

Houghton, Michelle

From: Norton, Tristan <Tristan.Norton@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 April 2020 09:00
To: Oliver, Lewis
Cc: Havant Planning and Development Mailbox New
Subject: APP/18/00450 Land at Forty Acre Farm, Havant Road, Havant 20.0398

Dear Lewis,

APP/18/00450 | Erection of 320 dwellings (including a 30% provision of affordable homes), 66 bed care home, provision of public open space, habitat mitigation zone, allotments, closure of existing access and creation of 2 new access points and associated infrastructure following demolition of existing buildings (approved 17.1.2020). Request to discharge condition nos 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 21 and 23 (Recd 23.1.2020). | Land at Forty Acres Farm, Havant Road, Havant 20.0398

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Please accept my apologies for the long delay in responding.

The application is accompanied by a Mitigation Area Creation, Management and Monitoring Strategy and a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (WYG, March 2020).

Overall, I would echo the points raised by Natural England in respect to the importance of establishing the wintering bird refuge as early as possible. I can summarise my comments as follows:

- It would be preferable for the entire refuge boundary to be established in 2020. Autumn 2020 to early spring 2021 is optimal. Whips should be as mature as possible to hasten establishment. There is no reason not to establish the entire hedgerow boundary at the same time and at the earliest opportunity.
- The use of a fence-hedge-ditch boundary treatment would add further benefit and I too would request that a ditch is considered.
- May-September is not ideal for establishing the hedgerow on the S38 section. Hedge plants are best established between autumn and spring unless expert advice recommends that plants can be kept watered and healthy. Again, planting in 2020 is much preferred in order to speed establishment.
- The installation of decoys in March 2020 (obviously not now achievable) would not be necessary: brent geese are now essentially absent from the UK and will begin returning in September/October. There is no need to install decoys until this time. Decoys left in summer sunshine may degrade.
- Appendices 2 and 3 are missing from the Management and Monitoring Strategy report.
- Provision should be made for flexibility in hedge management, enabling some areas to be left uncut and others trimmed. This will benefit biodiversity more widely.
- Wader scrapes must be able to hold water. Use of clay liner may be necessary and should be included as an option (subject to expert advice) within the methodology.
- Provision should be made for regular monitoring and interventions to the scrapes e.g. to remove sediment, remove invasive plant species.
- The grassland establishment methods and timeframe are fine.
- The location of temporary and permanent fencing is acceptable.
- Provision for a 'steering group' type arrangement for reviewing the long-term efficacy of the refuge is recommended.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

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Ecology Team**

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Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Hampshire County Council's response to the Covid-19 is available here (<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>).

In line with Government advice to reduce non-essential travel and work from home where possible, Ecology officers are now working remotely. Whilst we will endeavour to conduct our services in a timely manner and to meet statutory timescales where we can, there may be some impact to the services we deliver. We will ensure that we keep all applicants / interested parties informed of any further impacts to our services should they arise. The Council's response also means that no non-essential site visits or face to face meetings will be undertaken until further notice. Essential and contractual surveys may continue take place where there is no risk to the surveyor or the public, and in line with Government advice. This will be reviewed on an on-going basis.



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Please note that this advice is given in accordance with the Service Level Agreement that has been signed between Hampshire County Council and your Council. These comments are expressed as a professional view provided to Havant Borough Council and should not, therefore, be interpreted as those of Hampshire County Council.