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My Ref LHB/LM/18b  
Yr Ref APP/20/009901  
Ask for Louise MacCallum  
Date 04/12/2020

Dear Mr Oliver,

**HAVANT THICKET, ADJACENT TO SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK,  
MIDDLE PARK WAY, HAVANT**

**OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR (MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED OUTLINED IN  
TABLE 2.2 IN THE SUBMITTED DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATION) DEVELOPMENT  
OF A NEW PIPELINE TO TRANSFER WATER FROM BEDHAMPTON SPRINGS TO  
FILL THE RESERVOIR IN THE WINTER AND DRAW IT OFF TO TREAT AND SUPPLY  
WHEN NEEDED IN THE SUMMER COMPRISING: CONSTRUCTION OF AN  
UNDERGROUND, BI-DIRECTIONAL PIPELINE LINKING THE RESERVOIR WITH THE  
EXISTING PUMPING STATION AT BEDHAMPTON; EMERGENCY DRAWDOWN  
DISCHARGE STRUCTURE AT HERMITAGE STREAM; UPGRADES TO EXISTING  
CULVERTS; WASHOUT AND AIR VALVE CHAMBERS (TYPICALLY BELOW  
GROUND).**

I refer to your letter dated 16 November 2020 and the detailed drawings viewed on the Havant Borough Council website concerning the above planning application.

The Board's Planning Sub Committee has considered this application and has **NO OBJECTION** to the proposals, but wish to make the following comments:

1. The scheme includes the creation of a retained wetland habitat at its northern shore which we strongly support. The proximity of the reservoir to Langstone Harbour means that this wetland is very likely to be utilised by our wildfowl, waders, and seabirds. If birds are disturbed by recreational activities in the harbour this wetland will provide an alternative site for them to roost, rest and feed. Additionally, islands in the wetland area may prove attractive breeding sites for some of our rarest seabirds. Water sports are to be forbidden at the reservoir which means the wetland could provide temporary refuge for birds disturbed by kayaks / jet skis / paddleboards in the harbour.

2. The reservoir will result in reduced Nitrates entering Langstone Harbour, with Portsmouth Water modelling indicating that this reduction could be as much as 7.1kg per day while the reservoir is being filled, with considerable reductions in Nitrates entering the harbour even once the reservoir is full as run off water high in Nitrate will be stored in the reservoir where it will naturally degrade. Much has been heard about Nitrates recently and any reduction of its levels in Langstone Harbour is positive for many reasons.

3. The reservoir site will include a visitor centre, cafe, walking trails, access to wildlife and outdoor recreation which is likely, to some degree at least, to reduce recreational pressure upon Langstone Harbour's wildlife. Many dog walkers and other outdoor

recreationists (particularly those who live closer to the reservoir than the harbour) are likely to choose it as an alternative destination.

4. The pipeline connecting the reservoir to the pumping station will have an emergency drawdown discharge structure which will release into Hermitage Stream. The drawdown structure along with the abstraction of water during the winter months when the reservoir is initially filled have, according to the projects EIS, the potential for ecological deterioration of Hermitage stream. The Hermitage stream is a very heavily modified (canalised for much of its length) water body, with numerous impassable structures for migratory fish such as salmonids and eels. Naturalising suitable sections of the stream, as well as creating fish passes would help to offset any negative impacts and should be included in the proposal.

5. The Langstone Harbour Board recognises that there is a major negative ecological impact associated with the reservoir, in that 12.45 hectares of ancient woodland (a highly protected and irreplaceable habitat) will be lost. The applicant should do everything possible to minimise any loss of ancient woodland.

Yours Sincerely,



Louise MacCallum  
Environment Officer  
Langstone Harbour Board

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