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Research - Conserve - Campaign

28th May 2024

Narinder Lakhan
Havant Borough Council
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Dear Mr Lakhan,

Ref : APP/20/00990 - Hybrid application seeking: 1) Full Planning permission for Development of a reservoir for raw water storage, A pumped storage reservoir, with the minimum required total storage capacity of 8,700 million litres (MI), to support the planned bulk supply transfer of at least 21MI/d in extreme (currently defined as 1:200 year) drought conditions; Construction of an earth embankment adjacent to Staunton Country Park ; Construction of an overflow discharge/spillway at the south-western side of the reservoir and associated works; Construction of a new junction on the B2149 Manor Lodge Road and a new junction on Swanmore Road. Provision of viewing areas on the southern embankment and western edge of the reservoir. 2) Outline application for (matters to be considered outlined in Table 2.2 in the submitted Development Specification) control house partially incorporated within landscaped earth mounding adjacent to the south west embankment; together with provision of other earth embankments. Construction of a visitor centre / cafe, with storage areas and welfare facilities to the northwest of the reservoir to be used for recreational and education purposes; Provision of picnic area(s) and children's play area(s). Access routes from both junctions to the visitor car park; visitor car park comprising 193 car parking spaces and between 70 and 75 overflow spaces plus spaces for staff, coach/minibus and disabled drivers sited to the north west of the reservoir. Creation of a permanent wetland on the northern side of the reservoir and construction of bird watching hide/screen(s); recreational facilities for public amenity. Provision of perimeter tracks and a network of bridleways, cycle paths and footpaths; Construction of a slipway on the western bank of the reservoir for operational use only and a small section of the proposed pipeline (210m). (Approved 15.10.2021). Request to discharge conditions 4, 6, 9, 10, 12 (received 22.9.22). Request to discharge conditions 5, 29 (received 26.9.22). Request to discharge conditions 21, 22, 23 [Phase 1] (received 8.12.22) Request to discharge conditions 21, 22, 23 [Subsequent phases] (received 3.5.23) Request to discharge condition 4 [Phasing] (received 29.2.24). Request to discharge conditions 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 27, 36 and 39 (received 11.3.24). Request to discharge conditions 5, 12, 20 relating to Temporary Worker Accommodation (received 16.4.24); Havant Thicket, adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park, Middle Park Way, Havant

Thank you for re-consulting the Gardens Trust (GT), a Statutory Consultee with regard to proposed development affecting the Grade II* registered park and garden (RPG) of Sir

George Staunton Country Park, (Leigh Park), listed by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks and Gardens. We have liaised with our colleagues in the Hampshire Gardens Trust (HGT) and their local knowledge informs this joint response.

It is a Regency landscaped garden, laid out in the 1820s and 1830s on the site of late C18 pleasure grounds and a walled garden, with a series of specialist gardens and follies by Sir George Staunton to accommodate his Chinese and botanical interests. The gardens are surrounded by a park of C18 origin, which was developed by Sir George in the early C19, and also incorporates late C19 alterations. The proposed reservoir site lies immediately to the north of the RPG and the avenue (within the RPG) formerly leading from the Upper Lake south to Leigh Water will eventually be submerged beneath the water.

In our previous letter dated 24th October 2022 we noted that in the planning conditions contained within the then current documentation there was no mention we could see of either the historic landscape or our suggestions of discreet interpretation. If such documentation is now available we would appreciate it being drawn to our attention because due to the volume of documents on the website, it is not obvious. The reservoir will be retained by a 20m high concrete wall and mitigation of the impact of this will be very difficult to achieve. We would ask that particular care is given to the realisation of this feature so that it is as discreet as possible. We also asked in our letter that damage to ancient woodland is minimized as far as possible. We are glad to note that the various arboricultural impact assessments and tree protection plans have addressed this concern. We also asked that discreet signage is erected to enable visitors to appreciate what remains. We are unsure if this has been considered to date.

We hope these comments are helpful to your officers when deciding this application.

Yours sincerely,

Margie Hoffnung
Conservation Officer