



Adams Hendry
Chartered Town Planners



Havant Thicket Reservoir

Section 73 Application – Amended Main Embankment and Associated Changes

Planning Statement

For Future Water

April 2024

Title

Havant Thicket Reservoir – Section 73 Application – Amended Main Embankment and Associated Changes – Planning Statement

Client

Future Water

Project Number

JTM/1856

Status

Final

Report Number

JTM/1856/Phase3Section73PS

Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd.

Sheridan House, 40 – 43 Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY

T 01962 877414

E info@adamshendry.co.uk

www.adamshendry.co.uk

Author Name: Pete Errington

Associate

Date: April 2024

Approved by: Andy Blaxland

Director

Date: April 2024

Certified to ISO9001 Standard



ISO 9001 Registration Number Q10324

Registered Office: Sheridan House, 40 – 43 Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY

Registered in England No. 3804753 VAT Registration No. 807 9759 79



Contents

Contents	3
1 Introduction.....	4
2 Description of Scheme Changes.....	10
3 Planning Policy Context	21
4 Consideration of Planning Policy and Environmental Matters.....	23
5 Summary and Conclusions.....	48
Appendix A Approved Hybrid Permission Drawings – Part 1 of 2.....	49
Appendix A Approved Hybrid Permission Drawings – Part 2 of 2.....	50
Appendix B Proposed Drawings – Part 1 of 2	51
Appendix B Proposed Drawings – Part 2 of 2	52

1 Introduction

1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 The Havant Thicket Reservoir (hereafter referred to as the Scheme) is being developed by Portsmouth Water to provide a new resource to supply drinking water in the South East while maximising the community and environmental benefits of a new raw water reservoir.
- 1.1.2 The Scheme, when constructed, will provide water supplies to Portsmouth Water customers in the summer months, as required. This, in turn, will also allow Portsmouth Water to supplement supply available to Southern Water which has had abstraction limits placed on its ability to source water from within the Test and Itchen catchments during drought conditions.
- 1.1.3 The reservoir site is located on land at Havant Thicket, adjacent to Sir George Staunton Country Park and Middle Park Way, Havant. It lies partly within the administrative boundaries of Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council.
- 1.1.4 This Planning Statement supports applications made under Section 73 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) to revise the hybrid planning permission granted for the Scheme. Duplicate applications have been submitted as follows:
- Havant Borough Council (HBC) – to vary hybrid planning permission reference APP/20/00990 for a Reservoir and associated infrastructure.
 - East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) – to vary hybrid planning permission reference 51680/001 for a Reservoir and associated infrastructure.
- 1.1.5 The Section 73 applications propose a number of amendments to the design of the main embankment and related infrastructure including:
- Changes to the slope angles, location of the crest line, and footprint of the main reservoir embankment.
 - The lengthening of the reservoir culvert
 - The relocation of the valve tower outside of the inner core of the main embankment
 - The location of the control house
- 1.1.6 Extensive ground investigations and construction of a trial embankment using clay which was excavated from the reservoir site have provided a more detailed view of the ground conditions, and a greater understanding of how clay from this site behaves during and after construction. Portsmouth Water and its contractor, Future Water, have used this information to inform the proposed design of the reservoir and have concluded that changes to the slope angles of the main reservoir embankment as proposed in the Section 73 applications are necessary to ensure its long-term structural strength and integrity.

- 1.1.7 In summary, the amendments include changes to the alignment and design of the main embankment to reduce the slopes resulting in a larger footprint. This also results in changes to the position of the crest line of the main embankment, however the height of the embankment would remain as consented. As a consequence of the amendments to the main embankment the reservoir culvert is lengthened, and the location of the control house adjusted. It is also proposed that the reservoir valve tower is relocated outside the inner core of the main embankment in order to maintain an uninterrupted homogenous core along the full length of the main embankment. The construction programme for the Scheme is extended from completion in 2029 to completion in 2031.
- 1.1.8 The proposed amendments do not increase the height of the main embankment, the capacity of the reservoir and do not change the planning application boundary.
- 1.1.9 The Section 73 applications are only for the amendments described above. They exclude all other elements of the Scheme including the connecting pipeline to Bedhampton Springs, the visitor centre, and the creation of the wetland which will be subject to separate planning applications to be submitted to the two Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) as necessary.
- 1.1.10 A full description of the proposed amendments and the reasons for them is given in Section 2 of this Planning Statement.

1.2 Overview of the Approved Reservoir Scheme

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 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.
- 1.2.3 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)).

1.3 Section 73 Application Documents

1.3.1 The Section 73 applications comprise the following documents:

- Covering letter
- Application form
- Planning Statement (this document), including:
 - Appendix A – Approved Hybrid Permission Drawings
 - Appendix B – Proposed Drawings
- Section 73 application drawings, as set out in Section 2 of this Planning Statement
- Design and Access Statement (April 2024)
- ‘You Said, We Did’ Report (April 2024)
- Section 73 Development Specification (April 2024)
- Section 73 Engineering and Design Report – Addendum (April 2024)
- Environmental Statement Addendum (April 2024), including original and updated visualisations and Non-technical Summary

1.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

1.4.1 The applications which formed the subject of the hybrid planning permission were supported by an Environmental Statement (ES) which reported the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Information on the need for an EIA is presented in the 2020 ES Chapter 1: Introduction (Vol 2 Main Report Chapters 1-6; Document Reference: HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Z-0101). The EIA process was based on the parameters for a range of elements as set out in the Development Specification that was submitted and approved as part of the respective planning permissions.

1.4.2 The Section 73 applications now submitted are supported by an Environmental Statement Addendum (April 2024) (ES Addendum to the 2020 ES) which reports the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) considering the proposed amendments to the main embankment, culvert and valve tower and whether there are any changes to the conclusions of the 2020 ES. The EIA process for the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES is based on the parameters approach for a range of elements as set out in the Section 73 Development Specification (April 2024). The parameters set out in this report are also set out and described in Section 2 ‘Description of the Proposed Changes’ in this Planning Statement.

1.5 Public Consultation and Engagement

- 1.5.1 As part of the preparation of the Section 73 applications consultation has been undertaken with a variety of local stakeholders prior to submission of the applications. The stakeholders involved in this consultation were the HTR Scheme's Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). These stakeholders include local community representatives, environmental groups, Local Councillors and several Statutory Consultees, including East Hampshire District Council, Havant Borough Council, South Downs National Park, Portsmouth City Council, the Environment Agency, Forestry England and Natural England.
- 1.5.2 The details and outcomes of the consultation are set out in 'You Said, We Did' Report (April 2024) report, submitted as part of the Section 73 applications.

1.6 Structure of this Planning Statement

- 1.6.1 The remainder of this Planning Statement provides:
- a description of the revised Scheme the subject of the Section 73 applications compared to the scheme as consented (Section 2).
 - a description of how the national and local policy context for the Section 73 applications has changed compared to that in place when the consented Scheme was granted planning permission by the two local planning authorities in 2021 (Section 3).
 - A consideration of planning policy and environmental matters and a demonstration of how the revised Scheme accords with relevant national and local policy, taking into consideration the 2020 ES and ES Addendum (Section 4).
 - A summary and conclusion (Section 5).
- 1.6.2 The approved hybrid permission drawings are included as Appendix A to enable comparison with the proposed drawings which are included in Appendix B.

1.7 Relationship to Other Planning Applications

Phase 1 – Northern Access Route Reserved Matters Application (RMA)

- 1.7.1 Reserved Matters approval was given for Phase 1 - northern access route from Manor Lodge Road (B2149) of the Havant Thicket Reservoir Project (hybrid permission reference HBC APP/20/00990 and EHDC 51680/001) and approval of condition Nos: 2, 13, 20, 27, 28, 32, 36, 37, 38 and 39 also in relation to the northern access route (HBC reference APP/22/00681 and EHDC reference 51680/003). This access has been constructed in accordance with the hybrid permission and the approved reserved matters.

Main Embankment Non-Material Amendment

- 1.7.2 Approval was granted under applications APP/23/00979 and 51680/006 by HBC and EHDC respectively in March 2024 for a Non-Material Amendment (NMA) to the hybrid planning permission. The NMA related to a revised southern embankment position; slight increases to excavation and embankment earthworks volume and small reduction in capacity and associated consequential changes relating to location of the culvert, valve tower, control house, avenue staircase and viewing platform moved to the north.
- 1.7.3 The LPAs approval of the NMA has accepted the principal of a revised southern embankment position, and the other non-material changes proposed in that application. The changes proposed in the S73 applications, however, go beyond what was approved in the NMA.
- 1.7.4 These S73 applications incorporates the changes proposed as part of the approved NMA applications, and so the details of the changes sought within the S73 applications are described in comparison to the approved hybrid permission. On the same basis, the ES Addendum assesses the changes from the approved hybrid permission to the changes sought within the S73 applications.

Phase 2 – Wetlands RMA

- 1.7.5 Reserved Matters applications APP/24/00186 and 51680/008 relating to Phase 2 – Wetlands were submitted to HBC and EHDC respectively in March 2024. The Reserved Matters applications relating to Phase 2 – Wetlands accord with the parameters, principles and standards set out in the hybrid planning permission references HBC APP/20/00990 and EHDC 51680/001. These parameters, principles and standards are not changed by the Section 73 applications and the Phase 2 Reserved Matters applications should be determined in accordance with the hybrid planning permissions

Phase 3 – Main Embankment RMA

- 1.7.6 Separate Reserved Matters applications relating to Phase 3 – Main Embankment have been submitted to HBC and EHDC at the same time as the Section 73 applications. The Reserved Matters applications relating to Phase 3 – Main Embankment accord with the parameters, principles and standards set out in the Section 73 applications. The Phase 3 Reserved Matters applications should therefore be determined in accordance with the Section 73 applications.

1.8 Discharge of Planning Conditions

- 1.8.1 Separate applications have been submitted to HBC and EHDC to discharge the requirements of the conditions attached to the respective planning permissions as set out below.
- 1.8.2 In respect of the following conditions a separate application has been made to discharge the requirements for the majority of the remaining phases of the reservoir construction (Phases 2 to 8 as set out in the Phasing Plan v9 (23.01.2024), but excluding Phase 9 – the Visitor Facilities):

- Condition 5 - Construction Environment Management Plan
- Condition 6 - Construction Method Statement
- Condition 9 - Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan
- Condition 10 - Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment
- Condition 12 - Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Condition 27 - Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- Condition 39 - Soil Management Plan

1.8.3 In respect of the following conditions separate applications will be made in due course to discharge the requirements:

- Condition 25 – Historic interpretation and landscaping
- Condition 26 – Public Safety
- Condition 28 – Landscaping
- Condition 32 – Risk of Flooding
- Condition 35 – On-site Emergency Flood Plan
- Condition 36 - Ecological Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures

1.8.4 In respect of Condition 29 – Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) – a strategy has been approved by the LPAs to partially discharge the requirements of this condition. The RES covers the main embankment earthworks but excludes consideration of the reservoir culvert and value tower. An updated RES will therefore be submitted to include all of the works now known as Phase 3 – Main Embankment in due course.

1.9 In respect of Condition 20 – Lighting Strategy – there is no permanent lighting proposed as part of the Phase 2 or Phase 3 Reserved Matters and so no details are required to be submitted at this stage.

2 Description of Scheme Changes

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This chapter presents a description of the proposed changes to the Scheme.
- 2.1.2 The site location is presented in the 2020 ES Chapter 2: Description of the Development (Vol 2 Chapters 1-6; Document Reference: HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Z-0101). The main reservoir works are located within the planning application boundary presented in the 2020 ES Figure 2.1: Site Location (Vol 3 Chapters 1 and 2; Drawing Reference: HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-GS-Z-0143). The planning application boundary does not change as part of the Section 73 applications.
- 2.1.3 The pipeline connecting the reservoir to Bedhampton Springs at the Bedhampton pumping station is not considered within the Planning Statement as no changes are proposed to this element of the original hybrid planning permissions as part of the Section 73 applications.

2.2 Description of Scheme Changes

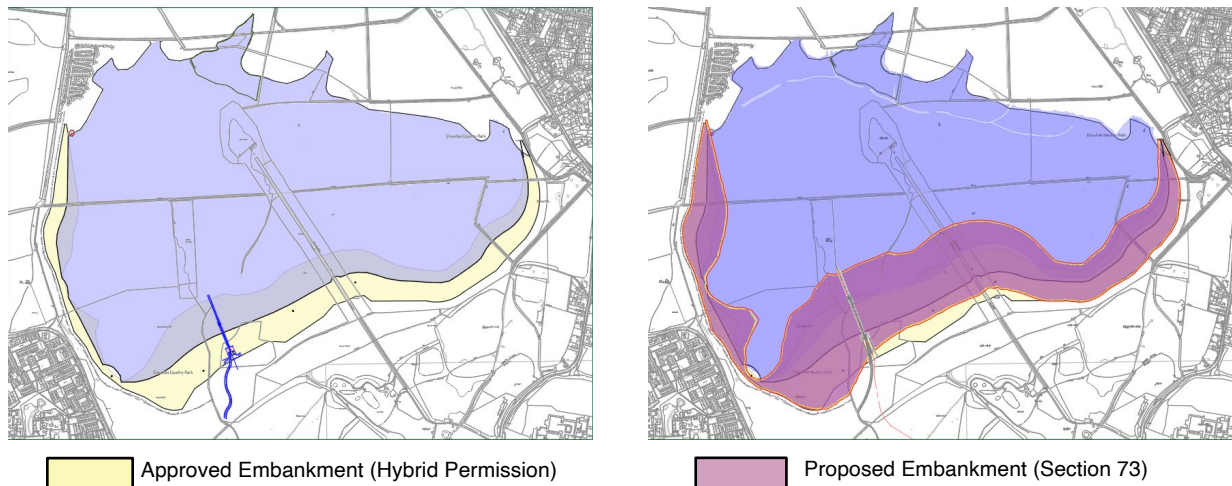
- 2.2.1 A description of the proposed changes to the Scheme are presented in the sections below.
- 2.2.2 The proposed changes to the Scheme are shown on the drawings in Table 2.1 on the following page.
- 2.2.3 The elements of the Section 73 applications that are proposed as outline and full planning permission are shown on drawing HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0021 Planning Strategy Key Plan.

Table 2-1: Drawings of the Scheme

Approved Drawings	Proposed Drawings
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0006 FIGURE 4 PLANNING APPLICATION STRATEGY KEY PLAN	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0021 PLANNING STRATEGY KEY PLAN
HTR-FUW-XX-RE-DR-T-0001 OUTLINE MASTERPLAN	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0001 RESERVOIR OUTLINE MASTERPLAN
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0012 LANDSCAPE PLAN - CONTROL HOUSE	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0004 LANDSCAPE PLAN CONTROL HOUSE
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0013 LANDSCAPE PLAN – STAIRCASE	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0005 LANDSCAPE PLAN AVENUE STAIRCASE
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0014 LANDSCAPE PLAN - GIPSIES PLAIN	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0006 LANDSCAPE PLAN GIPSIES PLAIN
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0016 LANDSCAPE PLAN - VIEWING PLATFORM	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0007 LANDSCAPE PLAN VIEWING PLATFORM
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-00018 SECTION A	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0008 MAIN EMBANKMENT SECTION A
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-00019 SECTION B AND C	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0009 MAIN EMBANKMENT SECTIONS B & C
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-00020 SECTION D AND E	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0010 MAIN EMBANKMENT SECTIONS D & E
HTR-ATK-AR-RE-DR-D-0005 VEHICLE ACCESS ROUTE SOUTH REVC04	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0002 ACCESS ROUTES VEHICLE ACCESS ROUTE SOUTH SHEET 1 OF 1
HTR-ATK-AR-RE-DR-D-0006 VEHICLE ACCESS JUNCTION SOUTH REVC04	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0003 ACCESS ROUTES VEHICLE ACCESS ROUTE SOUTH SWANMORE ROAD
-	HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002 MAIN EMBANKMENT PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT
-	HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4003 MAIN EMBANKMENT CROSS-SECTIONS
-	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0013 PROPOSED CULVERT AND VALVE TOWER SITE LAYOUT
-	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0020 OUTLET WORKS VALVE TOWER & CULVERT GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLANS AND SECTIONS
-	HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0015 VALVE TOWER GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN AND SECTIONS
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0015 OUTLINE LANDSCAPE PLAN NORTH WEST CORNER	NO CHANGE
HTR-ATK-AR-RE-DR-D-0001 NORTHERN ACCESS ROUTE OFF B2149	NO CHANGE
HTR-ATK-AR-RE-DR-D-0002 NORTHERN ACCESS JUNCTION OFF B2149	NO CHANGE
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0007 KEY PLAN 1	<i>SUPERSEDED BY DRAWING HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0001 RESERVOIR OUTLINE MASTERPLAN</i>
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0008 KEY PLAN 2	<i>SUPERSEDED BY DRAWING HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0001 RESERVOIR OUTLINE MASTERPLAN</i>
HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-DR-L-0009 KEY PLAN 3	<i>SUPERSEDED BY DRAWING HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0001 RESERVOIR OUTLINE MASTERPLAN</i>

Main Reservoir Embankment – outline and full planning permission

- 2.2.4 The reference design for the main reservoir embankment was based on surveys including ground investigations, which were carried out over several years. It was recognised that the contractor appointed to construct the reservoir would carry out further investigations to inform the detailed design and this would likely result in some refinement of the design.
- 2.2.5 Over the last few years Portsmouth Water and Future Water have completed extensive ground investigations and have completed a trial embankment using clay which was excavated from the reservoir site. This further work has provided a more detailed view of the ground conditions, and a greater understanding of how clay from this site behaves during and after construction. Portsmouth Water and Future Water have used this information to inform the design of the reservoir and have concluded that these changes to the slope angles as proposed in the Section 73 applications of the main reservoir embankment are necessary to ensure its long-term structural strength and integrity.
- 2.2.6 The following changes to the size and alignment of the main reservoir embankment are proposed in the Section 73 applications:
- To facilitate construction of the embankment the southern toe of the main embankment is proposed to be realigned as shown on drawing HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002 Main Embankment Proposed Site Layout, which includes:
 - Realignment up to 50m north at the eastern end of the main embankment
 - Realignment up to 45m south at the western end of the main embankment
 - Minor realignment of the western embankment
 - The slope angles of the inside and outside embankment faces have been re-designed to be shallower, with the slope reduced to between 1:8 and 1:9 as shown on drawing HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4003 Main Embankment Cross-Sections, which results in a larger main embankment footprint that extends further north.
 - As a result of the combination of the realigned embankment and the redesigned slope angles, the crest line of the embankment also moves approximately 80m north and the overall embankment length increases by 30m to 2,800m in total as shown on as shown on drawing HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002 Main Embankment Proposed Site Layout, including the eastern tie in of the main embankment (the point at which the embankment ties in with the existing ground level) moving up to 55-60m to the north.
- 2.2.7 The changes to the size and alignment of the main reservoir embankment proposed in the Section 73 applications are illustrated in Figure 2.1, which shows the approved embankment and the proposed embankment.

Figure 2.1 – Embankment size and alignment change from approved alignment to proposed

- 2.2.8 The Application Scheme Parameters (which describe the proposed changes to the Scheme, and to the Scheme Parameters which have informed the environmental assessment work as presented in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES) set out in Table 2.1 below, include a greater range of slope angles for the main embankment varying between 1:7 to 1:9, which differs from that shown on the application drawings at 1:8 to 1:9. The greater range of slope angles has been included in the Application Scheme Parameters to allow for the opportunity to steepen the slope angles in some areas should that opportunity be possible through further engineering design and assessment work. Portsmouth Water and Future Water are not able to confirm or commit to the steeper slope angles at this time, and therefore the greater range in the Application Scheme Parameters allows that opportunity to come forward in the future, if it proves possible, alongside any necessary consents required. Steepening the slope angles would be beneficial as it would reduce the footprint of the embankment, the volume of material required and the time to construct parts of the embankment. The ES Addendum considers slope angles at both 1:8 to 1:9 and 1:7 to 1:9.
- 2.2.9 The slope angles for the section of 'Embankment adjacent to Staunton County Park' are fixed at 1:8 to 1:9 as set out in Table 2.1 Application Scheme Parameters below.
- 2.2.10 The Application Scheme Parameters set out in Table 2.1 below, also include +/- 20m horizontal range for the location of the crest line of the main embankment from that shown on the application drawings. This Application Scheme Parameter is to allow for the opportunity to steepen the slope angles as set out above, which could result in the crest line location moving to enable the steeper slope angles. The ES Addendum to the 2020 ES considers the +/- 20m horizontal range for the location of the crest line.
- 2.2.11 The crest line for the section of 'Embankment adjacent to Staunton County Park' is fixed as set out in Table 2.2 Application Scheme Parameters below and shown on the application drawings as listed in paragraph 2.2.1.2.
- 2.2.12 The changes to the embankment slopes and alignment have been designed to ensure a cut and fill balance and minimal net change in the reservoir volume, maintaining the minimum total capacity of 8,700 million litres.

- 2.2.13 The height of the embankment crest level of 40.5 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) would not change from the 2020 ES.
- 2.2.14 The elements of the main embankment that are proposed as outline and full planning permission are shown on drawing HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0021 Planning Strategy Key Plan, consistent with the approach approved under the hybrid planning permission and the Phase 3 Reserved Matters Applications being submitted alongside the S73 Applications.

Reservoir Culvert – outline planning permission

- 2.2.15 The reservoir culvert would provide a route through the main reservoir embankment for reservoir raw water to be pumped into the reservoir from Bedhampton Springs, and for supply water to be discharged to Farlington Water Treatment works via Bedhampton Pumping Station.
- 2.2.16 As a consequence of the main reservoir embankment being realigned, and the embankment footprint increasing, the overall length of the culvert is proposed to increase by approximately 80 m as shown on drawings HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002 Main Embankment Proposed Site Layout and HTR-GHD-ZZ-RE-DR-Z-0003 Proposed Culvert and Valve Tower Site Layout.
- 2.2.17 As the reservoir culvert would be located within the embankment structure, it would not be visible under normal operating conditions of the reservoir. However, in the event that the reservoir is fully drawn down (which would only happen for emergency or maintenance reasons), parts of a concrete inlet structure would be visible at the upstream toe (inside) of the embankment.
- 2.2.18 The primary access to the culvert would be via the control building.

Valve Tower – outline planning permission

- 2.2.19 It is proposed that the valve tower would be relocated outside the inner core of the main reservoir embankment. This is required for engineering reasons in order to maintain an uninterrupted homogenous core along the full length of the main embankment which improves its safety, further reduces risk, and enhances the design. The proposed valve tower is shown on drawings HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002 Main Embankment Proposed Site Layout and HTR-GHD-ZZ-RE-DR-Z-0003 Proposed Culvert and Valve Tower Site Layout.
- 2.2.20 The valve tower would also provide an upper draw off / intake off from the reservoir as shown on drawings HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0020 Outlet Works Value Tower & Culvert General Arrangement Plans And Sections and HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0015 Valve Tower General Arrangement Plan And Sections. The upper draw off / intake structure would consist of a concrete headwall with a rock lined channel extending from the valve tower to the face of the inner embankment slope. This structure would not be visible under normal operating conditions of the reservoir due to its positioning below the top water level.
- 2.2.21 The valve tower would provide a dry area for manual operation, inspection and maintenance of low-level draw off valves from the culvert and access to the high-level draw off valves in the valve tower, and would allow valves and pipework to be removed in

accordance with scheduled maintenance activities.

- 2.2.22 As shown on drawings HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0020 Outlet Works Valve Tower & Culvert General Arrangement Plans And Sections and HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0015 Valve Tower General Arrangement Plan And Sections the valve tower would have a internal diameter of 8 m and would be constructed of concrete with a plain, neutral coloured finish. The upper 1.5 m of the valve tower would protrude above the high waterline, with this potentially increasing by 1.0-2.0 m seasonally, due to variations in the reservoir water level. The top of the valve tower would be slightly higher (+41.10 m AOD) than the embankment crest (+40.5 m AOD).
- 2.2.23 The primary access to the valve tower will be via the control building and the culvert. Internal stairwells in the valve tower will provide access to the high level draw off valves, continuing to the roof of the valve tower accessed through lockable covers. The top of the valve tower can be accessed by boat, pontoon or other non-permanent method as secondary means of access in the case of an emergency, however, other options may be considered in the future, and if necessary, will be the subject of a future planning application.

Control House – outline planning permission

- 2.2.24 As a consequence of the main reservoir embankment being realigned and the footprint increasing, the control house is also proposed to move north to match the relocated embankment whilst maintaining the design principle of the building being partially incorporated into the embankment slope as shown on drawings HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0004 LANDSCAPE PLAN CONTROL HOUSE, HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002 Main Embankment Proposed Site Layout and HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0013 Proposed Culvert and Valve Tower Site Layout.
- 2.2.25 The area required to contain the control house infrastructure has also been increased as a result of detailed design increasing from 430m² to 567m² and is reflected in the Proposed Scheme Parameters in Table 2.2.
- 2.2.26 The ES Addendum to the 2020 ES considers both the revised control house location and the increased size.

Staircase and Viewing Platform – full planning permission

- 2.2.27 As a consequence of the main reservoir embankment being realigned and the footprint increasing, the staircase and the viewing platform are also proposed to be realigned north and the steps amended to suit the shallower slope angles of the embankment as shown on drawings HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0005 Landscape Plan Avenue Staircase, HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002 Main Embankment Proposed Site Layout and HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0009 Main Embankment Sections B & C. The staircase and the viewing platform remain aligned with the footpath through Staunton Country Park.

Western Viewing Platform – outline planning permission

- 2.2.28 As a consequence of the main reservoir embankment being realigned the location of the western viewing platform is proposed to be relocated slightly to the east and north as

shown on drawings HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0001 Reservoir Outline Masterplan and HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0007 Landscape Plan Viewing Platform.

Gipsies Plain – full planning permission

- 2.2.29 The proposed changes to the main embankment alignment do not change the details granted detailed planning permission for Gipsies Plain as part of the hybrid planning permissions for the reservoir. However, as the main embankment is being realigned up to 50m north the approved drawing for Gipsies Plain has been updated to reflect that change and to show how the realigned embankment will tie in with the approved details. These changes are shown on drawing HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0006 Landscape Plan Gipsies Plain.

2.3 Application Scheme Parameters

- 2.3.1 Table 2-2 sets out the Scheme Parameters as presented in the 2020 ES, describes the proposed changes to the Scheme, and sets out the proposed changes to the Scheme Parameters which have informed the environmental assessment work as presented in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES.
- 2.3.2 The Scheme Parameters are presented in the Section 73 Development Specification and Application Drawings Report (Document Reference: HTR-FUW-ZZ-ZZ-SP-W-0543) which accompanies the Section 73 planning applications.

Table 2-2: Proposed Scheme Parameters

2020 ES			ES Addendum	
Element	Parameter	Level of Detail	Summary of the proposed changes compared to 2020 ES	Proposed Scheme Parameters being applied for in the S73
Reservoir capacity	Minimum required total capacity: 8,700 million litres Maximum capacity: at least 9,600 million litres, up to a Top Water Level (TWL) of 39.5 m AOD.	Fixed	No change	No change: Minimum required total capacity: 8,700 million litres Maximum capacity: at least 9,600 million litres, up to a Top Water Level (TWL) of 39.5 m AOD.
Supply rate	Output capacity: at least 21 MI/d in extreme (currently defined as 1:200 year) drought conditions.	Fixed	No change	No change: Output capacity: at least 21 MI/d in extreme (currently defined as 1:200 year) drought conditions.
Embankment	Max 20 m high. Crest level 40.5 m AOD. Length 2,770 m. Inside slope: to range from 1:5 to 1:7. Outside slope: majority 1:7 with local variations to 1:5 at Round Wood and the Avenue woodland (see below).	Outline	Embankment southern toe realigned approximately to 50m north at the eastern and up to 45m south at the western end. Embankment slopes reduced to between 1:7 and 1:9.	Changed: Max 20 m high. Crest level 40.5 m AOD. Length 2,800 m. Inside slope: to range from 1:7 to 1:9. Outside slope: to range from 1:7 to 1:9. Outer toe (edge): +/- 2 m horizontal range.

2020 ES			ES Addendum	
Element	Parameter	Level of Detail	Summary of the proposed changes compared to 2020 ES	Proposed Scheme Parameters being applied for in the S73
	Outer toe (edge): +/- 2 m horizontal range (north to south). Crest line position: 0-37 m horizontal range (to north) to accommodate any potential future need for reducing the outer face slope from 1:5 to 1:7.		Embankment crest moved approximately 80m north. Embankment lengthened by 30m. Revised embankment location and design shown on drawing HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002.	Crest line position: +/- 20m horizontal range to accommodate any potential alignment change.
Embankment adjacent to Staunton Country Park	Toe (edge) of the embankment is fixed at a minimum of 25 m from the edge of woodland along the southern boundary of the Site (known as Hammond's Lands Copse). Length of embankment at 1:5 is approximately 185 m along this stretch and 390 m of embankment with slope varying from 1:5 to 1:7. Staircase detail along alignment of The Avenue joining pedestrian access from Staunton Country Park with viewing area at the crest.	Fixed	The embankment slopes changed to between 1:8 to 1:9 Revised embankment location and design shown on drawing HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4002. Revised embankment slopes shown on drawing HTR-COF-EM-RE-DR-GE-4003.	Changed: Toe (edge) of the embankment is fixed at a minimum of 25 m from the edge of woodland along the southern boundary of the Site (known as Hammond's Lands Copse). Embankment with slope varying from 1:8 to 1:9. Staircase detail along alignment of The Avenue joining pedestrian access from Staunton Country Park with viewing area at the crest.
Top Water Level (TWL)	39.5 m AOD. 1.0 m freeboard (height from TWL to embankment crest) to prevent/limit overtopping.	Fixed	No change	No change: 39.5 m AOD. 1.0 m freeboard (height from TWL to embankment crest) to prevent/limit overtopping.
Spillway/overflow	3 m long weir/700 mm diameter pipe.	Fixed	No change	No change: 3 m long weir/700 mm diameter pipe.
Slope protection material	Range of up to 450 mm thick layer of protection. Rip-rap (rock armour). Rock mattresses would be brushed with topsoil allowing planting with aquatic/marginal species such as reeds and sedge grasses.	Fixed	No change	No change: Range of up to 450 mm thick layer of protection. Rip-rap (rock armour). Rock mattresses would be brushed with topsoil allowing planting with aquatic/marginal species such as reeds and sedge grasses.
Lowest operating level	27.5 m AOD. Lowest 20% to be considered dead storage, minimum level before reservoir operationally fails.	Fixed	No change	No change: 27.5 m AOD Lowest 20% to be considered dead storage, minimum level before reservoir operationally fails.

2020 ES			ES Addendum	
Element	Parameter	Level of Detail	Summary of the proposed changes compared to 2020 ES	Proposed Scheme Parameters being applied for in the S73
Emergency drawdown facility	Discharge capacity of 10.9 m ³ /s Reservoir can be lowered by 1/3 of water depth in six days. 1.4 m diameter scour pipe and submerged discharge valve discharging into Riders Lane Stream at the proposed control house. 1.2 m diameter inlet/outlet pipe discharging into the Hermitage Stream 3 km downstream.	Fixed	No change	No change: Discharge capacity of 10.9 m ³ /s Reservoir can be lowered by 1/3 of water depth in six days. 1.4 m diameter scour pipe and submerged discharge valve discharging into Riders Lane Stream at the proposed control house. 1.2 m diameter inlet/outlet pipe discharging into the Hermitage Stream 3 km downstream.
Wetland retaining structure	A retained wetland extending for approximately 1.3 km along the northern shoreline. 4No. retained wetland compartments, plus provision of an area for wet grassland habitat creation to the east of the retained wetland. Retention of wetland during drought levels in main reservoir. Minimum area of retained wetland provided ~10 ha.	Outline (commitment to minimum area)	No change	No change: A retained wetland extending for approximately 1.3 km along the northern shoreline. 4No. retained wetland compartments, plus provision of an area for wet grassland habitat creation to the east of the retained wetland. Retention of wetland during drought levels in main reservoir. Minimum area of retained wetland provided ~10 ha.
Control house	Maximum width of building frontage: 33 m. Maximum height of building wall above external ground level: 6m (excluding security fence). Schedule of accommodation: total area approximately 430 m ² (excluding courtyard). Reinforced concrete outer structure with cladding, composite roof slab with green roof, steel frame/blockwork internal walls.	Outline	Location of the control house moved north to match relocated embankment and maintain the design principle of the majority of the building being set back into the embankment slope. The area required to contain the control house infrastructure has also been increased as a result of detailed design. Revised location shown on drawing HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0013 and HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0004.	Changed: Maximum width of building frontage: 33 m. Maximum height of building wall above external ground level: 6m (excluding security fence). Schedule of accommodation: total area approximately 567m ² (excluding courtyard). Reinforced concrete outer structure with cladding, composite roof slab with green roof, steel frame/blockwork internal walls.
Visitor Centre	Maximum envelope of 35 m x 55 m and	Outline	No change	No change:

2020 ES			ES Addendum	
Element	Parameter	Level of Detail	Summary of the proposed changes compared to 2020 ES	Proposed Scheme Parameters being applied for in the S73
	maximum height of 10 m.			Maximum envelope of 35 m x 55 m and maximum height of 10 m.
Bird Hide	Maximum envelope of 9 m x 20 m and maximum height of 5 m.	Outline	No change	No change: Maximum envelope of 9 m x 20 m and maximum height of 5 m.
Viewing Area	Location along the western boundary and outline design.	Outline	Moved north to match relocated embankment crest. Revised location and design shown on drawings HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0001 and HTR-GHD-ZZ-ZZ-DR-T-0007.	No change: Location along the western boundary and outline design.
Vehicle Access	New junctions off B2149 (to the north) and Swanmore Road (to the south).	Fixed	No change	No change: New junctions off B2149 (to the north) and Swanmore Road (to the south).
Northern Access Route from junction with B2149 and car park	Single lane single, 3.65 m wide carriageway with passing bays and 0.5 m verges with 0.9 m embankment slopes and a 6.45 m wide footprint.	Outline	No change	No change: Single lane single, 3.65 m wide carriageway with passing bays and 0.5 m verges with 0.9 m embankment slopes and a 6.45 m wide footprint.
Pipeline	Maximum diameter of pipeline: 1.2 m Maximum length: 4.85 km (of which 210 m within reservoir site and application) Maximum envelope for above ground kiosk (associated with discharge structure): H3 m x W6.5 m x L10.5 m is the size of above ground kiosk at Hermitage Stream (excluding slab H0.5 m x W6.5 m x L11.6 m). Overall height: 3.5 m above ground level.	Outline	No change	No change: Maximum diameter of pipeline: 1.2 m Maximum length: 4.85 km (of which 210 m within reservoir site and application) Maximum envelope for above ground kiosk (associated with discharge structure): H3 m x W6.5 m x L10.5 m is the size of above ground kiosk at Hermitage Stream (excluding slab H0.5 m x W6.5 m x L11.6 m). Overall height: 3.5 m above ground level.

2.4 Construction Programme

- 2.4.1 The original indicative construction programme noted that construction of the Scheme could potentially start shortly after consent being granted in Spring 2021. Construction activities, followed by testing and commissioning, would continue until approximately spring 2029.

- 2.4.2 The proposed changes to the Scheme would extend the duration of the construction programme, with wet commissioning now expected in 2031. The main reservoir embankment earthworks would commence in 2025 and would be completed in 2028. The updated indicative construction programme is shown in Table 2-3.

Table 2-3: Indicative construction programme

Timescale	Construction activities
Completed	Site establishment and enabling works Northern access road
2024	Section 73 planning permission expected Wetlands earthworks & structures (commence August 2024) Culvert and Valve Tower construction (commence August 2024)
2025	Wetlands Retaining Structures Main Embankment Earthworks (commence March 2025 - undertake during earthworks seasons) Reservoir Pipe Culvert and Valve Tower Control House Southern Access Road
2026	Main Embankment Earthworks Control House Reservoir Pipe
2027	Main Embankment Earthworks
2028	Main Embankment Earthworks (completion July 2028) Hard Landscaping Emergency Discharge Structure Soft Landscaping Secondary Means of Access – Valve Tower
2029	Wet Commissioning Hard Landscaping Soft Landscaping
2030	Wet Commissioning Soft Landscaping Forestry England track raising & culverts
2031	Wet Commissioning

3 Planning Policy Context

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires planning decisions to be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 3.1.2 Paragraph 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) introduces a presumption in favour of sustainable development which, for decision-taking means approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay unless the application of policies in the NPPF that protect areas or assets of particular importance provide a clear reason for refusing the development proposed or any adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.
- 3.1.3 The adopted development plan comprises:
- Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011)
 - Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) (2014)
 - East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014)
 - Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013)
 - Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan (2021)
- 3.1.4 HBC produced a draft local plan 2036 which was withdrawn from examination on 16th March 2022.
- 3.1.5 EHDC recently published a new Regulation 18 draft Local Plan 2021-2040 for consultation on Monday 22nd January 2024. The consultation period on this draft plan ended on 8th March 2024. This supersedes previous draft versions of the emerging local plan as follows:
- Local Plan Issues and Priorities Regulation 18 Part 1 (November 2022)
 - Draft Local Plan 2015-2036 Regulation 18 (February 2019)
- 3.1.6 Representations have been submitted on the recent consultation draft plan expressing the Applicant's concern at the omission of the allocation of the reservoir site which was contained in both the adopted local plan and previous draft plans. The consultation plan simply identifies the reservoir site as a 'gap between settlements' under Policy NBE11. Those representations seek the reintroduction of the previous allocation policy in order that the plan can be shown to comply with paragraph 20b and the 'tests of soundness' (set out at paragraph 35) of the NPPF.
- 3.1.7 That said, paragraph 48 of the NPPF notes that local planning authorities may give weight to relevant policies in emerging plans according to the stage or preparation of the emerging plan and the extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies. In view of the withdrawal of the draft HBC local plan and the early stage in the preparation of the draft EHDC local plan, it is considered that these draft plans can be afforded limited weight in the decision-making process.

- 3.1.8 In addition to the HBC and EHDC local plans, the South Downs Local Plan (2019) is also a relevant consideration as, while the development is not located in the National Park, it lies adjacent to its boundary which runs along the B2149 Manor Lodge Road. Accordingly, the potential (or otherwise) of the revisions to the scheme to impact the setting of the National Park is also addressed.
- 3.1.9 Hampshire County Council has commenced a partial review of the adopted minerals and waste plan. The regulation 19 consultation ended on 5th March 2024. As with the draft Regulation 18 EHDC local plan referred to above, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 48 of the NPPF, only limited weight can be afforded to this draft plan. In any event, it contains no material changes relevant to the consideration of the Section 73 applications.
- 3.1.10 There are considered to be no issues or impacts associated with the Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan, the northern boundary of which lies over 2km to the southeast of the proposed development. Accordingly, the Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan is not considered further in this policy assessment.
- 3.1.11 The National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure (NPSWRI) was published in April 2023. This document sets out the need and Government's policies for the development of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) for water resources in England. Whilst the Scheme is not an NSIP, paragraph 1.1.10 of the NPSWRI clarifies that it may also be a material consideration informing decisions on planning applications relating to water resources.
- 3.1.12 The Revised Draft Portsmouth Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) 2024 was published August 2023 and looks forward for the next 50 years (2025-2075) to consider how the water company intends to achieve a secure supply of water for its customers whilst protecting and enhancing the environment. It is also relevant to the consideration of the Section 73 applications as the approval of the Scheme will enable Portsmouth Water to make a major contribution to long-term resilient water resources development in the South East of England.

4 Consideration of Planning Policy and Environmental Matters

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An Environmental Statement (ES) was produced in support of the two hybrid applications to HBC and EHDC. That ES was used to inform the policy assessment of the now permitted scheme which was presented in the planning statement which also accompanied those planning applications,

4.1.2 This assessment does not repeat in full the assessment of planning policy given in the planning statement which accompanied the consented scheme. Rather it updates that assessment to take on board new matters. These new matters arise as a result of the following:

- Addenda to various ES chapters, appendices and other supporting documents to the 2020 ES which have been produced in support of the revised Scheme to reflect any new or different impacts arising out of the revisions to the consented Scheme design
- Updates to national planning policy contained in the December 2023 version of the NPPF
- Updates to local plan policy in the form of the withdrawal by HBC of its 2036 draft local plan in March 2022 and the 2019 EHDC draft Regulation 18 local plan having been superseded by the more recent consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024)
- A new 'baseline' for the assessment where new information is available and to reflect the fact that the Scheme has been consented and that some works on site clearance and preparation have already commenced.

4.1.3 The matters considered relevant to the consideration of the Section 73 applications are as follows:

- The principle of the proposed development in terms of the amendments for which approval is sought
- Ecology / biodiversity
- Landscape and visual
- Historic environment
- Water environment, flood risk and drainage
- Leisure and recreation
- Traffic, transport and access

- Amenity – noise and air pollution
- Minerals, material resources and waste
- Climate change
- Sustainable design
- Setting of the South Downs National Park
- Cumulative / in-combination effects

4.1.4 These matters are addressed, and an assessment of policy compliance is provided, in respect of each of these matters below.

4.2 The principle of the proposed development

4.2.1 Paragraph 20b of the NPPF requires local planning authorities to include in local plans strategic policies which set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design of places and to make sufficient provision for, (inter alia) water supply infrastructure.

4.2.2 The Havant Thicket Reservoir is allocated in as a strategic site in the adopted local plans for Havant Borough and East Hampshire District (Policies CS18 and CP26 respectively).

4.2.3 Policy CS18 Strategic Site Delivery identifies Havant Thicket Reservoir as a strategic site (Site 2) critical to achieving the core strategy vision for which permission will be granted provided the development requirements set out later in the policy are met. These development requirements comprise the following:

- The development must be sustainable, fully-maintained and cost-effective and deliver environmental and community benefits
- The use of the reservoir for recreation should complement existing provision in the borough and become an attraction for local communities
- The use of the water should be limited to supervised, water-based activities such as canoeing and kayaking
- The reservoir should provide additional leisure opportunities which complement existing provision in the borough and help attract more day visitors to Staunton Country Park
- Recreational provision should be appropriate to the countryside location and should not include any motorised activities
- Green infrastructure links between the rest of Leigh Park and Dunsbury Hill Farm will be enhanced
- Construction traffic should be minimised in Leigh Park, Rowlands Castle and other residential areas
- Public vehicular traffic should be restricted within the site and confined to the

vicinity of the main access

- Vehicular access is expected from the B2149 outside the borough
- Recreation provision should include a network of paths for walking, cycling and horse-riding and the potential for links with the Riders Lane and Hermitage Stream Corridors should be considered
- Access and the surfacing of paths should take account of the needs of all
- Natural and rural character should be conserved in particular by limiting impacts on biodiversity including the creation of additional habitats; compensating for the loss of, and effects on, sites of importance for nature conservation, the listed park and conservation area; enhancing adjacent sites of importance for nature conservation; ensuring that the pipeline avoids Great Copse, which should be protected during construction; integrating the reservoir and the new landscape with the historic landscape of the Sir George Staunton Conservation Area and existing woodland; minimising the loss of ancient woodland and trees
- The potential impacts on the Langstone and Chichester Harbours as well as the Hermitage Stream should be minimised in terms of ecology, water quality and flow effects
- Opportunities for biodiversity enhancements associated with the reservoir and the Hermitage Stream should be realised wherever possible
- The risk of flooding during storm events should be fully assessed in a flood risk assessment and mitigation put in place to minimise all risks
- The proposal should realise the potential for renewable energy dependent on nature conservation and other site constraints
- Regeneration opportunities arising from the new pipe works between the reservoir and the water works must enhance the habitats, recreation opportunities and cycle and pedestrian accessibility along the stream corridors.

4.2.4 EHDC core strategy Policy CP26 Water Resources / Water Quality addresses the matter of water resources and water quality and safeguards from development the Havant Thicket Reservoir site (as identified on policy map 3). The supporting text to the policy notes at paragraph 7.50 that:

“The chalk aquifer dominates the freshwater environment of the District and its water resources are already fully committed to water supply. A twin-track approach of demand management and water resource development is required. East Hampshire recognises the importance of implementing this approach by promoting efficient use of existing water resources, while recognising the development of new water resources, such as the Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir. This reservoir will not only provide further water resources but will provide a real opportunity to create a natural and sustainable recreational attraction. The timescale for the provision of the Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir is uncertain and will depend on future regional forecasts of demand for water. The timescales will be reviewed in 2020.”

- 4.2.5 The 2019 regulation 18 draft local plan for East Hampshire contained Strategic Policy S31 Havant Thicket Reservoir which reflected the provisions of the HBC policy CS18 development requirements referred to above. As noted above, this Regulation 18 draft plan has been superseded by an updated Regulation 18 draft plan published in January 2024.
- 4.2.6 This 2024 draft plan does not allocate the reservoir site but identifies the site as falling within a “Gap Between Settlements” under draft policy NBE11. Under this policy, new development must avoid reducing the open land that contributes to the form and character of existing settlements and maintains their separate identities. Development which maintains the open character and appearance of the countryside between settlement and the individual identity of towns and villages will be granted planning permission.
- 4.2.7 Representations have been submitted on this draft plan seeking the reintroduction of the strategic reservoir allocation policy as required by paragraph 20b of the NPPF. Regardless of whether or not those representations are accepted, the reservoir development would accord with draft policy NBE11 in that it maintains the open character of the settlements, preserves the individual character and identity of towns and villages in the area and maintains the open character and appearance of the area.
- 4.2.8 Finally, the principle of the development is established through the grant of the hybrid permission for the reservoir Scheme. The Section 73 applications propose a number of amendments to the detailed design of the Scheme which do not alter the principle of a reservoir facility being delivered in this location.

4.3 Ecology / Biodiversity

- 4.3.1 The consented Scheme will result in the creation of new habitats of ecological value, particularly the new wetland to the north of the reservoir, which remains unchanged by the Section 73 applications. Early planting has already taken place (prior to the reservoir Scheme receiving consent) within the south west and south east corners of the site which has allowed new habitats to become established prior to work commencing on site. This planting, together with off site compensation habitat creation and measures identified in the Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) (see paragraph 4.3.8 below), will compensate for the loss of 12.45ha of irreplaceable Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW), 17 veteran trees, 7.18ha of priority lowland mixed deciduous woodland habitat, 1.21ha of purple moor-grass and 3.7km of watercourses. Much of this consented tree clearance has now taken place in accordance with the respective hybrid planning permissions and conditions. See also paragraph 4.3.10 below regarding the Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy.
- 4.3.2 Paragraph 180 of the NPPF requires planning policies and decisions to contribute to and enhance the natural environment. Paragraph 182 requires great weight to be attached to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks. Paragraph 186, criteria a, c and d advise that applications for planning permission should be refused permission if they would cause significant harm to biodiversity or loss of irreplaceable habitats unless the benefits of the development in the location proposed outweigh its impacts (including the public benefits of infrastructure projects (footnote 67)).

- 4.3.3 Policies CS11 Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment of Havant Borough and Heritage and DM8 Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Existing Natural Features of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) seek to protect and enhance the special environment and heritage of the borough and to conserve, protect and enhance its natural features.
- 4.3.4 Policy CP21 Biodiversity of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) seeks to maintain, enhance and protect the district's biodiversity and its surrounding environment.
- 4.3.5 Policy NBE2 Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation of the consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024), insofar as it may be relevant, seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity features and to deliver BNG (in accordance with policy NBE3 Biodiversity Net Gain) unless it is demonstrated that there is an overriding public need for the proposal which outweighs the need to safeguard geodiversity and biodiversity and that compensatory measures are provided.
- 4.3.6 Policy DM1 The Local Ecological Network of the consultation draft local plan requires applications to be supported by an ecological impact assessment and seeks to avoid harm to the local ecological network.
- 4.3.7 Chapter 8 Biodiversity in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES concludes at paragraph 8.13.1 that:

"The proposed changes to the Scheme lie wholly within the planning application boundary presented in the 2020 ES. A substantial area of habitat has already been cleared as part of the enabling works. No further land take or direct impact on ecological receptors are anticipated with the proposed changes to the Scheme. Although the Scheme construction period will be extended, the impact on ecological receptors is not likely to change, as the mitigation measures outlined in the 2020 ES are sufficient and no further mitigation is required."

- 4.3.8 Chapter 8 Biodiversity in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES also states at paragraph 8.7.2 that the mitigation measures outlined in Table 3.1: Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC): Reservoir Site of the Outline Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) which forms part of the 2020 ES (Vol 4 Appendix 2.1; Document Reference: HTR-ATK-XX-XX-RP-Z-0069) are valid and relevant.
- 4.3.9 Following grant of the hybrid planning permissions, applications have been made to discharge Condition 5 on the respective permissions, which requires the submission and approval of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which should be based upon the OEMP. Therefore the majority of the mitigation measures set out in the OEMP are being implemented through the CEMP.
- 4.3.10 As a requirement of the Section 106 Agreement related to the consented Scheme, a Biodiversity Mitigation and Compensation Strategy (BMCS) (Document Reference: HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-Y-0001, Atkins, 2022) has been approved by HBC and EHDC which provides an overview of committed mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures to be delivered as part of the Scheme. It builds on the outline BMCS produced alongside the 2020 ES. It notes in the executive summary (page 5) that:

“The general objectives are to create an environmentally-led design based on the mitigation hierarchy approach of avoid, minimise or compensate. Appropriate mitigation and compensation will be implemented for protected and notable species. A mosaic of new and high-quality habitats will be created that will be managed in the long-term through collaboration with Forestry England, Hampshire County Council and other landowners. Aquatic habitat compensation will be delivered as part of a catchment-wide approach”

- 4.3.11 As a requirement of the Section 106 Agreement related to the consented Scheme, a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference: HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-RP-L-0002, Atkins, 2022) has been approved by HBC and EHDC. The LEMP forms part of the BMCS and sets out measures for long-term post-construction management and monitoring of landscape and ecological features that are provided as part of the Scheme and the plans for implementation of compensation measures that are not intrinsically linked to the construction of the Scheme.
- 4.3.12 Both the BMCS and the LEMP will be updated in due course to reflect the changes proposed by the Section 73 applications.
- 4.3.13 Overall the conclusion in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES on ecology / biodiversity is that there will be no additional effects as a result in these changes over those assessed and mitigated through the original suite of application documents as consented. Where additional non-significant effects are identified (as a consequence of the extended construction programme) these are mitigated by measures contained in the associated control documents.
- 4.3.14 Therefore, the revisions to the Scheme accord with relevant policy on ecology and biodiversity.

4.4 Landscape and Visual

- 4.4.1 The consented Scheme lies within a shallow valley and comprises predominantly open grassland with some woodland, vegetation and ditches. The site contains a number of areas of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ANSW) (The Avenue, Clearing and Round Wood). The Corsican Pine Plantation is classified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS). Where the consented Scheme proposed tree clearance, much of this has now taken place in accordance with the respective hybrid planning permissions and conditions.
- 4.4.2 Paragraph 180 of the NPPF advises that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. Paragraph 182 requires great weight to be afforded to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape, scenic beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of National Parks. Paragraph 186 is also relevant (see paragraph 4.3.2 above).
- 4.4.3 Policies CS11 Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of Havant Borough and DM8 Conservation, Protection and Enhancement Existing Natural Features of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) seek to protect and enhance the special environment and heritage of the borough and to conserve, protect and enhance its natural features.

4.4.4 Policy CP20 Landscape of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) seeks to conserve and enhance the special characteristics of the district's natural environment. It seeks to:

- preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park
- protect local distinctiveness and sense of place
- enhance the setting of settlements at their urban edge
- protect and enhance natural and historic features
- incorporate appropriate new planting into developments, and
- maintain, manage and enhance green infrastructure networks.

4.4.5 The equivalent policies of the consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024), insofar as they may be relevant, are policies NBE1 Development in the Countryside, NBE10 Landscape, NBE11 Gaps Between Settlements and DM2 Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland. Policy NBE1 seeks to prevent inappropriate development in the countryside. Policy NBE10 seeks to conserve and, where possible, enhance the special characteristics, value, features and visual amenity of the landscape. Policy NBE11 aims to protect the open character and appearance of countryside between settlements and to maintain the separate identities of those settlements. The Scheme lies within land which is allocated a 'gap between settlements' under the provisions of Policy NBE11. Policy DM2 seeks to protect and retain trees, hedgerows and woodland.

4.4.6 In order to mitigate the impacts of the Scheme, a number of mitigation and compensatory measures are proposed including:

- 80ha of new wood pasture and neutral grassland habitat
- Up to 72ha of habitat restoration in Southleigh Forest
- A compensation and enhancement package for the loss of streams within the site and impacts on the Hermitage Stream which is a Water Framework Directive (WFD) qualifying Body
- A Capital Grants Scheme fund

4.4.7 Chapter 11 of the 2020 ES describes, in paragraphs 11.193 to 11.200 the general and embedded mitigation measures which have been incorporated into the design of the Scheme to, as far as possible, avoid, reduce and/or offset potentially adverse landscape and visual effects during the construction and operation of the Scheme. Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES confirms at paragraph 10.7.1 that the measures identified in paragraphs 11.193 to 11.200 of the 2020 ES (Chapter 11) remain suitable and that no further mitigation measures are required.

4.4.8 Furthermore, the conclusion in section 10.9 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES is that the changes to the Scheme would result in no change over the consented scheme in respect of landscape impacts (paragraphs 10.9.2 and 10.9.3). There would be no change in terms of visual impacts during construction (paragraph 10.9.5) but, during operation, paragraph

10.9.6 concludes:

“The changes to the embankment slope design would have a locally beneficial visual effect on the landscape of the reservoir site area and although there would be some minor adverse effects as a result of the valve tower relocation, it would be limited to a small part of the overall reservoir area. The overall effect is no significant change from the previously predicted level of effects as recorded in the 2020 ES Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Table 11-19: Likely visual effects (reservoir site and access roads).”

- 4.4.9 An updated Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been produced which also includes a full standalone Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and Arboricultural Method Statement, which has been submitted to the LPAs for approval in accordance with Condition 27 of the consented Scheme. The assessment concludes at paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2 that:

“10.1 The evolving engineering design has addressed earlier concerns raised regarding the potential for significant harm to retained trees, most notably those within the Ancient Woodland along the southern boundary.

10.2 On the basis of the finalised design, the projected arboricultural and silvicultural impact is mitigated by the extensive replanting proposals as outlined in the project LEMP”

- 4.4.10 Therefore it is demonstrated that the revisions to the Scheme accord with relevant policy on landscape and visual impacts.

4.5 Historic Environment

- 4.5.1 Part of the site is designated a country park (Staunton Country Park) and includes the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (RPG) at Leigh Park and the Sir George Staunton Conservation Area (see Figure 8.1 Designated Cultural and Heritage Assets of the 2020 ES, Chapter 8 (Drawing Number HTR-ATK-ZZ-ZZ-GS-Z-0051)).
- 4.5.2 Paragraph 205 of the NPPF requires great weight to be given to the conservation of designated heritage assets and, the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Paragraph 206 requires applicants to provide clear and convincing justification for any harm to or loss of the significance of a designated heritage asset and that harm to, or loss of, assets of the highest significance (including RPGs) should be wholly exceptional. Paragraphs 208 to 210 explain how the levels of harm should be weighed in the planning balance in respect of different levels of impact to different categories of asset.
- 4.5.3 Policy CS11 Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of Havant Borough of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) seeks to protect, and where appropriate enhance, the borough’s statutory and non-statutory heritage designations by appropriately managing development in areas where heritage assets are present.
- 4.5.4 Similarly, policy CP30 Historic Environment of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) seeks to conserve, and where possible enhance, the district’s historic environment including the setting of the South Downs National Park.

- 4.5.5 The equivalent policies of the consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024), insofar as they may be relevant, are policies NBE14 Historic Environment, DM7 Archaeology and Ancient Monuments and DM8 Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens. Policy NBE14 seeks to protect, conserve and where possible enhance the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets. The policy goes on to apply the criteria identified in the NPPF to assessing the degree of harm to different assets in accordance with their importance and how this should be weighed in the planning balance. Policy DM7 seeks to protect, and where possible enhance the archaeological and historic integrity of important archaeological sites and policy DM8 seeks to preserve and enhance the historic landscape including ancient woodland, hedgerows and field boundaries, parks and gardens of historic or landscape interest and archaeological features.
- 4.5.6 Chapter 7 Historic Environment of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES identifies that the effects of the revised Scheme would be ‘...no greater than those reported in the 2020 ES’ (paragraph 7.12.1). Furthermore, paragraph 7.12.2 reports that ‘...the investigative mitigations agreed with the local planning authority under the two WSIs and AMP (Planning conditions 21-23 of the hybrid planning decisions)..... would remain appropriate to the proposed changes to the Scheme’. The requirements of planning conditions 21-23 of the respective planning permissions have now been discharged with the LPAs, and the archaeological evaluation report required by planning condition 24 will be submitted in due course.
- 4.5.7 Paragraph 7.12.3 of Chapter 7 Historic Environment of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES concludes:
- “The changes to the embankment design and relocation of the valve tower represent a limited change in the setting of Leigh Park RPG, the Sir George Staunton Conservation Area and the listed buildings within it, but this change is limited and there would be no change to the magnitude of effect assessed in the 2020 ES.”*
- 4.5.8 Accordingly the revisions to the Scheme, taking into account the mitigation measures proposed, accord with relevant policy on the historic environment.

4.6 Water environment, flood risk and drainage

- 4.6.1 The majority of the reservoir site lies within a low flood risk area (Flood Zone 1) though part in the south-west corner of the site falls within Zones 2 and 3. A number of small water courses traverse the site all of which are very narrow (c1m width) and are generally dry from May to October.
- 4.6.2 Paragraph 165 of the NPPF directs development away from areas of highest flood risk to areas of lower risk via the application of a sequential, risk-based approach (paragraph 167) and, if necessary, an exception test (paragraphs 169 to 171). When determining planning applications local planning authorities are advised to ensure that developments are flood resistant and resilient, that they incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and that residual risks can be safely managed and that they do not increase flood risk elsewhere (paragraphs 173 and 165).

- 4.6.3 As noted in paragraph 7.235 of the officer's committee report recommending approval of the 2020 application, the reservoir embankment, pipeline and control house are all considered 'essential infrastructure' compatible with a high risk location under the classification in Annex 3 of the NPPF.
- 4.6.4 Policy CS15 Flood and Erosion Risk of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) is consistent with the approach set out in the NPPF and seeks to locate development in low risk areas following the sequential and exception test approach and requires developments to be safe and resilient in terms of flood risk and not to increase flood risk elsewhere.
- 4.6.5 Similarly, policy CP25 Flood Risk of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) follows the same approach and also requires the use of SuDS unless it can be demonstrated that their use is not appropriate.
- 4.6.6 These provisions are also reflected in Policy NBE7 Managing Flood Risk of the consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024), insofar as it may be relevant.
- 4.6.7 Chapter 14 Water of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES has considered the potential impacts of the revisions to the Scheme on the water environment and the mitigation measures previously identified in the 2020 ES to address these. The overall findings of the ES Addendum are set out in paragraph 14.15.1; namely that the overall findings reported in the 2020 ES Chapter 15 Water Environment for the construction and operational phases of the Scheme have not changed and that the assessment remains current. It also finds at paragraph 14.11.1 that the design, mitigation and enhancement measures identified in paragraphs 15.218 to 15.245 of the 2020 ES remain suitable and that no further mitigation measures are required.
- 4.6.8 A summary of the findings is presented in section 14.16 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES which concludes at paragraphs 14.16.1 and 14.16.2 that:

"14.16.1 The proposed changes to the Scheme lie wholly within the planning application boundary presented in the 2020 ES. The water baseline and receptor importance remain unchanged since 2020. Extension of the reservoir embankment will not result in any additional loss of hydromorphological elements of Riders Lane Stream because the longer section of culverted watercourse would have been lost below the reservoir in the Scheme assessed in the 2020 ES. Similarly, extension of the embankment will not result in additional impacts from controlled compensation flows through the culverted section of Riders Lane Stream. The overall assessment of effects has not changed since publication of the 2020 ES.

14.16.2 Since 2020, a package of river restoration compensation measures has been agreed with the Environment Agency relating to Article 4.7 derogation case for Riders Lane Stream, which is part of the Hermitage Stream water body (GB107042016370). The proposed changes are not considered to alter the findings of the 2020 WFD compliance assessment and do not require additional mitigation as part of the ongoing Article 4.7 package of measures."

- 4.6.9 On the basis of the above it is demonstrated that the revisions to the Scheme, taking into account the mitigation measures proposed, accord with relevant policy on the water environment, flood risk and drainage.

4.7 Leisure and recreation

- 4.7.1 A public right of way (PRoW), in this case a bridleway, runs east-west across the centre of the site from Manor Lodge Road to Park Lane linking Rowlands Castle with Cowplain. Provision is made in the consented scheme for the diversion of this bridleway, both temporarily during construction and then permanently around the new reservoir. The land in Staunton Country Park (SCP) is designated Open Access land which includes a number of permissive paths within and adjoining the reservoir site. Within the Havant Thicket woodland to the north there is a mixture of gravel logging routes and grassed routes. There are a number of other PRoW and leisure routes adjacent to the site and within the SCP.
- 4.7.2 Paragraph 96c of the NPPF requires planning policies and decisions to enable and support healthy lifestyles, for example, through the provision of (inter alia) safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities and layouts that encourage walking and cycling. Paragraph 102 recognises that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity are important in terms of achieving health and wellbeing and climate change benefits. Paragraph 104 seeks to protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Paragraph 110d requires planning policies to provide for attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks.
- 4.7.3 Policies CS5 Tourism and CS13 Green Infrastructure of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) provide support for appropriate development proposals that provide sustainable and small scale recreational opportunities (CS5) and seek to maintain and improve the network of green infrastructure (CS13).
- 4.7.4 Policy CP28 Green Infrastructure of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) follows a similar approach and seeks to maintain and enhance the network of green infrastructure in the district.
- 4.7.5 Insofar as it may be relevant, policy NBE12 Green and Blue Infrastructure of the consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024) supports development that will maintain, protect and enhance the function, integrity, quality, connectivity and multi-functionality of the existing blue and green infrastructure network in the district, will contribute to nature recovery and the creation / restoration of wildlife rich habitats and protects existing trees and hedgerows.
- 4.7.6 As noted in paragraphs 7.162 to 7.167 of the officers committee report in respect of the 2020 application, the application proposes a number of new cycle routes.
- 4.7.7 Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES notes at paragraph 12.8.3 that:

“The alignment of the bridleway proposed along the foot of the embankment will alter to reflect the revised position of the foot of the embankment. The bridleway will continue to form a continuous loop around the reservoir, retaining the same connections as the consented Scheme. The realignment of the bridleway would have a negligible impact to the users of the Public Rights of Way”.

- 4.7.8 On this basis the Section 73 applications will give rise to no additional impacts and, as such, taking into account the mitigation measures proposed, the Scheme accords with relevant national and local policy on leisure and recreation.

4.8 Minerals, material resources and waste

- 4.8.1 The reservoir site is located in an area which is underlain by a safeguarded clay mineral resource. The Scheme aims to retain and reuse in situ the vast majority of material on site as part of the excavation of the reservoir and construction of the embankment.

- 4.8.2 As noted in paragraph 7.311 of the officer's committee report recommending the grant of planning permission for the Scheme in 2021:

"The Scheme has used an environmentally led approach to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts and effects to the environment. For materials and waste this means applying the waste hierarchy and proximity principle and implementing the principles of a circular economy—including 'designing out' waste and keeping products and materials in use. The Scheme would aim to achieve a neutral cut and fill balance and recover 95% by weight of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste....."

- 4.8.3 Paragraph 216c of the NPPF requires planning policies to safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas and to avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources by non-mineral development. Criterion d encourages the prior extraction of minerals where this is practical and environmentally feasible if it is necessary for non-minerals development to take place.
- 4.8.4 Paragraph 217 of the NPPF requires great weight to be given to the benefits of mineral extraction in when determining planning applications.
- 4.8.5 Hampshire County Council is the minerals and waste planning authority for Hampshire and so has jurisdiction over both Havant Borough and East Hampshire District Council areas insofar as planning for minerals and waste are concerned.
- 4.8.6 Policy 15 of the Hampshire County Council Minerals and Waste Plan (2013) aims to safeguard Hampshire's mineral resources, including brick-clay resource, against sterilisation by non-minerals development, unless 'prior extraction' takes place. The reservoir site contains an area of brick clay resource and is designated as a Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA). Policy 15 states that development without the prior extraction of mineral resources in the MSAs may be permitted if:
- a) *"it can be demonstrated that the sterilisation of mineral resources will not occur;*
 - or*
 - b) *it would be inappropriate to extract mineral resources at that location, with regards to the other policies in the Plan; or*
 - c) *the development would not pose a serious hindrance to mineral development in the vicinity; or*
 - d) *the merits of the development outweigh the safeguarding of the mineral".*
- 4.8.7 Hampshire County Council has commenced a partial review of the adopted minerals and waste plan; the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Partial Update - Regulation 19 Consultation. The regulation 19 consultation was undertaken between 9th January and 5th

March 2024. This draft plan is at an early stage in its production and, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 48 of the NPPF, only limited weight can be afforded to this draft plan. In any event, it contains no material changes germane to the consideration of the Section 73 applications.

- 4.8.8 Chapter 13 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES considers the impacts of the revisions to the Scheme on material resources and waste. Table 13.3 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES identifies that there will be an increase in both site-won material and material brought to the site.
- 4.8.9 The increase in site-won material is a result of the proposed changes to the size and alignment of the embankment requiring more material to construct the embankment. As set out in Section 2 of this Planning Statement, the changes are a result of detailed design work that has been undertaken by Future Water, including extensive ground investigations and completion of a trial embankment using clay which was excavated from the reservoir site. This work has provided a more detailed view of the ground conditions, and a greater understanding of how clay from this site behaves during and after construction. Future Water have used this information to inform the design of the reservoir and have concluded that the changes to the slope angles of the main reservoir embankment are necessary to ensure its long-term structural strength and integrity.
- 4.8.10 The increase in imported material is also a result of the proposed changes to the size and alignment of the embankment requiring more material in its construction. The changes have increased the quantities of materials required at the base of the embankment and throughout its upper layers. Due to the shallower embankment slopes, there is also an increase in the amount of rip rap required to protect the top of the embankment from erosion from wave action.
- 4.8.11 While there will be an increase in material imported over the worst case scenario assumed in the 2020 ES, as noted in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES in respect of traffic and transport (Chapter 12), the number of HGV vehicle movements required to bring in this higher amount of imported material is still significantly less than the worst case scenario assumed in the 2020 ES (35 HGVs per day in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES against a worst case scenario of 100 HGV movements per day in the 2020 ES) – see paragraph 12.7.9 in Chapter 12 traffic and transport of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES.
- 4.8.12 With regard to the disposal of waste, Table 13.4 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES shows that the amount of waste remains as previously estimated in the 2020 ES at 92 tonnes. Only the timing of its generation changes from 2021 in the 2020 ES to 2024 in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES – reflective of the 2-year extension in the Scheme timescale.
- 4.8.13 As noted in paragraph 13.13.1 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES:
- “A Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and Materials Management Plan (MMP) will be developed and implemented for the construction phase as set out in the REAC (Vol 4 Appendix 2 of the 2020 ES) and further estimates of the quantities of materials and wastes developed.”*
- 4.8.14 A Soil Management Plan (SMP) has also been submitted to discharge the requirements of condition 39 attached to the original grant of planning permission for the Scheme. The

SMP which explains how soils at the site will be recovered and reused as part of the construction of the Scheme and how soil quality will be maintained. It also addresses how soils are to be recovered and reused as part of the construction of the embankment itself and how the soil management measures identified within the REAC will be implemented, when and by whom.

- 4.8.15 On the basis of the above it is demonstrated in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES that, taking account of the mitigation measures proposed, the revisions to the design of the Scheme will not give rise to any additional significant adverse effects over those assessed in the 2020 ES as part of the consented scheme. The management of materials and waste would be monitored during construction to determine the Scheme's environmental performance and would be controlled through an appropriate condition.
- 4.8.16 Accordingly, it can be considered that the revisions to the Scheme accord with relevant national and local policy in terms of minerals, material resources and waste.

4.9 Traffic, transport and access

- 4.9.1 As identified in the 2020 ES the focus for construction works traffic for the reservoir element of the Scheme is the B2149 route to the A3(M). Since the 2020 scheme was consented the new access junction with the B2149 has been constructed and opened to traffic together with associated upgrades to the access road to the construction site.
- 4.9.2 Paragraph 108 of the NPPF requires transport issues to be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals. Paragraph 109 requires significant development to be focussed on locations which are, or can be made, sustainable through limiting the need to travel and offering a choice of transport modes. Paragraph 114 requires planning authorities to ensure that appropriate opportunities have been taken to promote sustainable transport modes (criterion a) and that safe and suitable site access can be achieved for all users (criterion d).
- 4.9.3 Crucially paragraph 115 notes that:
- “Development should only be prevented or refused on highway grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.”*
- 4.9.4 Policies CS20 Transport and Access Strategy, DM11 Planning for more Sustainable Travel and DM12 Mitigating the Impacts of Travel of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) are relevant. Policy CS20 seeks to improve accessibility, ensure the safe and efficient operation of the strategic and local road network, ensure accessibility to a range of transport modes and improve cycling and pedestrian links. Policy DM11 seeks to ensure that every opportunity is taken to increase integration of sustainable and non-motorised travel modes and DM12 requires new developments to mitigate their travel impacts.
- 4.9.5 Policy CP31 Transport of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) follows a similar theme and seeks to ensure that new development makes the fullest possible use of sustainable transport modes and reduces reliance on the private car.

- 4.9.6 Insofar as it may be relevant, policy DGC2 Sustainable Transport of the EHDC draft consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024) requires new development to provide linkages to public transport and walking and cycling networks, to ensure that it makes appropriate provision for safe movement for all users through well designed streets and routes, to take appropriate measures to avoid harmful effects of traffic and that it mitigates any adverse impacts it creates.
- 4.9.7 Paragraph 12.7.6 and Table 12-10 of Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES compares the forecast made in the 2020 ES with current forecasts. While the 2020 ES predicted a total +4.9% increase in traffic growth there is now predicted to be a decrease in traffic of -4.8%. This is largely a result of the worst case scenario assumed in the 2020 ES to be considerably in excess of the realistic HGV generation scenario – see section 4.8 of this Planning Statement above.
- 4.9.8 Furthermore, as the traffic impacts on sensitive receptors were already identified in the 2020 ES to be negligible the revisions to the Scheme in the Section 73 applications do not change that position.
- 4.9.9 A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (FCTMP) was produced in support of the 2020 application. Condition 12 of the planning permission requires the preparation of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) prior to commencement which must accord with the FCTMP. A CTMP has now been produced and submitted to the LPAs for approval. It explains how construction traffic and site operations will be managed, the working hours, traffic routing and access arrangements and how the impacts of construction traffic will be mitigated. The CTMP is a “live” document and will be subject to regular review.
- 4.9.10 Similarly a Framework Travel Plan was submitted as an appendix to the Transport Assessment in respect of the consented Scheme. It explains the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the number of staff vehicle numbers and promote sustainable travel modes. A Construction Worker Travel Plan is included as Appendix 5 of the CTMP, which has been submitted to the LPAs for approval.
- 4.9.11 Chapter 12 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES demonstrates that the proposed revisions to the Scheme are not going to increase the HGV movements. Also that the transport related conditions attached to the grant of planning permission for the Scheme (which authorised up to 100 2-way HGV movements a day during construction) are being complied with. Accordingly it is considered that the Scheme, taking into account the mitigation measures proposed, accords with relevant national and local policy on transport, traffic and access.

4.10 Amenity – noise and air pollution

- 4.10.1 The construction of the Scheme has the potential to generate noise, vibration and air quality impacts which, if they are not adequately managed and controlled, could result in adverse effects on both the local community and workforce undertaking the construction. There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in either of the host district/borough council areas.

- 4.10.2 Paragraph 109 of the NPPF requires development to be focussed in sustainable locations which can reduce the need to travel and offer a choice of modes so as to help reduce congestion and improve air quality and public health. Paragraph 180d seeks to prevent *“new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality.”* Paragraph 191 requires new development to be appropriate to its location and that potential adverse impacts arising from noise should be reduced and mitigated to avoid giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life. Paragraph 192 identifies that *“opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management and green infrastructure provision and enhancement.”*
- 4.10.3 Policy CS16 High Quality Design of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) sets out that new development should not cause unacceptable harm to the amenity of neighbours as a result of noise. Policy DM10 Pollution stipulates that development which may give rise to pollution (including in terms of air and noise pollution) will only be permitted where a range of considerations can be met. These include not putting the health and safety of users or nearby residents at risk and not breaching air quality objectives. Policy DM12 requires new developments to mitigate their travel impact, including environmental impacts such as noise and air pollution.
- 4.10.4 Policy CP27 Pollution of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) requires that development must not result in pollution which prejudices the health and safety of communities or the environment. The supporting text at paragraph 7.55 clarifies that this includes pollution by way of noise and air quality impacts.
- 4.10.5 Insofar as they may be relevant, policies DM11 Amenity and DM13 Air Quality of the EHDC draft consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024) address impacts on amenity by way of noise and air quality impacts. Policy DM11 requires new development to not have a significant adverse impact on amenity of nearby buildings or spaces and to provide acceptable standards of amenity for existing and future users or occupiers of a development site. The supporting text at paragraph 11.77 clarifies that this applies to amenity impacts including noise and vibration. Policy DM13 requires development to minimise its impacts on local air quality take steps to minimise emissions which would cause air pollution.
- 4.10.6 Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES concludes at paragraphs 11.13.1 and 11.13.2 that the proposed amendments to the Scheme results in effects that are no greater than those reported in the 2020 ES and that the mitigation agreed for the consented scheme remain appropriate in the light of the revisions.
- 4.10.7 This is supported by the findings of the revised Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA) and the Noise and Vibration Management Plan which have been submitted to discharge the requirements of condition 9 and 10 in respect of the consented scheme.
- 4.10.8 In terms of air quality, Chapter 6 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES concludes at paragraph 6.11.1 that there will be no changes to the significance of the air quality effects previously assessed in the 2020 ES and, in all likelihood, the magnitude of effects will be lower than those originally assessed. This is because it is proposed that the embankment

is to be moved a further 80m north of the location in the consented scheme and so further away from potentially sensitive receptors.

- 4.10.9 The mitigation measures for air quality are set out in the Register of Environmental Actions & Commitments (REAC) (Table 3.1 of the OEMP). The implementation of the measures in the REAC have been incorporated into the CEMP and the Dust Management Plan which has been submitted to the LPAs discharge the requirements of condition 5 of the respective permissions.
- 4.10.10 On this basis it is demonstrated in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES that the revisions to the Scheme, taking into account the mitigation measures proposed, accord with relevant national and local policy on amenity in terms of noise, vibration and air quality impacts.

4.11 Climate

- 4.11.1 Assessments were made in the 2020 ES for the consented Scheme of its effects on climate change and its vulnerability to climate change (Chapters 15 and 16 of the 2020 ES respectively) during both construction and operation of the Scheme. They demonstrate that the consented Scheme is designed to take into account climate change risks and to a standard which ensures it is resilient to expected climate change and extreme weather events.
- 4.11.2 Chapter 14 of the NPPF deals with matters related to climate change and requires plans and decisions to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, reduce emissions, reuse resources and help shape places which minimise vulnerability and improve resilience to climate change risks.
- 4.11.3 The development requirements set out in Policy CS18 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) include requirements that the development must be sustainable, must minimise and mitigate risks from flooding and should realise the potential for renewable energy (dependent on nature conservation and other site constraints)
- 4.11.4 The East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) contains a section in Chapter 7 titled “Protecting the wider environment – climate change”. This section encompasses Policies on Sustainable Construction (CP24), Flood Risk (CP25), Water Resources / Water Quality (CP26) and Pollution (CP27).
- 4.11.5 Insofar as it may be relevant, Chapter 4 Responding to the Climate Emergency of the EHDC draft consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024) addresses the issue of climate change. It contains 5 policies which cover the following matters:
- Tackling the climate emergency (CLIM1)
 - Net-Zero Carbon Development: Operational Emissions (CLIM2)
 - Net Zero Carbon Development: Embodied Emissions (CLIM3)
 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (CLIM4) and
 - Climate Resilience (CLIM5)

- 4.11.6 The changes in embankment design will require an increase in materials use and a longer construction programme. The ES Addendum to the 2020 ES (Chapter 15 Effect on Climate) includes an updated GHG assessment to reflect the increased amount of materials being transported into the site (albeit the vast majority will still be sourced in situ) to be used in the construction of the embankment and the longer construction period.
- 4.11.7 Chapter 16 of the 2020 ES assessment concluded that the Scheme would be unlikely to cause a significant effect on climate change or to significantly affect the UK Government's ability to meet its emission reduction targets. Paragraph 15.12.1 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES concludes:

"The GHG emissions for the construction of the Scheme, with consideration of the design changes and the additional assessment of emission sources not considered in the 2020 ES, resulted in a 53% decrease in construction emissions. The reduction in construction emissions is due to the conservative approach taken in the 2020 ES which applied embodied carbon factors to site-won materials. This further supports the assessment that the Scheme is anticipated to make a small contribution to the overall national emissions. Therefore, the conclusion of the 2020 ES that the Scheme is deemed unlikely to cause a significant effect on climate change remains unchanged."

- 4.11.8 In terms of vulnerability to climate change the conclusion of Chapter 16 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES remains unchanged.
- 4.11.9 Chapter 15 Effect on Climate of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES concludes that the Scheme will not give rise to any significant effects in respect to climate change. It can therefore be reasonably concluded that the re-design of the Scheme accords with relevant national and local policies on the climate.

4.12 Sustainable design

- 4.12.1 One of the fundamental aims of the Scheme is to deliver a sustainable water supply for residents of South Hampshire. The Sustainability Assessment submitted with the application for the consented scheme outlined the sustainability measures incorporated into the design of the scheme. Namely:
- The clay required for the construction of the embankment and development of a wetland is already available on-site, hence most of the embankment material would not incur transport emissions and costs;
 - The reservoir inherently reduces flood risk in the region through capture and storage of rainwater and surface water runoff;
 - The design proposes use of energy efficient lighting to reduce energy requirements of the new developments (visitor centre, car parks), alongside the use of natural material in the visitor centre to improve insulation and thereby the building energy performance;
 - Sustainable material procurement and use through the re-use of excavated materials and re-use of timber on site as much as possible;
 - Further development during detailed design would explore the use of SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) to provide more green spaces.

- 4.12.2 These sustainable design features apply to the redesigned scheme with over 90% of the material being used to construct the Scheme still being sourced in situ.
- 4.12.3 The principle of sustainable design is at the heart of Government policy for new development and is fully embedded within all aspects of the NPPF, not least in Chapter 12 Achieving well-designed and beautiful places, and in paragraphs 135 and 139. Measures to facilitate the delivery of sustainable development are dotted throughout the Framework.
- 4.12.4 The sustainability facets of the Scheme and how they accord with policy have been demonstrated throughout this Statement.
- 4.12.5 Specifically in terms of design, Policy CS16 High Quality Design of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) seeks to encourage development that is designed to a high standard.
- 4.12.6 Policy CP29 Design of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) requires built development to be of an exemplary standard and highly appealing in terms of visual appearance.
- 4.12.7 Insofar as it may be relevant, Policy DES1 Well Designed Places of the EHDC draft consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024) seeks to link the principles of sustainability and good design and requires new development to prioritise avoiding greenhouse gas emissions and supporting climate resilient development through the location, design and layout of new development.
- 4.12.8 The design principles for the consented Scheme were set out in paragraph 1.35 of the Outline Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) submitted as part of the now consented application in 2020. They are reproduced below:

“1.35 The following high-level environmental design principles are embedded into the design of the Scheme and will also provide a framework to guide the preparation of planning applications to discharge reserved matters and planning conditions:

- Create a safe environment to work and play. Use creative and intelligent design to minimise any short and long-term health and safety issues.*
- Maintain and integrate with the rural landscape character and woodland setting, through the design layout and material selection process, and where possible developing soft engineering solutions - limiting structures and ancillary clutter.*
- Design to be sympathetic to and blend in with the historic park and gardens landscape. Specifically considering impact on setting and views to and from the designated sites including the Grade II listed park and gardens, conservation area and South Downs National Park.*
- Design to minimise whole life costs such as maintenance and need for replacement ensuring durability in a challenging public setting and flexibility in the design to manage future requirements.*
- Maintain and enhance public access to the site, optimise opportunities to link to existing walking, cycling and bridleway routes.*

- *Design of the site and all facilities for all ages and abilities.*
- *Incorporate recreational facilities that are in keeping with the quiet enjoyment of the countryside setting, optimising health and wellbeing opportunities.*
- *Optimise educational opportunities in all design elements.*
- *Maximise opportunities for biodiversity in the design of the landscape and buildings and minimise and mitigate any conflict with wildlife through forward planning.*
- *Where possible avoid ancient woodland, an irreplaceable habitat, and maintain a minimum 15m gap as buffer along the boundary (apart from at boundary with Staunton Country Park).*
- *Incorporate public art into the design in an innovative and robust way.*
- *Incorporate interpretation of the wider historic landscape and connections to the Grade II* RPG at Leigh Park and Sir George Staunton Conservation Area.*
- *Optimise opportunities for a sustainable design where practical to include:*
 - o Improving energy efficiency in base design, consider decentralised low carbon energy sources to achieve an overall improvement in operational energy efficiency.*
 - o Improving climate resilience of the reservoir, ensuring management of reservoir flows, considering whole life sustainability impacts.*
 - o Minimising material quantities as much as possible and select alternative low carbon materials in design wherever possible.*
- *Support the UK's Net Zero Carbon target by minimising where practical greenhouse gas emissions at all stages of the infrastructure lifecycle, and maximising opportunities for greenhouse gas removals through sequestration by vegetation and renewable energy generation.*
- *Design infrastructure which is resilient to expected climate change and extreme weather events."*

4.12.9 These design principles remain relevant and applicable to the revisions to the Scheme proposed in the Section 73 applications.

4.12.10 In addition, as part of the process of seeking to discharge conditions attached to the original hybrid planning permission, a CEMP based on the framework set by the OEMP has been produced and submitted to the LPAs for approval. Table 5 on pages 28/29 of the CEMP presents a number of environmental objectives and targets which will be used to assess environmental performance during the construction of the Scheme. A number of these relate to design objectives. The measures are secured through the Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) which is contained in Section 3 of the OEMP and also reproduced in Appendix D of the CEMP. The Addendum to the Engineering and Design Report submitted as part of the Section 73 applications also sets

out the design principles and design parameters for the revised Scheme and demonstrates how a sustainable approach has been adopted in respect of the design of the Scheme.

- 4.12.11 Accordingly, it is demonstrated that the principle of sustainability is at the heart of all aspects of the design of the Scheme, both in terms of its construction and its operation. As such and taking into account the mitigation measures proposed, the Scheme accords with relevant national and local policy on sustainable design.

4.13 South Downs National Park

- 4.13.1 The site does not lie within the boundary of the South Downs National Park but lies close to it on the northern side of the B2149 Manor Lodge Road. The Scheme therefore has the potential to affect the setting of the National Park.
- 4.13.2 Paragraph 182 of the NPPF notes that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and that developments within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on them.
- 4.13.3 Policy CP2 of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) requires that *“new development must fully acknowledge the constraints and opportunities of the South Downs National Park and the form, scale and location of development must ensure that the duty and purposes of the National Park are delivered. In particular, major new development will only be considered if it supports National Park purposes”*.
- 4.13.4 Policy CP20 a) Landscape requires new development to *“conserve and enhance the natural beauty, tranquillity, wildlife and cultural heritage of the South Downs National Park and its setting...”*
- 4.13.5 Policy CP29 b) Design requires new development to *“take particular account of the setting and context of the South Downs National Park where relevant and take account of the (National Park) purposes and duty where the National Park’s setting is affected”*.
- 4.13.6 Insofar as it may be relevant, Policy NBE10 Landscape of the EHDC draft consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024) notes at NBE10.2d that *“development proposals will be supported where there will be no significant impact to the setting of the South Downs National Park, with regard to its special qualities (including dark skies), tranquillity and essential characteristics of the National Park. Development proposals must be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the South Downs National Park.”*
- 4.13.7 Further guidance on these matters of tranquillity and dark skies are provided in policies SD7 Relative Tranquillity and SD8 Dark Night Skies in the South Downs Local Plan (2010) noting, as above, that the Scheme is not located within the boundary of the National Park
- 4.13.8 As noted in the officer’s committee report recommending the grant of planning permission for the consented scheme in 2021 (paragraphs 7.69 to 7.71):

“7.69 At this point the character of the area is influenced by the urban fringe and major infrastructure. The landscape has a good level of containment due to the

presence of woodland and field hedgerows, providing significant screening between the SDNP and the scheme.

7.70 During construction, there would be no alteration to the landscape adjacent to the SDNP boundary. However, works to construct the northern access road to the reservoir site would be visible in a very localised area along B2149 Manor Lodge Road. The proposed junction is heavily screened by the presence of The Holt woodland on the southern boundary, which is within the SDNP. The new access route would also be used for construction traffic during the reservoir construction, so would result in a temporary increase in activity in the area, thus likely to reduce tranquillity within the localised area during this period.

7.71 Following the completion of the development the new road junction would become a permeant feature on B2149 Manor Lodge Road. The new road junction would be in character with other similar road junctions already present on B2149. The new road junction and reservoir site are well screened from the SDNP by existing woodland being retained. Once construction is complete the access route would be only used by visitors to the reservoir, while this would result in some new activity at the edge of the SDNP, impact on the tranquillity within the immediate area is likely to be negligible, given the existing traffic conditions. As such it is considered that the proposal would conserve the character and setting of the SDNP.”

- 4.13.9 The revised scheme will not change the relationship between the Scheme and the National Park. Accordingly, it is considered that the previous assessment and consideration of these impacts as summarised above, taking into account the mitigation measures proposed, still stand and that the revised Scheme accords with relevant policy in respect the setting of the National Park.

4.14 Cumulative / in-combination effects

- 4.14.1 In addition to the individual environmental impacts addressed above it is possible that cumulative impacts may arise from the combined effects of different individual impacts and also from the combined effects of impacts from the Scheme when considered alongside other development projects in the vicinity of the reservoir site.
- 4.14.2 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to consider the cumulative and in-combination effects of development in a number of different contexts and scenarios as follows. With regard to the Section 73 applications, these contexts include:
- The application of the presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 49a)
 - Highways impacts (paragraph 115)
 - Flood risk (paragraph 166)
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (paragraph 186b)

- Pollution (paragraph 191)
 - Air Quality (paragraph 192)
 - Impacts on the natural and historic environment and human health (paragraph 217b)
- 4.14.3 Policy CS12 Chichester Harbour AoNB of the Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011) requires applicants for planning permission to carefully assess the impact of individual proposals and their cumulative effect on the Chichester Harbour AoNB and its setting
- 4.14.4 Policy CP23 Gaps between settlements of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (2014) seeks to resist development within gaps where the development would not compromise its integrity either individually or cumulatively with other existing or proposed development.
- 4.14.5 Insofar as they may be relevant, policies NBE10 Landscape, NBE11 Gaps between settlements, DGC1 Infrastructure, DGC2 Sustainable transport all infer, either directly in the policy wording or through elaboration in the supporting text, that cumulative impacts on these policy matters must be assessed by applicants for planning permission.
- 4.14.6 The cumulative and in-combination effects of the Scheme as consented in 2021 were assessed in Chapter 19 Cumulative and In-Combination Effects of the 2020 ES. Chapter 18 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES assesses cumulative and in-combination impacts in respect of the following receptors (paragraph 18.5.12 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES):
- Human receptors: residents, including community and private assets, sensitive receptors, cyclists, pedestrians and vulnerable groups;
 - Ecological receptors: protected species and existing habitats;
 - The water environment;
 - Heritage assets;
 - Ground conditions; and
 - Landscape receptors.
- 4.14.7 The conclusion in the 2020 ES was that, taking into account the mitigation measures proposed as part of the development, and assuming that the other developments considered in the assessment delivered the mitigation proposed as part of those schemes, while there may be temporary and minor impacts (primarily during construction) none of these cumulative or in-combination impacts were considered significant in ES terms (see paragraphs 19.146 to 19.159 of Chapter 19 Cumulative and in-combination effects of the 2020 ES).
- 4.14.8 Section 18.13 of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES concludes that this position remains unchanged. Accordingly, it is demonstrated that the Section 73 application accords with relevant policy on cumulative and in-combination effects.

4.15 Overall Assessment of Planning Policy and Environmental Matters

- 4.15.1 The Scheme for which consent is now sought through the Section 73 applications is very similar in nature and extent to the consented hybrid permission scheme. Due to further extensive ground investigations changes are proposed to the alignment and design of the main embankment to reduce the slopes resulting in a larger footprint. This also results in changes to the position of the crest line of the main embankment however, the height would remain as consented. As a consequence of the amendments to the main embankment the reservoir culvert is lengthened, and the location of the control house adjusted. It is also proposed that the valve tower be relocated outside the inner core of the main embankment in order to maintain an uninterrupted homogenous core along the full length of the main embankment. The construction programme for the Scheme is extended to 2031.
- 4.15.2 The proposed amendments do not increase the capacity of the reservoir nor change the planning application boundary.
- 4.15.3 The ES Addendum to the 2020 ES assesses the impacts of the proposed changes including cumulative / in-combination impacts. The conclusion of the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES is, consistently, that the revisions to the Scheme will give rise to no new or significantly different impacts over those identified in the 2020 ES. In a number of instances the revisions to the Scheme will result in beneficial environmental impacts.
- 4.15.4 The policy assessment in this Planning Statement has considered the Scheme changes in the light of the new evidence but also the changed policy context over that which existed in 2020/21 when the scheme was submitted and consented. This changed policy context includes:
- a new and updated NPPF (December 2023)
 - the withdrawal of the Havant Borough Local Plan in 2022 and
 - an updated EHDC draft consultation draft Regulation 18 Local Plan 2021-2040 (2024)
 - the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Partial Update - Regulation 19 Consultation (2024)
- 4.15.5 The key requirements of the NPPF that are relevant to the consideration of this Section 73 application remain unchanged over those in previous iterations. The adopted local plan policy context remains unchanged.
- 4.15.6 The emerging policy picture is slightly different with the loss of the site allocation for the reservoir and the site's designation as a 'gap-between-settlements' under policy NBE11 of the emerging EHDC Regulation 18 draft local plan. However, three points are relevant in this regard. Firstly, under the provisions of paragraph 48 of the NPPF, little weight can be afforded this emerging plan due to the early stage in its preparation (see paragraph 3.1.7 above). Secondly, and also relating to paragraph 48 of the NPPF, there are unresolved objections (see paragraph 4.2.7 above) to the lack of policy allocation for a new reservoir

in the plan. Thirdly, even if this objection does not result in any change to the draft plan, it has been demonstrated in paragraph 4.2.7 above how the Scheme would accord with policy NBE11 in any event.

- 4.15.7 The assessment of impacts of the revisions to the Scheme presented in the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES, taking into account the mitigation proposed does not give rise to any new or significant impacts over those identified and addressed in respect of the consented scheme. Therefore it is demonstrated that the Scheme accords with relevant national and local policy and, as such, there is no reason why the Section 73 applications should not be granted planning permission.

5 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires planning decisions to be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 5.1.2 Paragraph 11 of the NPPF (2024) introduces a presumption in favour of sustainable development which, for decision-taking means approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay unless the application of policies in the NPPF that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed or any adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.
- 5.1.3 The Section 73 applications seek permission for a number of amendments to a key infrastructure project which is necessary to ensure continuity and sufficiency of water supply in Hampshire. The principle of development has already been established through that grant of hybrid planning permission by the two local planning authorities in 2021. The amendments to the Scheme for which planning permission is sought through the Section 73 applications are relatively minor in the context of the overall Scheme as a whole and do not significantly alter the substance of the consented Scheme and so do not alter the established principle of permission for a reservoir and associated facilities in this location being granted.
- 5.1.4 The environmental impacts of the revisions to the Scheme have been assessed through the ES Addendum to the 2020 ES submitted in support of the consented Scheme. This updated assessment has also taken into account changes in the policy context in the form of updates to the NPPF and emerging draft local planning policies. This updated assessment has also captured new information which has been incorporated in revised plans and control documents which have been (or will be) submitted both as part of the process of discharging conditions attached to the original hybrid planning permission for the consented scheme and/or in applying for reserved matters consent for those elements of the Scheme for which outline permission was granted in the hybrid permission.
- 5.2 The overarching conclusion in ES Addendum to the 2020 ES is that, when taking into account mitigation and compensatory measures proposed both as part of the consented Scheme and the Section 73 applications, the proposed revisions to the consented Scheme give rise to no new or additional significant impacts over those arising from the consented Scheme. The very fact that the original Scheme was consented acknowledges the acceptability in planning terms of those impacts which were, and still are, minor and/or temporary and not significant in ES terms.
- 5.2.1 Accordingly, it is demonstrated in this Planning Statement that the revised Scheme, the subject of the Section 73 applications, accords with national and local policy and so should be granted planning permission. There are no other material planning considerations which would indicate otherwise.

Appendix A

Approved Hybrid Permission Drawings – Part 1 of 2

Appendix A

Approved Hybrid Permission Drawings – Part 2 of 2

Appendix B

Proposed Drawings – Part 1 of 2

Appendix B

Proposed Drawings – Part 2 of 2