
From: Susanne Rupp-Armstrong [<mailto:sarmstrong@abpmer.co.uk>]
Sent: 04 December 2017 15:20
To: Peter Fletcher
Subject: RE: RSPB Wallasea pontoon / jetty addendum HRA

Dear Peter,

Further to your email below, and having discussed this with the RSPB, we can confirm that:

- a) As the RSPB will own the pontoon, they will only licence a ferry operator to go from Burnham straight to Grassland Point (and back), not stopping at Essex Marina (during the overwintering season).
- b) The RSPB will erect signage clarifying that the new permissive footpath is for ferry access only.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries!

Best regards,

Susanne

Dr Susanne Armstrong | Senior Consultant | ABPmer
Quayside Suite | Medina Chambers | Town Quay | Southampton | SO14 2AQ |
Direct: 023 8071 1885 | Tel: 023 8071 1840 | Email: sarmstrong@abpmer.co.uk
Please note that I do not work on Fridays.

From: Peter.Fletcher@Rochford.gov.uk [<mailto:Peter.Fletcher@Rochford.gov.uk>]
Sent: 04 December 2017 12:17
To: Susanne Rupp-Armstrong
Subject: FW: RSPB Wallasea pontoon / jetty addendum HRA
Importance: High

Dear Susanne,

Further to your addendum report the HRA should be ready for consultation shortly, however, there are a few queries which I hope that you will be able to answer as set out below. I'm hoping to get the HRA ready for consultation by the end of the week so a speedy response would be very helpful if at all possible. If its likely to take a bit longer could you please indicate the likely timescale. Please could you copy Sue Hooton in on the additional details. Thanks.

Regards,

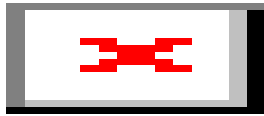
Peter

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From: Sue Hooton, Principal Consultant Ecologist [<mailto:Sue.Hooton@essex.gov.uk>]

Sent: 29 November 2017 18:35

To: Peter Fletcher

Cc: Neil Harvey, Natural Environment Manager

Subject: RE: RSPB Wallasea pontoon / jetty addendum HRA

Importance: High

Hi Peter

I have finalised the draft HRA as far as possible in line with your deadline of 30 November (tomorrow) but having contacted Charlie Williams (Natural England) regarding his concerns, he needs clarification on these (see below) and so do I for the HRA.

I've only managed to speak to him today - he was unaware of this deadline I had to get the HRA back to you tomorrow – and ask that you seek confirmation from the RSPB on these matters as a matter of urgency.

I agreed with him that it is essential to avoid needing a repeat consultation with NE if the HRA does not include the answers to these concerns so can you wait for the HRA til next week please ? We need to be confident that the HRA covers the necessary detail and NE can provide full comments on the proposal and we'd both rather it was "water tight" !

There is currently uncertainty on 2 matters;

- 1) The ferry route: It is not clear from the documents what the ferry's proposed route would be.

Is there an intention to do a triangular route ? ie stopping at the Essex Marina (as the ferry from Burnham does now) and then going directly to the RSPB's new Grassland Point jetty before going back across the river to Burnham. That triangular route would involve travelling along the south side of the river for over 2km, in front of the western part of Allfleets Marsh and the saltmarsh west of

Grassland Point. If the ferry did that during the winter and didn't keep far enough out from the S shoreline then it might cause significantly more bird disturbance, particularly when the high tide roost, west of Grassland Point was in use.

I recommend that the ferry route is only Burnham to Grassland Point and hope that RSPB can confirm that this is their intention. If not this mitigation measure will be necessary to avoid additional assessment and delay with the HRA.

2) Public access to the old seawall running out to the new Grassland Point jetty:

The sea wall will obviously be needed to allow people onto and off the ferry when it's running. However is the proposal to also allow people access to that seawall at other times ? If that was allowed during the winter and migration periods, then disturbance along that seawall would probably be much more frequent than the ferry's operation.

I recommend that (except during the summer) the public should only be allowed onto the seawall running out to Grassland Point to get access to/from the ferry. If not this mitigation measure will be necessary to avoid additional assessment and delay with the HRA.

I am now out of the office (Thurs 30 Nov and Fri 1 Dec) until Mon 4 Dec although I may be available on my mobile at break times. If you leave a message I will call you back ASAP.

I hope that you can provide clarifications on the above queries by then for me to finalise the HRA and issue it to you.

Best wishes
Sue

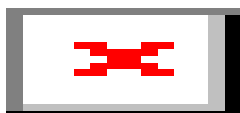
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From: Peter Fletcher [<mailto:Peter.Fletcher@Rochford.gov.uk>]

Sent: 22 November 2017 08:38

To: Sue Hooton, Principal Consultant Ecologist

Subject: FW: RSPB Wallasea pontoon / jetty addendum (RDC ref: 2017-07-31 220894, MMO ref: MLA/2017/00273)

Morning Sue,

Please the attached from Charlie where he raises a few queries which you can hopefully address with him. If you need me to go back to RSPB please let me know.

Regards,

Peter

Peter Fletcher

Senior Planning Officer

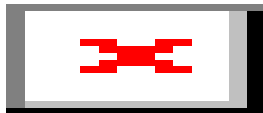
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From: Williams, Charles (NE) [<mailto:Charlie.Williams@naturalengland.org.uk>]

Sent: 21 November 2017 18:06

To: Peter Fletcher

Cc: Yeomans, Amanda (NE)

Subject: RE: RSPB Wallasea pontoon / jetty addendum (RDC ref: 2017-07-31 220894, MMO ref: MLA/2017/00273)

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your email with the Addendum to the Environmental Appraisal for the RSPB's passenger ferry and jetty proposal. And thank you for letting me know that, as the competent authority determining

the planning application, Rochford Council will be instructing Place Services to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the proposal and will consult Natural England on that. That should ensure we have a clear audit trail. My main comment at this stage is that, having read the Environmental Appraisal and the Addendum, I think they do provide sufficient information to carry out the HRA, including a detailed 'appropriate assessment' of disturbance effects on the SPA/Ramsar site bird features. So I think Place Services task will mainly be to organise the assessment in the stepwise HRA format; ensure all the relevant SPA, SAC and Ramsar site features are considered; use more explicit HRA terminology in places; pull out key points from the Environmental Appraisal and addendum; and come to a clear view on the mitigation measures needed to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the sites.

There were a couple of points where I think clarification on the proposed operation of the jetty and ferry would be useful before the HRA is completed. Feel free to get back to me if you want an explanation of those, or else let Place Services know that they can contact me about those points, or if they have any other questions related to the HRA.

I should explain that I haven't taken over Steve Roe's Land Use Planning role. But as I'm the NE responsible officer for the Crouch and Roach Estuaries SSSI, Steve discussed the proposal with me before he responded to the previous consultation. I will be involved in the same way in any future planning consultation response on the proposal, though it will probably be drafted by Steve or another Land Use Planning adviser, depending on whether or not he is back at work by then. Given that uncertainty, you could email the consultation with the HRA to me and I will share it with whoever is acting as our planning lead for Rochford at that time.

I am copying in my Marine colleague Amanda Yeomans, because she is dealing with consultations on this proposal from the Marine Management Organisation, as it also requires a Marine Licence.

Best regards

Charlie Williams
Lead Adviser
Essex Local Delivery Team
Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire Area Team
Natural England

Mob: 07775 510193

E-mail: Charlie.Williams@naturalengland.org.uk

E-mail is our preferred method of communication. If absolutely necessary, postal correspondence should be addressed to: Charles Williams, Mail Hub, Natural England, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP.

www.gov.uk/natural-england

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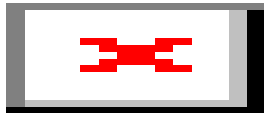
From: Peter.Fletcher@Rochford.gov.uk [<mailto:Peter.Fletcher@Rochford.gov.uk>]
Sent: 07 November 2017 11:21
To: 'Charlie.Williams@naturalengland.org.uk'
Subject: RSPB Wallasea pontoon / jetty addendum (RDC ref: 2017-07-31 220894, MMO ref: MLA/2017/00273)

Dear Charlie,

I understand that you have taken over from Steve Roe on this project and have been copied in on the addendum report in response to his letter of 10th August. I am arranging for an HRA to be undertaken using this information on which NE would be formally consulted. However, if there are any comments or advice that you would like to provide in the meantime, please let me know. Currently it is proposed to instruct Essex Place Services to undertake the HRA.

Regards,

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