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Research - Conserve - Campaign

22nd December 2020

Lewis Oliver Esq
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
Hants PO9 2AY
representations@havant.gov.uk

Dear Mr Oliver,

Ref : APP/20/00990 | Hybrid application seeking: 1) Full Planning permission for Development of a reservoir for raw water storage, A pumped storage reservoir, with the minimum required total storage capacity of 8,700 million litres (MI), to support the planned bulk supply transfer of at least 21MI/d in extreme (currently defined as 1:200 year) drought conditions; Construction of an earth embankment adjacent to Staunton Country Park ; Construction of an overflow discharge/spillway at the south-western side of the reservoir and associated works; Construction of a new junction on the B2149 Manor Lodge Road and a new junction on Swanmore Road. Provision of viewing areas on the southern embankment and western edge of the reservoir. 2) Outline application for (matters to be considered outlined in Table 2.2 in the submitted Development Specification) control house partially incorporated within landscaped earth mounding adjacent to the south west embankment; together with provision of other earth embankments. Construction of a visitor centre / cafe, with storage areas and welfare facilities to the northwest of the reservoir to be used for recreational and education purposes; Provision of picnic area(s) and children's play area(s). Access routes from both junctions to the visitor car park; visitor car park comprising 193 car parking spaces and between 70 and 75 overflow spaces plus spaces for staff, coach/minibus and disabled drivers sited to the north west of the reservoir. Creation of a permanent wetland on the northern side of the reservoir and construction of bird watching hide/screen(s); recreational facilities for public amenity. Provision of perimeter tracks and a network of bridleways, cycle paths and footpaths; Construction of a slipway on the western bank of the reservoir for operational use only and a small section of the proposed pipeline (210m). | Havant Thicket, adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park, Reservoir and Pipe Line, Middle Park Way, Havant

Thank you for consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as statutory consultee with regard to proposed development affecting a site listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens as per the above application. We have liaised with our colleagues in the Hampshire Gardens Trust (HGT) and their local knowledge informs this joint response.

It is very unfortunate that the new reservoir will destroy part of the Grade II* registered park and garden (RPG) of Leigh Park and truncate the avenue. However, we appreciate that there is very little option for alternative suitable locations for the reservoir. We very much regret the loss of ancient woodland but have to accept that the public benefit outweighs the substantial

damage to the RPG, and the new reservoir, if permitted, will stop water extraction from important chalk streams. We would suggest that suitable discreet interpretation be sited on the viewing area to enable visitors to understand the lost landscape.

Yours sincerely,

Margie Hoffnung
Conservation Officer