

Date: 03 July 2018
Our ref: 250992
Your ref: APP/18/00447



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Mrs McMurray

Planning consultation: APP/18/00447 Change of use from C2 residential institution to C3 dwelling house; conversion of existing building into 2No. separate houses by means of demolition of existing extensions, internal remodelling and the addition of a 2 storey rear extension; construction of 1No. 3 bed detached bungalow.

Location: 2-4 Orchard Road, Havant

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 26 June 2018.

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.

SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE

NO OBJECTION SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE MITIGATION BEING SECURED

This application is within 5.6km of Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area and will lead to a net increase in residential accommodation. Natural England is aware that Havant Borough Council has recently adopted a planning policy to mitigate against adverse effects from recreational disturbance on the Solent SPA sites, as agreed by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership Definitive Strategy (SRMP).

Provided that the applicant is complying with the policy, Natural England are satisfied that the applicant has mitigated against the potential adverse effects of the development on the integrity of the European site(s), and **has no objection** to this aspect of the application.

The proposed development is for a site within or close to a nationally designated landscape namely Chichester Harbour AONB. Please see below for detailed advice.

Natural England's advice on other natural environment issues is set out below.

Appropriate Assessment

Thank you very much for consulting Natural England on the Appropriate Assessment for HRA and AA - APP/18/00447. Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, has undertaken an Appropriate Assessment of the proposal, in accordance with Regulation 63 of the Regulations. Natural England is a statutory consultee on the Appropriate Assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

Your appropriate assessment concludes that your authority is able to ascertain that the proposal will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any of the sites in question. Having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions, providing that all mitigation measures are appropriately secured in any permission given.

Please note in future cases where the necessary avoidance and mitigation measures are limited to collecting a funding contribution that is in line with the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership Definitive Strategy (SRMP) then, provided no other adverse impacts are identified by your authority's appropriate assessment, your authority may be assured that Natural England agrees that the Appropriate Assessment can conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites. In such cases Natural England will not require a Regulation 63 appropriate assessment consultation.

Protected Landscapes – Chichester Harbour AONB

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 115 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 116 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.

Environmental Enhancement

Development provides opportunities to secure a net gain for nature and local communities, as outlined in paragraphs 9, 109 and 152 of the NPPF. We advise you to follow the mitigation hierarchy as set out in paragraph 118 of the NPPF and firstly consider what existing environmental features on and around the site can be retained or enhanced or what new features could be incorporated into the development proposal. Where onsite measures are not possible, you may wish to consider off site measures, including sites for biodiversity offsetting. Opportunities for enhancement might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.

You could also consider how the proposed development can contribute to the wider environment and help implement elements of any Landscape, Green Infrastructure or Biodiversity Strategy in place in your area. For example:

- Links to existing greenspace and/or opportunities to enhance and improve access.
- Planting additional street trees.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition or clearing away an eyesore).

Water environment

Natural England advises that all new development adopt the higher standard of water efficiency under the Building Regulations (which equates to 110 litres /head/day including external water use) and re-use in line with best practice. Consideration should be given to the use of grey water recycling systems and efficient appliances.

Protected Species

Natural England has produced [standing advice](#)¹ to help planning authorities understand the impact of particular developments on protected species. We advise you to refer to this advice. Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on protected species where they form part of a SSSI or in exceptional circumstances.

Further general advice on the consideration of protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A.

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 07552268113.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Berry
Solent Planning Adviser

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>