

Dear Rachel,

APP/16/00774 - Havant Road, Emsworth

Thank you for your time today and it was good to talk to you and discuss the above scheme. Further to your email of the 5th April to Havant Planning Department please see below further information that we discussed today in relation to the above application.

The wintering bird report was updated in February 2017 to remove the recommendation that the footpath adjacent to the Solent Way (to the south of field H23D) may need to be fenced to mitigate for impacts on wintering birds as it was considered un-necessary following the reduction in dwellings from 198 residential dwellings to 161 residential dwellings (20% reduction in housing numbers) and the results of the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project. According to Fearnley et al. (2010) the visit rate for foot visitors to sites between 1.5-2km away from homes is 0.001633. This equates to an additional 0.63 visits per 16-hour day as a result of the development (assuming 2.4 residents per dwelling). In reality this is likely to be lower as the Footprint assessment is informed primarily by data collected from desirable locations with attractions like facilities, birdwatching, leisure etc. and they conclude that areas without these attractions (such as the footpath in question) are likely to receive a lower amount of traffic as a result. As such the proposed development is not considered or anticipated to significantly increase the visitor use of this footpath.

As discussed, the ecology team have discussed fencing the footpath with the tenant and agent (albeit we do not consider this necessary for the above reasons). However, they have advised that if the field is to be fenced (a total of 460 metres) that the footpath would need a hoggin/gravel base. It is considered that surfacing the footpath would increase the recreational use of this footpath by both existing and future residents in the local area. Currently, in the winter months when the overwintering birds are present in the fields, the footpath can be very muddy and waterlogged and as such we consider this reduces and deters visitors using the footpath and acts as natural mitigation.

As discussed, multi-functional green space has been incorporated into the final design which includes an area of 1.5a of public open space on the development site which can be used as a dog exercise area. This area now incorporates a 1.3km circular walking route which runs around the periphery of the site providing signage, dog waste bins, benches and natural play. These areas have been incorporated to encourage dog walkers and residents to use on site facilities rather than walking off site towards Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA. This will provide short walk for residents and it is anticipated this will be used by residents who take their dogs for a short walk after work. It is considered likely that local residents will travel further afield (by car) at the weekend and this was also the finding of the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project. As such, the proposals on site are considered to offset any potential 'alone' impacts from the development.

I hope this addresses your queries and understand from our conversation today that you agree that the above is a fair and agreeable approach but we look forward to receiving a formal response mid next week.

Kind regards

Clare May

Associate Director of Ecology