



GOSPORT SOCIETY

President: The Mayor of Gosport
Honorary Vice-President: Lesley Burton.

The Crown Development Case Team,
Planning & Environmental Applications Service
Via: crownapplications@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

CC: Planning Department, Gosport Borough Council,
Town Hall, High Street, Gosport. PO12 1EB

Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Via: caroline.dinenge.mp@parliament.uk

04 August 2026

OBJECTION: Planning Application CROWN/2026/0000005

Reference: A. Gosport Borough Local Plan, 2011- 2029 & Draft LP 2042(Reg 19) & supporting SPD's
B. Gosport Borough Council's Haslar Barracks Conservation Area Appraisal of March 2007 & 2018

Address: Haslar Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), Dolphin Way, Haslar, Gosport, PO12 2AW.

Consultation: Over the expansion of Haslar IRC comprising the development of new accommodation blocks and ancillary supporting accommodation. The conversion and expansion of the existing site its infrastructure including internal roads. Demolition of existing structures, minor amendment to the coastal path to accommodate the creation of additional car parking, landscaping and associated site infrastructure.

Comment: Haslar Barracks is a Conservation Area; its most recent use was as an IRC for 198 detained persons until 2015. The Historic Significance of the site is clearly defined in the Conservation Area Appraisal; at Reference A. at present it is being remodelled to accommodate 130 detained persons. While it is accepted that the site was already owned by the Justice Department and since its closure almost a decade ago, if it was to be brought back into use, it would need updating. The scale of the latest changes are devastating to conservation measures but this work falls outside normal planning controls due to the Home Office designation that the project is of 'national importance.'

The current changes to update the Haslar IRC have already severely impacted the historical significance within the Haslar Barracks Conservation Area. The Gosport Society has consistently objected to any changes that compromise or mask what remains of the only recognisable UK example of a Napoleonic Era Barracks, nonetheless it has been accepted that this was unavoidable if recommissioned to serve a pressing local need.

This response concerns raising the additional capacity to C600 inmates by expanding the site to include new accommodation blocks on the open land to the west of the present IRC boundary. The Gosport Society considers the planned expansion to be a denigrating admission that there is neither concern for the historic importance of the site nor consideration of Gosport residents over the suitability of the site for a vastly expanded inmate capacity.

Objection: The Gosport Society's objections to the application for the expansion of Haslar IRC, the new accommodation blocks, ancillary supporting accommodation and changes to open space and the King Charles III Coastal Footpath are as follows:

Note: the references below are to the currently adopted Local Plan, there is an emerging Gosport Borough Local Plan 2042 (at Reg 19 stage and due for inspection and adoption) it details similar and complementary policies. It is accepted that if the new plan is adopted there are amendments to the urban area boundary that will change some of the quoted LP Policies, although the correlation between both plans is consistent enough to support the objections below under either Local Plan.

1. The Gosport peninsular is infamous for congested communication routes having no rail link and choke point road links with the national road network. The likely level of traffic generated by the expansion of the IRC has the potential to affect the function of the local road network such that it could have an impact on the capacity of roads and road intersections over the wider area. The Gosport Society objects to the expansion and of the IRC as it is almost exactly at the most distant point beyond the connections with the National Road and Rail routes, contravening aspects of all the following GBC Local Plan Policies: LP21 Improving Transport Infrastructure, LP22 Accessibility to New Development LP23, Layout of Sites and Parking, LP37 Access to the Coast and Countryside, LP23 Layout of Sites and Parking and LP34 Provision of New Open Space and Improvement to Existing Open Space. Accepting there is some logic in reviving the existing 130 capacity local IRC to serve local needs. Expanding the capacity to meet a national requirement will exacerbate the already tortuous local road congestion and the Local Plan policies identified. This action also denigrates the Home Office and Justice Department duty of responsibility toward the local area and its population to maintaining a reasonable quality of communications; further impacting on the quality of life for all the residents in the whole of the Gosport Peninsula.
2. The Gosport Society objects to the height and scale necessary proposed in the application, it will have a harmful impact on the adjacent designated heritage assets, in particular the Haslar Barracks Conservation area, the Listed Buildings at the former Royal Hospital Haslar and the Stokes Bay Conservation Area. The expanded area, the height and massing of the accommodation blocks is counter to many provisions within the following GBC Local Plan Policies: LP3 Spatial Strategy, LP6 Haslar Peninsula, LP10 Design, LP11 Designated Heritage Assets including Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Historic Parks & Gardens, LP12 Designated Heritage Assets: Conservation Areas and LP13 Locally Important Heritage Assets.
3. The proposed three storey accommodation blocks, 12m in height, are starkly utilitarian in design and lack any architectural leaning toward the original accommodation blocks within the adjoining conservation area. This is direct impact according to Historic England's assessment is "large enough to appear over-bearing." There is a similar impact on the neighbouring residential properties, not simply visually overbearing but also introduce environmental harm due the security lighting and noise associated with such a large number of inmates. These blocks alone are a significant contravention to GBC Policies: LP10 Design, LP11 Designated Heritage Assets including Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Historic Parks & Gardens, LP12 Designated Heritage Assets: Conservation Areas and LP13 Locally Important Heritage Assets
4. Due to the loss of the majority of habitats on site and introduction of additional lighting and the lack of adequate surveys there will a significant impact on overwintering birds, particularly Brent Geese, bats and the reptile population.

Recommendation: 1. The Gosport Society suggest that on the grounds above the Crown Planning Team reject the proposed expansion of the Haslar IRC. The substantial objections are more than sufficient grounds that the Home Office, Justice Department look for a more suitable non heritage site, with easy communications to transport nodes to facilitate the expanded capacity for immigration removal.

2. If this site is the only option for an increased IRC capacity then the accommodation blocks and associated buildings be reduced in height to blend with the adjacent Conservation Area and their design be adjusted to reflect the areas heritage assets. Conditions should be imposed that all routine services be conducted outside the Gosport Peninsular 'in/out' commuting times. Due regard in the redesign should also be made to mitigate the ecological impacts for local residents, protected species and overwintering bird life.

For: Gosport Society Planning Team