy, the environment and land use, housing and transport.

A key theme of the South East Plan is sustainable natural resource management, ensuring greater efficiency in use of natural resources, the reduction of pollution and waste, and ensuring that features of importance are protected and enhanced, including wildlife and landscapes. Water supply is to be maintained through a twin track approach to water efficiency and water resource development to manage the balance between supply and demand. Local authorities are required to work with water companies and the Environment Agency to identify infrastructure needs and allocate areas for and permit necessary infrastructure. An integrated approach to coastal zone planning and management is advocated.

The draft South East Plan gives “*the highest priority to protecting and conserving land within the National Park*”. There are separate sub regional policies for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The strategy for the Isle of Wight is based on managed economic growth and regeneration while ensuring that the infrastructure needed to support development is available to provide for the island's particular characteristics and needs.

5.6

Development Plan Framework

The statutory development plans for the area comprises:

- (a) RPG9 (pending the approval of a Regional Spatial Strategy)
- (b) For development on the Isle of Wight
 - Isle of Wight Unitary Development Plan 2001
- (c) For development in Hampshire

- Hampshire County Structure Plan (1996-2011) Review 2000
- New Forest District Local Plan 1999
- New Forest District Local Plan – First Alteration Proposed Modifications, February 2005

The Shadow New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) intends to adopt the New Forest Strategy prepared by the former New Forest Committee in 2003, as an Interim New Forest National Park Management Plan. The NPA has also indicated that it intends to prepare a National Park Management Plan to be in place by 2009.

These and numerous other statutory and informal documents have been used to guide the selection of the preferred scheme, to define the detailed proposals and to assess the impacts of the scheme.

5.6.2

Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 (Review)

The Hampshire County Structure Plan was adopted in January 2000, and looks forward to 2011. The overall aim of the Structure Plan is to support and improve the standard of environment and the quality of life, including the level of economic prosperity, in Hampshire. It says that the planning system should seek to enable the community's service needs to be met in a sustainable and environmentally acceptable way.

The Structure Plan emphasises the importance of key regulatory authorities and utilities in working together to ensure the efficient use of water resources without compromising the natural environment.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed works, those policies of most relevance include those relating to:

- The special character of the New Forest is to be protected from inappropriate development while recognising that some development which does not harm the landscape or ecological interests of the area may be necessary to support the vitality of local communities (Policy NF1). The Structure Plan also recognises the public's enjoyment of the New Forest must not be at the expense of the Forest's landscape, wildlife and traditional character and that detailed studies which integrate recreation, tourism and economic initiatives with landscape and conservation objectives are required (para. 281).

- Development which is likely to harm the nature conservation areas of the SPA, SAC, Ramsar site, SSSIs or National Nature Reserves will not be permitted unless the need for the development is shown to outweigh the adverse impact (Policy E10). Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are given similar protection and where development is permitted sufficient provision is made to minimise the damage and provide appropriate compensatory measures (Policy E11).
- In general landscape terms development should avoid or minimise any adverse effect that proposals would have on woodlands, trees and hedgerows and where appropriate should include new planting (Policy E8).
- Outside the built up areas, strategic policies promote the conservation and enhancement of the countryside and avoiding or minimising any adverse effects of development (Policy C1). Generally planning permission will only be granted for development which is essential for agriculture, horticulture or forestry or other development for which a rural location is essential (Policy C2).
- The local planning authority should be satisfied that the transportation requirements of any proposed development can be accommodated (Policy T5) and the effectiveness of the Strategic Road Network, of which the A326 forms part, should be maintained (Policy T7).
- Where nationally important archaeological sites and their settings are affected by development, there will be a presumption in favour of their preservation in situ. Sites of local importance will be considered on merit. Where preservation is not possible, appropriate arrangements should be made for excavation and recording prior to development taking place (Policy E14).
- Seek the management of waste through reduction, re-use, recovery and waste disposal having regard to the proximity principle and the principle of best practical environmental option. In addition, planning permission for waste development will be granted providing any environmental or other impacts outweigh a clearly established need for the development, indicate a satisfactory scheme of working, landscaping including lorry routing and measures to ensure that the development will not have unacceptable environmental, traffic or other impacts; and include proposals for satisfactory and prompt restoration and aftercare to a landform compatible with the local landscape and an agreed beneficial after-use. Planning permission, which will cause material harm to the New Forest, and designated international and national nature conservation

sites will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need for the development to take place in the public interest which outweighs any harm that would be caused. (Policies MW1, MW2 and MW3).

5.6.3

New Forest District Local Plan First Alteration

The New Forest District Local Plan adopted in 1999 has recently been subject to a partial review – the First Alteration, and it is the intention of the District Council to adopt the First Alteration in August 2005. Policies within the Local Plan First Alteration expand on the Hampshire County Structure Plan policies outlined above and the most recent version of the First Alteration Proposed Modifications has been used as a basis for the ES. This provides the detailed framework for the control of development and use of land within New Forest District.

The Local Plan First Alteration contains a number of policies of particular relevance to the proposed Cross-Solent scheme and against which the proposed works will be assessed as follows. Those of most relevance are:

New Utility Infrastructure in the New Forest (Policy NF-P9): Development of new infrastructure within the New Forest will only be permitted where the development is required primarily to serve the needs of a community within the New Forest, all possible alternatives have been considered, amenities of local residents are safeguarded, measures to ameliorate the impact of the development on the environment are incorporated into the development. Legal agreements may be used requiring the removal of plant and equipment and restoration of the site if the utility becomes surplus to requirements.

Infrastructure (Policy DW-E2): the Council consider that new infrastructure can detract from the appearance of new or existing development. Wherever possible, power lines and other cables should be put underground. Routing of infrastructure (above or below ground) should not damage trees or other landscape or historic features.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure (Policy DW-PIA): the Council will ensure that new development is properly phased with the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure.

General development criteria (Policy DW-E1): this policy seeks to achieve high standards of design and proposals which enhance their surroundings will be encouraged.

Control of Development New Forest National Park (Policy NF-E1): Development will only be permitted where it does not damage the unique character and quality of the New Forest, or significantly increase human or animal pressures on it.

Landscape character of the New Forest (Policy NF-E4): Development that would adversely affect the distinctive landscape character within the Forest will not be permitted.

Solent Maritime SAC, Solent & Southampton Water SPA & Ramsar site (NF-E31A): Development which is not directly connected with or necessary to the site management will be assessed as to whether it would have a significant effect (also taking account of in combination effects) on the statutorily designated sites. Where the integrity of the site would be adversely affected, planning permission will not be granted unless there are no alternative solutions or the proposed development must be carried out for reasons on the grounds of overriding public interest.

North Solent SSSI, North Solent NNR (Policy NF-E31B): Development likely to harm a SSSI or NNR will not be permitted unless the reasons for the development clearly outweigh the harm to the special nature conservation value of the site and the national policy to safeguard such sites.

Lepe Meadow SINC (Policy NF-E32A): Development likely to harm a designated SINC will not be permitted unless the harm to the site is outweighed by other material considerations.

Protected species (Policy DW-E32D): planning permission will not be granted for development that would cause demonstrable harm to those species of fauna or flora that are protected under British or European law or their habitats unless conditions or obligations are attached to secure their protection.

Lepe Country Park (Policy DW-R1): gives protection existing or proposed formal or informal areas of public open space by resisting development of non recreational use in these areas.

Coastal development (Policy DW-C1): Development on the coast should be of the highest standards having regard to the impact of the proposal on views of the

coast from land and sea. Development should not adversely affect coastal townscape, landscape, seascape, nature conservation or archaeological interests.

Flood risk (Policy DW-E40): Part of the lower car park at Lepe Country Park area is at risk from flooding and the policy requires the Environment Agency to be consulted on development proposals and a number of criteria met.

Development of Agricultural Land (Policy DW-E33): the proposed temporary drill rig site will be located on land classified as Grade 2 under the MAFF agricultural land classification. Development on land classified as Grades 1, 2 or 3a will not be permitted unless opportunities have been assessed for accommodating the proposed development on previously developed sites and on land within the boundaries of existing urban areas. Other sustainability considerations including accessibility to infrastructure, workforce and markets will also be applied.

Trees (Policy DW-E6A): where a proposed development contains or affects trees or woodland of amenity value, a fully detailed tree survey shall be submitted with the planning application. Measures to protect trees during construction works should be agreed with the council.

Hedgerows (Policy DW-E6B): hedgerows that meet the appropriate criteria for retention as set out in the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 shall be retained and where possible be subject to a scheme of management to ensure their survival and maintenance of their character. Measures to protect hedgerows during construction works should be agreed with the council. Advice is given on selecting species for additional hedgerow planting.

Access, safety and traffic management requirements (Policy DW-T6B): development must have or provide satisfactory means of access for all vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Development shall not cause or demonstrably increase danger to road users or conflict with existing or proposed scheme for traffic management.

Protection of existing and proposed rights of way (Policy DW-T16): policies aim to achieve and retain a coherent network of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways within the District.

Archaeology and ancient monuments (Policies DW-E23 & DW-E24): in determining applications for development which will have an adverse effect on

archaeology, the council will seek advice from the appropriate organisations and may require a management agreement to ensure preservation and maintenance of archaeological features where appropriate

5.6.4

Hampshire, Portsmouth & Southampton Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Adopted in December 1998, this local plan provides the planning framework, including detailed planning policies and guidance, for decisions in relation to providing minerals and waste development facilities within Hampshire and the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth. It covers the period up to 2001 and is currently under review. The waste policies of the Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 (Review) also apply.

Waste arising from the proposed work which cannot be reused on site will be disposed of at a licensed site in accordance with the provisions of the Local Plan. Local plan policies are based on sustainable waste management aimed at reducing the production of waste to a minimum; recycling and reusing as much as possible of waste and maximum recovery of materials and energy from that waste which cannot be recycled or reused (Policy 2). Policies in the local plan require that as much use as possible should be made of secondary or substitute aggregate materials to reduce the quantity of waste requiring disposal.

Local plan policies also aim to secure the reuse of suitable materials such as sand and gravel, which occur through development (policies 4 and 5). Further consideration regarding waste arisings is provided in section 12 'Geology, Soils and Geomorphology'.

Summary

The proposed works have taken account of the above planning policies. The proposed Cross-Solent works are essential to meet the demand for water on the Isle of Wight, and with careful design the impact of the works on the environment and the amenities of local residents will be minimal. The proposed works are to a large extent underground although there will be temporary disturbance during construction. There are few, above ground structures associated with the scheme within the New Forest National Park which will be limited to concrete covers covering the connection chambers, at ground level, and a small kiosk housing telemetry equipment along Lepe Road and pumps and kiosk at Mopley booster pumping station. Although a small section of hedgerow needs to be removed to allow temporary access off Lepe Road, this will be replanted upon completion of the works. Equally the proposed scheme has been carefully designed to avoid the

international, national and local nature conservation designated areas in the wider Lepe and foreshore areas.

5.6.5

Isle of Wight Unitary Development Plan

The Unitary Development Plan was adopted on 18th May 2001, and is the framework for development on the Island up to 2011. It provides detailed guidance in encouraging the protection and enhancement of our unique environment determining planning applications and in guiding development on the island.

Those policies of particular relevance to the proposed scheme and against which the proposed works will be assessed are as follows:

Development of Utility Services (Policy U13): Development of utility services, providing essential island services, will be approved, provided they minimise any adverse effect on the environment and do not duplicate facilities that could be shared. The consideration of possible alternative sites or routes may assist the minimisation of any adverse impact. Unless there are no alternatives, or issues of overriding public interest are involved, development should avoid

- a) designated and sensitive landscape areas;
- b) areas of nature conservation, scientific or archaeological importance;
- c) areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

Screening of Utilities Plant and Equipment (Policy U14): When approving or commenting upon proposals for plant and equipment required by statutory undertakers and the utility companies, the Council will seek assurances that these will be adequately and appropriately screened

The Council recognises that some of this plant and equipment will need, for operational reasons, to be located in sensitive or visually intrusive locations.

Safeguarding of Aquifers and Water Resources (Policy U19): Development will only be permitted where the Council is satisfied that surface and underground water resources will be safeguarded and supplies will be protected from pollution (in consultation with the Environment Agency).

It is recognised that water supplies represent a finite resource requiring sustainable management as well as protection. The Environment Agency is currently

reassessing the island's aquifer protection zones and considers that they are likely to be modified.

General Locational Criteria for Development (Policy G4): Proposals for new development should ensure they consider a number of criteria including careful design to their surroundings, take account of prominent views, nature conservation and ecological importance, access and traffic generation, archaeology, cultural heritage and geology, and take account of ponds, streams and other watercourses.

Development Outside Defined Settlements (Policy G5): Outside the defined settlements in the Unitary Plan, development may exceptionally be permitted where it requires a rural location, is of benefit to the rural economy, is well designed and landscaped and is of an appropriate scale providing certain criteria are met.

The provision of water supplies is not specifically mentioned as being acceptable outside the defined settlements under this policy, although it does note that development should not “*prejudice or devalue water resources*”.

Coastal Development (Policy G11): Considers where coastal development which for operational reasons needs to be located on the coast is at risk from coastal erosion. In exceptional circumstances permission may be given for a replacement provision by way of a limited extension on the landward side of the existing development or by relocation to an alternative site provided certain criteria are met, including that the potential loss of development would have a damaging impact on the economy.

Solent Maritime SAC (Policy C9): Development will be permitted where the Council can ensure the protection of features of international importance. Where overriding public interest leads to development being permitted, compensatory measures to ensure the coherence of the international site will be secured.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (Policy C11): This policy protects sites where there are known issues of local nature conservation importance which will be material to the consideration of any proposals for development.

Development Envelopes for Towns and Villages (Policy G1): Land outside these boundaries is considered to be countryside where development, other

than exceptions specified in other policies or proposals, will be resisted while recognising that some changes are inevitable and that developments which are essential to the effective operation of the rural economy, or for the greater good of the Island, may be appropriate.

Isle of Wight AONB (Policy C2): Planning applications will only be approved where they do not have a detrimental impact on the landscape and meet a proven national need where there are no alternative sites.

Protection of Landscape Character (Policy C1): Planning applications for appropriate development in the countryside must maintain and protect the landscape whether viewed from the land or sea, and should be for the benefit of the rural economy and the people who live there. Development which may be acceptable in the countryside must take account of the landscape character and local distinctiveness of the area.

General Waste disposal (Policy W1): All waste/effluent generated on the Island should be subject to the highest possible level of purification/treatment/reclamation prior to disposal or recycling. In general the council will encourage a number of measures to minimise the generation of waste including seek to establish schemes aimed at waste minimisation at source; encourage recycling and the recovery of resources from waste, in both the public and private sectors; increase levels of waste diverted from landfill, through investment in various schemes for the re-use or recycling of waste; aim to recover or dispose of waste in a way that minimises the environmental consequences of transport within and off the Island; and seek to generate energy from waste where appropriate.

Highway Considerations for New Development (Policy TR7): Planning applications for new development will be approved where they take account of highway safety according to specified criteria.

Secondary Aggregates and Recycled Materials (Policy M5): Emphasis is increasingly placed on using recycled materials. The Council supports and encourages the use of secondary aggregates and recycled materials and planning permission will be granted for their importing, reworking and processing, subject to there being no unacceptable adverse environmental impact from such development.

Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Policy B9): Development proposals which are likely to adversely affect the archaeological heritage and features of the Island, directly or indirectly, will not be permitted.

Summary

These planning policies and associated criteria have been taken into account in the design of the proposed scheme. The Cross-Solent water supply pipelines are essential to meet the Island's demand for drinking water and have been carefully designed to minimise impact on the coast and existing landscape. The majority of the works for the Cross-Solent scheme are underground, and any equipment required for operational purposes which is visible above ground will be carefully located to minimise visual impact. Within the New Forest National Park, additional consideration to design and sensitive siting of equipment will ensure that the special qualities of the park are not compromised. There may however be temporary visual disturbance and increased noise and dust levels during the construction period.

The scheme will avoid the designated nature conservation areas by underground directional drilling to a point beyond the furthest most boundary of the SAC. The proposed works will also avoid Lepe Meadow SINC to the west of Lepe Road and will drill beneath Gurnard Cliff West to the north of Cliff Farm.

5.7

Non-statutory Plans and Advice

Where appropriate, the detailed design of the proposals have taken account of a number of non-statutory policy documents produced for the Solent area some, but not all, are highlighted below. These cover a range of issues relating to the Solent such as nature conservation, landscape and biodiversity issues to coastal defences/shoreline management.

- (a) For development in the Solent
 - Strategic Guidance for the Solent (Consultation Draft) – Solent Forum (1997) Revised 2003
 - The Solent Coast & Estuaries Habitat Management Plan (ChaMP) – 2003
 - Solent European Marine Sites Management Scheme 2004 (SEMS)

- (b) For development on the Isle of Wight
 - IOW Shoreline Management Plan 1997
 - Isle of Wight Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- West Wight Coastal Defence Strategy Study (2004)
- Isle of Wight Environmental Mitigation Study
- Coastal Slip Stability Study Gurnard – Cowes (2000)
- Isle of Wight AONB Management Plan (2004)
- The Isle of Wight Local Transport Plan

(c) For development in Hampshire

- New Forest District Council – Coastal Management Plan (2004)
- North Solent Shore Interpretation and Access Study, April 2004
- Lepe to Calshot Key Area Working Group Draft Issues and Options Report, February
- Western Solent & Southampton Water Shoreline Management Plan – 1998
- Western Solent Coastal Defence Strategy 2004
- Hampshire Coast Biodiversity Action Plan
- Hampshire Transport Plan 2001 - 2006