

STREAMLINING CONSENTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

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The River Hamble

An aerial photograph of the River Hamble, a large waterway in the Solent region. The river is filled with hundreds of sailboats and yachts, many of which are moored in rows. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and grass, with some residential buildings visible on the banks. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the sky is clear.

Located at the heart of the Solent

3261 permanent moorings

Marinas, yards and sailing clubs

Marine-related businesses

Heavily designated for nature conservation

The River Hamble

- **13 boat yards/marinas**
- **8 Sailing clubs**
- **Over 3000 moorings**
- **Dozens of related businesses**

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- **Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site)**
 - **Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**
 - **Special Protection Area (SPA)**
 - **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**
 - **Local Nature Reserves**
 - **Archaeological sites**

Marine Consents on the Hamble

- High demand for additional/improved structures and facilities
- Harbour Authority processes approx. 20 p.a.
- Formation of River Hamble Streamlined Consents Group



River Hamble Streamlined Consents Group

- **Set up in 2001**
 - Harbour Authority
 - Marine & Fisheries Agency
 - Environment Agency
 - Natural England
 - The Crown Estate
 - Local Planning Authorities....
- **Informal consultation at the pre-application stage**
- **Advisory, not decision making**
- **Bi-annual meetings, or on demand**

River Hamble Streamlined Consents Group – The Process

- Invitations sent out (ref to Solent Forum Guide)
- Applicant to provide a project brief and any outline plans in advance
- Applicant's presentation followed by informal discussion
- Authorities advise on likely consent requirements, surveys, timing issues, benefits of public consultation



Examples

- **Private individuals – small scale jetty**
- **Commercial developments – marinas**
- **Others – Bridges (Railway, M27 motorway)**



Benefits

For the applicant:

- **Case specific advice early on (able to adapt)**
- **Improved communications with authorities**
- **Reduced timescales and costs**
- **Less standard responses during consents process**
- **Better understanding of consents process**

Benefits - continued...

For the authorities:

- Improved understanding of application
- Improved communications
- Can help reduce consultation times
- Identify opportunities for best practice
- Reduces risk of repetition

Forward Look

- Recognisable benefits, so set to continue
- Used as case study in Marine Bill White Paper
- Await to see how the group will develop alongside the Marine Bill's concept of "one project, one license".



Thank you

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