

Date: 02 April 2024
Our ref: 469467
Your ref: APP/19/00156



Lesley Wells
Havant Borough Council

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Lesley,

Planning consultation: Internal alterations to allow conversion from offices (class B1(a)) to form 6No one bed flats (C3 residential units) (Approved 12/09/2019). Request to Discharge Conditions 7, 8a), 9 and 11 (28.01.2020).

Location: Eastleigh House, Bartons Road, Havant, PO9 5NA

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 08 March 2024 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.

DESIGNATED HABITATS SITES – NO OBJECTION SUBJECT TO SECURING APPROPRIATE MITIGATION

This advice should be taken as Natural England's formal **representation on appropriate assessment** given under regulation 63(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). You are entitled to have regard to this representation.

With regard to European Sites, Natural England does not object to the granting of this permission subject to the advice given below.

Your appropriate assessment, dated 8th March 2024, 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.

Your authority has measures in place to manage potential impacts through contributions to an agreed strategic solution which we consider to be ecologically sound. Natural England is of the view that if these measures, including contributions to them, are implemented, they will be effective and reliable in preventing harmful effects on the Habitats Site(s) for the duration of the proposed development.

This advice is provided on the basis that all mitigation measures will be secured as planning conditions or obligations by your authority to ensure their strict and timely implementation for the full duration of the development. Your authority should be assured that proposed financial contribution rates are proportionate to the identified effects of the proposed development, suitably precautionary, and in line with the Retail Price Index, where relevant. As Competent Authority it is your

responsibility to ensure that you are confident that there is sufficient information to support the values used in the calculation, and that the nutrient budget calculation is correct.

It is noted that the mitigation would be secured through a Grampian condition, requiring the mitigation package to be agreed, provided to the Council and implemented prior to the occupation of the development. It is Natural England's view that in this case, provided the Council as competent authority, is satisfied that the approach will ensure the proposal is nutrient neutral and the necessary measures can be fully secured; Natural England raises no further concerns.

Please note in future cases where the necessary avoidance and mitigation measures are limited to collecting a funding contribution that is in line with an agreed strategic approach for the mitigation of impacts on Habitats Sites 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 Habitats Sites. In such cases Natural England will not require a Regulation 63 appropriate assessment consultation. However please note it is strongly advised you as competent authority seek your own legal opinion on whether to consult under these circumstances.

For any queries regarding this letter, for new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Rachael Clemson
Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
Thames Solent Area Team