

CABINET – 2 OCTOBER 2002

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE AT STURT POND, MILFORD

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council owns a substantial area of Sturt Pond at Milford on Sea. A plan is attached which shows the area covered by the Site of Special Scientific Interest (dotted diagonal hatch). There is a long history of discussions between the Council and the Parish Council concerning the management of the site. The process of agreeing a management plan is in process with the co-operation and assistance of English Nature and the Environment Agency.
- 1.2 The declaration of the site as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) would assist management of the area and would also open up the possibility of other funding to assist with management costs. Such a declaration reflects, rather than affects, the existing status of the site. This would mean that the management objects would reflect the historic pattern of use.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The area is, in large part, included in the European designations of Special Protection Area (SPA); Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site, which cover the foreshore from Hurst Spit eastwards, to beyond the Beaulieu River. It is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- 2.2 The Council has previously successfully sought the designation of coastal land as an LNR, at Boldre Foreshore to the east of the Lymington River. Local wardening arrangements there have seen a positive reduction in pressures and resultant benefits to nature conservation interests and quiet enjoyment.
- 2.3 At a time when all local authorities have the duty to ensure the proper management of areas of importance for nature conservation, local management arrangements can be a very effective way forward. As a tool to assist with that management, the designation of the site as an LNR would be helpful.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1 This site is also important as a local amenity for quiet recreation. The management objectives that are in development reflect this.
- 3.2 The implications for this Council are the time it will take to progress the paperwork for the designation. There is a process to follow and to achieve the full benefit of the declaration; there will be a need to encourage other landowners in the vicinity. This should not be too onerous. English Nature would need to be formally consulted over the declaration but they have already given their informal support.
- 3.3 The future management of the site is under discussion in any event and will not be affected by any declaration. The intention is for local involvement in the site, with specialist nature conservation support

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct implications of this declaration. It may be that the process of devising management objectives will indicate the need for investment in site works. Given the nature of duties on local authorities this would come to light in any event

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Parish Council are behind the declaration and are very strong supporters of the need for more active management. The Parish also has strong community links that are behind the proposal.
- 5.2 Both local members are supportive of the recommendation.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The environment on this site is of international significance for conservation. However it is of a nature and location where local people can also enjoy it. Therefore there is scope here for interpretation to assist in the understanding of the site and its importance.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no particular implications from this scheme. In general terms however, the fact that a site is being actively managed does usually help with crime and disorder issues.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS COMMENTS

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder for Leisure supports the declaration and the recommendation.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is recommended that the declaration of Sturt Pond, Milford on Sea as a Local Nature Reserve, be sought.

For further Information contact:

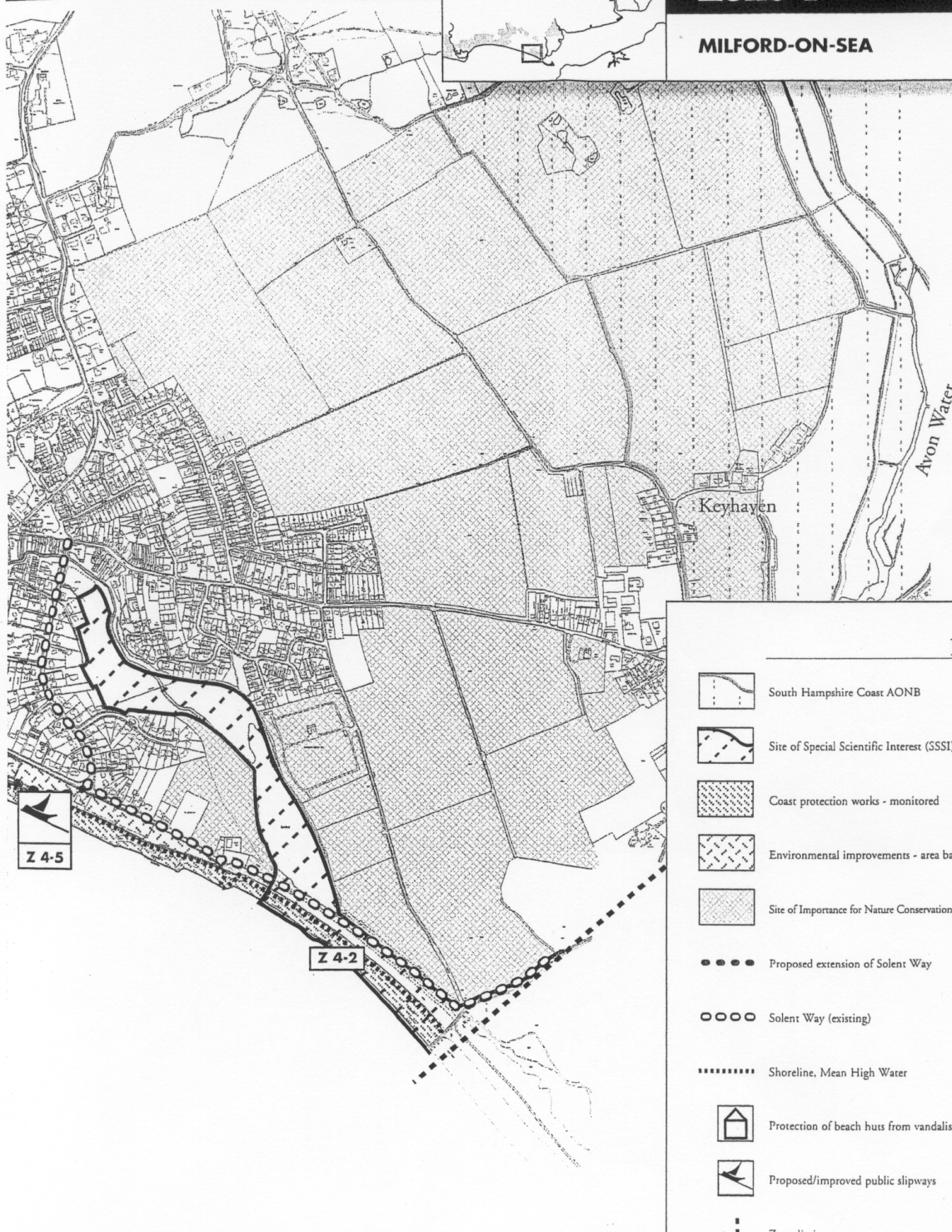
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Background Papers:












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Zone 4

MILFORD-ON-SEA



Key

-  South Hampshire Coast AONB
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Coast protection works - monitored
-  Environmental improvements - area based
-  Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
-  Proposed extension of Solent Way
-  Solent Way (existing)
-  Shoreline, Mean High Water
-  Protection of beach huts from vandalism
-  Proposed/improved public slipways
-  Zone limits