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Havant Borough Council
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Havant
Hampshire PO9 2AX

OUR REFERENCE:
PP-12100778

YOUR REFERENCE:
APP/20/00991

31st May 2024

Dear Mr Lakhan,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

HAVANT THICKET RESERVOIR PROJECT

Application for Hybrid application seeking: 1) Full permission for development of new pipelines 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 two predominantly underground pipes in tunnels linking the reservoir with the existing pumping station at Bedhampton with associated infrastructure including: emergency drawdown discharge structure at Hermitage Stream; construction of eight access shafts; upgrades to existing culverts close to shafts five, six and eight to manage flood risk; washout and air valve chambers (typically below ground), new plant at Bedhampton Pumping Station, modifications to Bedhampton 2 operational building and permanent diversion of Footpath 34 at Bedhampton Pumping Station. Revised routing and construction methodology from previously approved pipeline application APP/20/00991.

2) Outline application for an associated underground cross-connection chamber and above ground kiosk at the reservoir site with vehicular accesses for maintenance (one to access cross-connection infrastructure and one for flow metre chamber).

Further to our previous discussions and pre-application advice, AtkinsRéalis hereby submits an application for a new Havant Thicket Reservoir Pipeline scheme.

Since outline planning permission was granted for the original pipeline route, Portsmouth Water and its appointed pipeline construction contractor (Ward & Burke Construction Ltd) have reviewed the route's feasibility. This is in light of alternative innovative construction techniques, which would allow the scheme to be delivered more efficiently and effectively, with much less disruption to local communities and impact on the environment. This has resulted in a predominantly tunnelled construction methodology and a new route alignment. There has also recently been a change in approach to delivering additional resilience to the water network, with a dual pipeline now being proposed. The two pipelines would be used by Portsmouth Water to pump spring water to the reservoir and draw it out when needed. This would give them greater flexibility to respond to more

frequent, longer droughts, allowing them to add and remove water from the reservoir at the same time. It would also mean the scheme could continue to operate if maintenance was required on one of the pipelines.

The pipelines could also potentially be used by Southern Water in the future, if it receives development consent for its water recycling scheme, Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (its Development Consent Order is due to be submitted in 2025).

A combined approach means that, if their proposals for water recycling are agreed in the future, residents won't need to experience additional disruption. It would also reduce the environmental impact and it's estimated that taking this futureproofing approach could save over £100 million, compared to installing separate new infrastructure at a later stage. This would provide better value for money for Southern Water customers, who are ultimately paying for the Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme - both the approved project which is in progress and the water recycling proposals if they go ahead.

The new water pipes would be installed inside two adjacent tunnels which would be constructed concurrently to ensure maximum efficiency is achieved, with construction programme durations, and subsequent disruption to local residents minimised.

Overview of the Approved Schemes

The reservoir, when constructed, will be filled with surplus water drawn from the springs at the Bedhampton works when flows are at their highest in winter via a new pipeline, and will provide water supplies to Portsmouth Water customers in the summer months as required. The increase in water supplies available on completion of the scheme will help Portsmouth Water to free up existing supplies in the west of the catchment area to share with Southern Water's customers to meet the region's challenges in the future, in particular relating to abstraction licence changes, predicted population growth and climate change which will all place pressure on meeting future water supply demand.

Complementary to its infrastructure resilience function, the reservoir will provide a new recreational facility/resource in an area which the community can access on foot, by bike, or through existing bus routes. It offers further opportunities to improve the wider footpath, cycleway and bridleway networks in the area.

The Reservoir will provide a new wetland habitat and associated area for nature conservation. The proximity of the reservoir to the internationally important Langstone Harbour means that it can be used as a safe retreat for roosting birds when there is disturbance in the Harbour (Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC)).

The pipelines will also be used as an emergency draw down if the reservoir needs to be drained down in emergency conditions.

Approved Pipeline Scheme

Consent was granted (application reference: APP/20/00991) on 15th October 2021 for an:

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).

The outline application was submitted with some details reserved for approval in the form of reserved matters applications.

The New Pipeline Scheme

The pipeline corridor extends from the Bedhampton Springs, northwards through Havant, to the reservoir, closely following the approved route. Under the approved pipeline, much of the pipeline would have been installed using an open cut method – where engineers would dig down from the road or land, lay the pipe and then fill in the ground above it. The new scheme reduces the length of the pipeline by 1km and follows Riders Lane stream, it adopts a more efficient and less disruptive tunnelling technique to put in the majority of the pipeline, building it section by section via eight access shafts.

The new scheme would include two pipelines instead of the one that was proposed in the original pipeline scheme. It would include separate inlet and outlet pipes so that spring water could be transferred between the reservoir and the Bedhampton Springs.

As with the original pipeline scheme, an emergency discharge chamber (where the Riders Lane stream meets the Hermitage stream) will allow water from the reservoir to be released safely into the Hermitage Stream and Riders Lane Stream in the highly unlikely event of the water level in the reservoir needing to be lowered quickly. Similarly, culverts or drainage channels along the Riders Lane stream, downstream of the new reservoir, would also be upgraded, so that flows at the reservoir could be safely accommodated.

The pipeline scheme has been informed by public and stakeholder engagement and extensive collaboration between the engineers and the environmental specialists. Measures to avoid loss of all Veteran and Category A trees and minimise impacts on hedgerows, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, public rights of way and open spaces and provide carbon savings, have been embedded into the final detailed design.

Measures to further mitigate effects from construction activities which have been recommended as part of the Environmental Statement are included in the Outline Environmental Management Plan and Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments appended to the revised Environmental Statement (Appendix A2). This has informed the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plans submitted alongside the planning application.

The assessment of the new scheme has been informed by significantly more detail on construction plant and activities, despite this the impacts are comparable to the approved pipeline scheme with no likely long-term significant adverse effects predicted. However, the Environmental Statement has identified two new short-term, temporary significant adverse effects relating to noise and visual impact during construction. The noise disruption from the original pipeline scheme would have affected a much larger number of residential receptors (1100) than the new scheme where temporary significant effects are predicted but limited to a very small number of receptors (69).

The temporary visual impacts are on one open space and three rights of way receptors, although the construction activities are only focussed on the shaft and culvert locations (and therefore affect smaller areas of landscape and number of views than the original scheme) they cover a slightly larger area in these locations and will be in situ for longer. However, once construction is complete there will be no impacts.

The overall disruption from the construction of the new pipeline scheme on local residents will be reduced and affect a smaller number of people than the original scheme. Fewer roads (and smaller sections within these roads) will be closed, the construction works will be focussed in smaller areas rather than a rolling road block throughout Leigh Park, and there will be less traffic generated due to a much smaller workforce.

The public and residents will be kept fully informed over when the works are to take place and who to contact if disturbed by the construction activities.

Planning application submission

The application has been submitted to Havant Borough Council electronically via the Planning Portal, Reference Number PP-12100778 and comprises:

- This Covering Letter
- Application Form
- The application fee of £2,535.00, plus the Planning Portal admin fee of £64.00
- Planning Statement (including Statement of Community Involvement)
- Application Drawings – as set out in section 1 of the Planning Statement
- Consultation Report
- Revised Environmental Statement (Volumes 1 - 4) including Revised Non-Technical Summary
- The following construction-related documents are also submitted for approval as part of the planning application:
 - Phasing Plan (covering whole scheme)
 - Construction Method Statements (CMS) for main pipeline and reservoir site
 - Construction Traffic Management Plans (CTMP) for main pipeline and reservoir site
 - Construction Workers Travel Plans (CWTP) for main pipeline and reservoir site
 - Noise and Vibration Assessment and Management Plans (NVMP) for main pipeline and reservoir site
 - Detailed Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) for main pipeline and reservoir site
 - Emergency Flood Plan for main pipeline
 - Flood Risk and Drainage Plan for reservoir site
 - Written Scheme of Investigation for main pipeline
 - Biosecurity Management Plan
 - Skills, Employment and Education Plan

We trust that the enclosed submission provides the information required to register the application as valid and enable the processing of the application. However, if you require further information, or have any queries regarding the application, please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 7088 8512, or lewis.oliver@atkinsrealis.com .

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of Portsmouth Water



Lewis Oliver BA (Hons), MSc, MRTPI
Associate Planner