

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/20/00991

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/20/00991

Address: Pipeline from Proposed Reservoir Site, Middle Park Way to land adjacent to, West Street, Havant

Proposal: Outline application for (matters to be considered outlined in Table 2.2 in the submitted Development Specification) development of a new pipeline to transfer water from Bedhampton Springs to fill the reservoir in the winter and draw it off to treat and supply when needed in the summer comprising: Construction of an underground, bi-directional pipeline linking the reservoir with the existing pumping station at Bedhampton; Emergency drawdown discharge structure at Hermitage Stream; Upgrades to existing culverts; Washout and air valve chambers (typically below ground). (Approved 15.10.21). Request to discharge conditions 4, 12, 16, 21 and 22 (12.3.24). Request to discharge conditions 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 19 and 20 (26.3.24).

Case Officer: Narinder Lakhan

Consultee Details

Name: Consultee Principal Ecologist

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

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Ecologist

Comments

Dear Narinder,

APP/20/00991 | Outline application for (matters to be considered outlined in Table 2.2 in the submitted Development Specification) development of a new pipeline to transfer water from Bedhampton Springs to fill the reservoir in the winter and draw it off to treat and supply when needed in the summer comprising: Construction of an underground, bi-directional pipeline linking the reservoir with the existing pumping station at Bedhampton; Emergency drawdown discharge structure at Hermitage Stream; Upgrades to existing culverts; Washout and air valve chambers (typically below ground). (Approved 15.10.21). Request to discharge conditions 4, 12, 16, 21 and 22 (12.3.24). Request to discharge conditions 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 19 and 20 (26.3.24). | Pipeline from Proposed Reservoir Site, Middle Park Way to land adjacent to, West Street, Havant

Thank you for consulting me on this application for the discharge of conditions relating to ecological matters. I have reviewed information submitted for Conditions 21 and 22.

Condition 21 Ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement

I have reviewed the Ecological Mitigation Compensation and Enhancement Measures (Conditions 21 and 22) report (Atkins Realis/Portsmouth Water, March 2024). The application site has been

subject to detailed ecological assessment, including for vegetation, bats, Badgers, nesting birds and invasive species. An assessment is made of the sites suitability for other ecological receptors.

The vegetation adjacent to the application site supports two notable plant species Wall Bedstraw and Small-flowered Buttercup. It is stated that these species are not likely to occur within the proposed works footprint, but clearly there will need to be due diligence to avoid impacts to these species (which are far from common in Hampshire). The site is adjacent to the Hermitage Stream, and it is proposed to discharge groundwater from the new shaft to the surface water system and into the Stream. The notable Opposite-leaved Pondweed occurs within the Stream locally and is susceptible to changes in water quality.

The proposals will result in the loss of an area of Blackthorn scrub of c.65m². This habitat is stated as being suitable for nesting birds. The grassland/scrub on site is potentially suitable for common reptile species. The small building adjacent to the proposed works has supported a small bat roost in the past and retains suitable roosting opportunities, as do a small number of trees locally.

In terms of ecological compensation and enhancement, it is indeed correct that the wider reservoir scheme is to deliver a comprehensive package of on-site and off-site compensation and enhancement measures. Any additional impacts associated with this proposal will need to be addressed separately. I have had recent discussions with the applicant regarding the requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain and it is clear that the legal requirements for BNG necessitate measures over and above no net loss. I would welcome clarification that any habitat losses identified within the Shaft 1 works area are either already accounted for within the main works package or will require additional measures. Otherwise, I am content that the proposed mitigation measures for various ecological receptors are satisfactory.

Condition 22 Ecological Clerk of Works

I am satisfied that the role of the EcOW is detailed in sufficient detail.

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

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Principal Ecologist | E: tristan.norton@havant.gov.uk

Planning Services, Havant Borough Council, Public Service Plaza, Havant, PO9 2AX