

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

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 a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (The Ecology Co-op, February 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). As an example, the tree named as Beech in Photograph 1a (p.10) is not Beech, but rather a Poplar species. These limitations notwithstanding, 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 are recommended in order to establish the potential presence of both Water Vole and Great Crested Newt. The results of these surveys, and any necessary mitigation measures, will be required prior to determination. NPPF, Circular 06/2005 and Natural England Standing Advice, require that planning decisions are based on full, up-to-date ecological

information and it is essential that all necessary survey, assessment and mitigation information is available to the Local Planning Authority prior to determination, particularly in the case of protected sites, habitats and species, which are a material planning consideration. This will enable the Local Planning Authority to determine the application on the basis of full knowledge about the potential ecological impacts of the proposal and to ensure that any impacts can and will be mitigated.

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 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