

Havant Thicket Reservoir

‘You Said, We Did’ Report

Wetland Embankment & Structures

March 2024

The Havant Thicket Reservoir (HTR) scheme has planning permission, subject to discharge of reserved matters. As part of discharging the current phase of these reserved matters (relating to the wetland embankment and wetland structures) with the relevant local Councils, consultation has been undertaken with a variety of local stakeholders prior to submission to the Planning Authorities. These stakeholders include:

- 20 Statutory Consultees
- Local Councillors
- Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)

This consultation was a two-way communications process by which we offered information and invited the consultees to provide their opinion and feedback (both in writing and via online meetings and in-person workshops). We have subsequently reviewed and incorporated this feedback where it is appropriate, with this document designed to summarise back to the community which proposals have been taken forward, and why it has not been possible in some instances.

The report details responses received during the consultation exercise and the way in which this feedback was considered and/or incorporated into what is being presented within the documentation for discharging of the wetland embankment and wetland structures. Each section of the report can be broadly explained as the following:

- Feedback – a summary of comment(s) provided in relation to the matters covered by this report during the consultation process
- Response – the actions taken following review of the feedback and summary of any incorporations into this submission as a result (where it has been appropriate to do so)

Comments from Statutory Consultees

	Feedback	Response
Forestry England	Tree retention in the northern part of Compartment 3 should be carefully managed. It is requested that trees in this area are left in situ whilst the area is filled with water. This will provide maximum habitat provision as the tree dies and decays, giving both live and deadwood habitat for invertebrates and mammals such as bats. Removing the tops of the trees will remove a very important part of that developing dead wood habitat therefore it is requested is that this is not done and the trees are left standing in their full form and structure with no limb or crown removal for these ecological purposes.	Future Water have taken this comment on board and have worked with a tree care specialist to develop a plan to retain maximum habitat provision once the northern area of Compartment 3 is filled with water. This is reflected in the submitted Arboricultural Impact Assessment. Although some unsuitable trees will still need to be removed in advance of the filling of the wetland, given the multi-layered canopy, removal of these trees is highly unlikely to have any significant detrimental impact on canopy cover overall or the development of a deadwood habitat as suggested.

Comments from Local Councillors and Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)

Feedback	Response
Ephemeral islands should be included as part of the present reserved matters application alongside the wetland embankment and structures.	Consideration has been given to the ephemeral islands during wetland embankment design. Following feedback received, they are now included within the present reserved matters application. <u>Drawing references:</u> HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0057, HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0058, HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0059, HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0060, HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0061, HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0080, HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0081, HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0082, HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-L-0083
Fencing should be used to stop people accessing the wetland to also be dog/fox proof. Embankments could be useful nesting areas for birds, but it will be important they are not disturbed.	Until the reservoir is open to the public fencing around the site boundary will remain in place to prohibit access to the site. Fencing to manage public access upon completion of construction is shown in this submission. Further details on fencing types and finishes will be included as part of the landscaping details in future applications to discharge conditions.
Drawings should consider the water levels under a variety of operating scenarios and show how the wetland habitat will be maintained.	Top water level (39.5mAOD) and Wetland Minimum Operating Level (WMOL)(38.8mAOD) are shown on drawings accompanying the reserved matters application. Future Water have considered the operation of the wetland throughout the design process, including the retention of water within the wetland regardless of

	differing water levels within the main reservoir. Details of spillways and culverts which will control the Wetland Minimum Operating Level are included with this submission.
The spillway at the western end of the retaining structure (compartment 4) could be wider to discourage any attempts to access the wetland embankment from the visitor centre.	As a result of stakeholder feedback, the design for the spillway in Compartment 4 (closest to the visitor centre) has been reviewed. This review identified the option to widen the width of the base of the spillway from 4m to 10m – this has subsequently been incorporated in the revised design submitted as part of this application. <u>Drawing reference:</u> HTR-GHD-WL-ZZ-DR-S-0072
Materials used to surface the wetland embankments needs to be given greater consideration as this will be critical to the vegetation and habitats that are able to establish.	The wave protection for the Wetland embankment will be constructed in line with the current outline planning permission. This includes the use of Enkamat which, when laid on grass seeded soil slopes that are exposed to water, provides a permanent solution to issues caused by small wave action.
Wetland area should be used as a balancing pond during construction.	This has been considered by Future Water following stakeholder feedback, however it is deemed to pose an unnecessary risk to the construction team working on the reservoir. Instead, upon completion of wetland area construction, the penstock within each compartment will be set to open allowing water to flow through from the wetland area into site temporary drainage system.
Grassland in the north-eastern area of the site should be fenced off during construction to protect it.	Future Water have agreed with stakeholders via other forums that this area will be fenced off during construction to ensure it is not unnecessarily disturbed.
Advance planting should take place where possible to allow tree screens to establish.	Following discussion with Environmental professionals, it has been established the premature creation of wetland habitat prior to construction completion would not attract suitable or desirable wildlife. This would also need to be closely managed during construction so as to not pose a risk to any wildlife which was present. Future Water will however continue to review where there are opportunities for advance planting to take place.