

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name: UK Ports Upgrade – Port of Southampton  
Project Number: 2012-0385  
Country: United Kingdom  
Project Description:

- i. Upgrading of container berths 201-202, comprising the construction of a 500m long quay with a depth of 16m, berth pocket dredging, landside civil works, service networks, project management, design and supervision. Furthermore the provision of 4 new ship-to-shore cranes capable of discharging 24 container-wide container vessels;
- ii. Marine access channel improvements, known as SADC (Southampton Approach Channel Dredge), comprising widening works at Marchwood and deepening of the channel between Dock Head and Fawley and between Hook and Hamble Spit. Furthermore, deepening of the Thorn and Nab sections of the outer channel and construction of an environmental compensation site at Cobnor Point in Chichester Harbour. Design/environmental studies and environmental monitoring related to the dredging works.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

#### EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The project is located in the water bodies of the River Test Estuary, the Southampton Water and the Solent, which host a number of nature conservation areas belonging to the Natura 2000 network. EIA and biodiversity assessment procedures were completed for the upgrading of berths 201/202 and for the Marchwood widening works. Both components were not expected to have significant impacts on nature conservation areas.

The biodiversity assessment concludes that an adverse impact of the SADC dredging works on protected areas cannot be excluded, due to the potential loss of 2.1 hectares of designated intertidal mudflat habitat (not considered a priority habitat under the EU Habitats Directive). The environmental compensation site Cobnor Point is a habitat creation scheme, located in Chichester Harbour, designed to offset the potential impact to existing habitats as a result of implementation of the SADC project. Works at Cobnor Point have been completed.

Post works surveys concluded that the creation of a new water vole habitat has been successful with an animal population higher than before the start of the works. In addition, a number of animals that were removed (with the formal consent of the nature conservation regulator, Natural England) were relocated to other sites in the south of England.

A key priority of the project was maintaining the water quality standards during the dredging operations. An adaptive water quality management scheme was agreed with the Environment Agency and implemented by the dredging contractor. The scheme comprised real time monitoring of turbidity and dissolved oxygen levels to allow appropriate mitigating measures

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to be taken in the event of thresholds being exceeded. No thresholds were exceeded during the dredging operations.

Furthermore, monitoring to establish the extent of sediment deposition on the intertidal areas was undertaken at the request of Natural England. The final report concluded that no significant deposition was observed during the works.

Investigations of the archaeological context of the area were also a condition of the SACD approval. Dredger crews were briefed in order to identify possible items of interest generated during dredging and investigative surveys were undertaken in areas of high potential.

Therefore, no significant environmental or social issues arose during the works.

**EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social aspects to be monitored during operations:**

Studies to assess whether there has been any subsequent erosion of subtidal areas will be completed in autumn 2017. These will include sampling of subtidal strata to determine the potential ancient anthropogenic use and habitat coverage of Southampton Water.

A programme of ongoing monitoring has commenced to determine the success of the compensation site at Cobnor Point.

A further study to establish the success of the intertidal habitats, particularly valuable saltmarsh habitat, will be completed in autumn 2017.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the Promoter during construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards applicable at the time of appraisal.