

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/24/00237

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/24/00237

Address: Land at Hermitage Park, Harts Farm Way, Havant

Proposal: Proposed gas fuelled capacity mechanism embedded generation plant to support the National Grid. A resubmission of previously approved applications (APP/21/00809) in order to secure changes to the site layout and technology following transfer of ownership of the site.

Case Officer: Joseph Toole

Consultee Details

Name: Consultee Principal Ecologist

Address: Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant PO9 2AX

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Ecologist, Planning Policy Team

Comments

Dear Joe,

APP/24/00237 | Proposed gas fuelled capacity mechanism embedded generation plant to support the National Grid. A resubmission of previously approved applications (APP/21/00809) in order to secure changes to the site layout and technology following transfer of ownership of the site. | Land at Hermitage Park, Harts Farm Way, Havant

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is accompanied by an Ecological Assessment (The Ecology Co-op, May 2024) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (The Ecology Co-op, January 2024). The site comprises an ex-industrial location containing ruderal vegetation and scrub habitats. The site walkover survey, including the botanical assessment, was carried out in December and therefore at a suboptimal time for assessing the presence of plant species (many of which will not be visible in winter). The habitat is described as approaching the Priority Habitat Open Mosaic Habitat, comprising mostly hardstanding with scattered plant species colonising. The tree named as Beech in Photograph 1a (p.10) is not Beech, but rather a Poplar species. Despite these limitations, I am content that the site is of relatively low ecological interest. There is potential for various protected and notable species to occur, including nesting birds and common species of reptile. Sensible precautionary methods of working are included and are acceptable. Further survey works have been carried out for both Water Vole and Great Crested Newt. The results of these surveys show that both species are likely to be absent.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment concludes that there are no potential impact pathways that

could lead to a likely significant effect on the nearby international designated sites. The submitted Air Quality Assessment (Isopleth, February 2024) concludes that there will be a slight improvement in potential air quality issues from the previous approved proposal. I am content to concur with this assessment. This conclusion should be recorded within the Council's own HRA.

If you are minded to grant permission, can I suggest that all ecological avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are secured by condition.

Prior to the commencement of development activities, a Landscape & Ecological Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Plan shall be in accordance with the ecological avoidance, mitigation, enhancement and management measures as detailed in the Ecological Assessment (The Ecology Co-op, May 2024) unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. It shall include, but not necessarily be restricted to: full details of all ecological avoidance and mitigation measures, to include timings, methods and responsibilities; full details of all ecological compensation and enhancement measures, including location, area, composition, establishment and ongoing management, monitoring and responsibilities. Reason: to provide ecological protection and enhancement in accordance with the Environment Act 2021, Conservation Regulations 2017, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, NPPF, NERC Act 2006 and Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

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