

Date: 09 May 2024
Our ref: 470891 and 471656
Your ref: APP/24/00311 and APP/24/00312



Narinder Lakhan
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Narinder

Planning consultations:

- APP/24/00311 Application for approval of all Reserved Matters (siting, scale, external appearance and land-scaping) relating to Phase 3 (Main Embankment)
- APP/24/00312 Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in respect of Conditions 2 and 3 of the Hybrid permission planning reference APP/20/00990 for proposed changes to the size and alignment of the main reservoir embankment

Location: Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir, Manor Lodge Road, Rowlands Castle

Thank you for your consulting Natural England on the aforementioned discharge of conditions and reserved matters for the above application.

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.

Natural England previously responded to Phase 1 of this application (APP/22/00681 dated 9th December 2022) where we agreed the following:

- Ecological Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures for the Northern Access Road
- Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
- Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy
- Wetland Concept and Outline Design

Main Embankment

The application is supported by an Environmental Statement Addendum (Future Water (for Portsmouth Water) April 2024). Which sets out the proposed changes to the main embankment from that agreed at outline. The changes include:

- Increase of construction phase by 2 years
- Increased footprint and length of embankment due to changes to the slope leading to:
 - Loss of additional 0.04ha of Priority habitat purple moor grass and rush pasture (to be reinstated post construction)
 - Loss of additional 0.025ha of Riders Lane stream
 - Increased area of grassland creation to 24.67ha in total on the embankment slope

The above document states that the increased construction period will not effect the measures set out in the Outline Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy. Natural England recommends an updated expected timescale of mitigation and compensation works is provided should any of these be substantially altered by the embankment changes and increased construction period.

Protected species

If any of the conditions relate to protected species, please note the following:

We have not assessed this application and associated documents for impacts on protected species.

Natural England has produced [standing advice](#)¹ to help planning authorities understand the impact of particular developments on protected species. We advise you to refer to this advice. Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on protected species where they form part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest or in exceptional circumstances.

Natural England has no comments to make on any other conditions in this consultation.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

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.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Clemson
Sustainable Development Lead Adviser
Thames Solent Area Team

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>