

Date: 27 October 2020
Our ref: 330716
Your ref: APP/20/00794



Selina Donophy
Havant Borough Council

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Selina

Planning consultation: Single storey nine car garage and turning area.

Location: Langstone Lodge, 1 Langstone High Street, Havant, PO9 1RY

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 13 October 2020 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

NO OBJECTION - SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE MITIGATION BEING SECURED

Internationally and Nationally Designated Sites

The site is located in close proximity to the Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation. The sites are also designated nationally as the Langstone Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The proposals have the potential to affect SPA functional land, which forms part of a network of terrestrial sites located outside of the Solent SPAs boundaries used by SPA species (including qualifying features and assemblage species) as alternative areas for roosting and foraging. These sites support the functionality of the designated sites and are therefore protected in this context. The sites affected (H27) are classed as a Secondary Support Area and supports brent geese, curlew, lapwing and oystercatcher.

As a result, Natural England advise that best practice measures are adopted during construction to limit noise and visual disturbance to the adjacent sensitive habitat. Natural England advises that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be submitted to and approved in writing by the district ecologist/biodiversity officer that identifies the steps and procedures that will be implemented to avoid or mitigate constructional impacts on the adjacent Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, Ramsar and the SPA's functional land mentioned above.

The CEMP should address the following impacts:

- Noise/visual/vibrational impacts
- Visual screening (for SPA birds)
- Storage of construction materials/chemicals and equipment;
- Dust suppression
- Chemical and/or fuel run-off from construction into designated sites
- Waste disposal.

The CEMP should ensure there is no percussive piling or works with heavy machinery (i.e. plant resulting in a noise level in excess of 69dbAmax – measured at the sensitive receptor) to be undertaken during the bird overwintering period (i.e. October to March inclusive). The sensitive receptor is the nearest point of the SPA or any SPA supporting habitat (e.g. high tide roosting site).

This detail should be included in the Appropriate Assessment to ensure there is no adverse impact from the construction work on the adjacent designated sites and its functional land. In addition, Natural England would advise on the following issues.

Protected Landscapes

The proposed development is for a site within or close to a nationally designated landscape namely Chichester Harbour AONB. Natural England advises that the planning authority uses national and local policies, together with local landscape expertise and information to determine the proposal. The policy and statutory framework to guide your decision and the role of local advice are explained below.

Your decision should be guided by paragraph 172 of the National Planning Policy Framework which gives the highest status of protection for the 'landscape and scenic beauty' of AONBs and National Parks. For major development proposals paragraph 172 sets out criteria to determine whether the development should exceptionally be permitted within the designated landscape.

Alongside national policy you should also apply landscape policies set out in your development plan, or appropriate saved policies.

We also advise that you consult the relevant AONB Partnership or Conservation Board. Their knowledge of the site and its wider landscape setting, together with the aims and objectives of the AONB's statutory management plan, will be a valuable contribution to the planning decision. Where available, a local Landscape Character Assessment can also be a helpful guide to the landscape's sensitivity to this type of development and its capacity to accommodate the proposed development.

The statutory purpose of the AONB is to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty. You should assess the application carefully as to whether the proposed development would have a significant impact on or harm that statutory purpose. Relevant to this is the duty on public bodies to 'have regard' for that statutory purpose in carrying out their functions (S85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000). The Planning Practice Guidance confirms that this duty also applies to proposals outside the designated area but impacting on its natural beauty.

Species and Biodiversity Enhancement

Natural England refer your authority to our national standing advice for protected species. As standing advice, it is a material consideration in the determination of the proposed development in this application in the same way as any individual response received from Natural England following consultation and should therefore be fully considered before a formal decision on the planning application is made.

It is a requirement of all development to enhance the natural environment, as stated in the NPPF (2019 as amended), paragraphs 8, 118, 170, 174 and 175d. Natural England recommend that an appropriate level of enhancement, such as the addition of bat boxes and/or bird boxes, are secured as part of this application.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

Should the developer wish to discuss the detail of measures to mitigate the effects described above with Natural England, we recommend that they seek advice through our [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on 07500 954264.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Clemson
Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
Thames Solent Area Team