

Heritage Consultation Response

Date – 16/10/2024

Reference - APP/24/00312

Application site – Havant Thicket, adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way, Havant

Site

The application site is located in Havant Thicket which is adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park, accessed from Middle Park Way and Petersfield Road.

Proposal

Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in respect of Conditions 2 and 3 of the Hybrid permission planning reference APP/20/00990 dated 15th October 2021 for proposed changes to the size and alignment of the main reservoir embankment.

Legislative and Policy Context:

When assessing the proposal, the following legislation and policy context is taken in consideration.

Sections 16, 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities, when considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a heritage asset to have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing that heritage asset.

The revised NPPF (2023) sets out in Chapter 16, the core principles relating to development affecting heritage assets that local planning authorities should consider in making planning decisions in the following paragraphs 195 – 204.

Local planning policy comprises the adopted Havant Borough Local Plan Core Strategy 2011, along with the Allocations Plan 2014. With regards to local planning policy, the following are relevant:

Policy CS11 of the Core Strategy states that planning permission will be granted for development that:

Protects and where appropriate enhances the borough's statutory and non-statutory heritage designations by appropriately managing development in or adjacent to conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, historic parks and gardens, archaeological sites, buildings of local historic or architectural interest.

Policy CP16 (1a) of the Core Strategy states 'Planning permission will be granted for development that is designed to a high standard, which helps to create places where people want to live, work and relax. All development should demonstrate that its design:

Identifies and responds positively to existing features of natural, historic or local character within or close to the proposed development site'.

Policy DM20 of the Allocations Plan states that planning permission will be granted for development proposals that conserves and enhances the historic assets of Havant. It also states that application which affect, or have the potential to affect, heritage assets are expected to provide a Heritage Statement that:

1. Describe the significance of the asset and its setting, using appropriate expertise and where necessary original survey, at a level of detail proportionate to its significance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal.
2. Sets out the impact of the development on the heritage assets and mitigation that is proportionate to the impact and the significance of the heritage asset, including where possible positive opportunities to conserve and enjoy heritage assets.

Assessment

The application seeks approval for changes to the size and alignment of the main reservoir embankment and related infrastructure including:

- Changes to the slope angles, location of crest line and footprint of the main reservoir embankment
- The lengthening of the reservoir culvert
- The relocation of the valve tower outside the inner core of the main embankment
- The location of the control house

The proposed amendments do not increase the height of the main embankment, or the planning application boundary.

The hybrid application APP/20/00990 granted full planning permission for the development of a new reservoir which incorporated part of the Grade II* listed Leigh Park and the Sir George Staunton Conservation Area. It was concluded at that time that the development would result in less than substantial harm to the designated heritage assets. The application was subsequently approved as it was deemed that the public benefits outweighed the heritage harm.

This application includes an addendum to the 2020 ES, part of which considers the impact of the proposed changes on the historic environment. This concludes that the proposed changes to the scheme, include the relocation of the valve tower, would result in some limited change to the assessment of the setting of the designated heritage assets but would be mainly limited to the southern and western views of the reservoir.

The addendum also concludes the following:

‘The position of the embankment crest would move further away from the Grade II RP&G and the Sire George Staunton CA and the listed building within the country park. The shallower embankment slopes would result in a more natural incline, which would soften the perceptual boundary between historic parkland and the reservoir, incorporating it into a wider rural landscape. As such, the changes would not alter the impacts presented in the 2020 ES’.*

On this basis, the proposed changes to the scheme are not considered to be harmful to the significance of the designated heritage assets, including their settings, in the context of the approved hybrid application.

Conclusion

NO OBJECTION