

My ref LHB/MR/18b
Ask for Megan Roberts

24th March 2022

Dear Mr Oliver,

LAND NORTH OF OYSTERS, STATION ROAD, HAYLING ISLAND

OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF UP TO 29 DWELLING UNITS AND ASSOCIATED HIGHWAY WORKS WITH ALL OTHER MATTERS RESERVED.

I refer to your letter dated 23rd March 2022 and the detailed drawings and documents viewed on the Havant Borough Council website concerning the above planning application.

The Board's Planning Sub Committee considered this application and **objected** the proposal on the following grounds:

1. The proposed development site is considered a 'Secondary Support Area' under the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (2020). The site is essential to encourage population growth of geese and waders, as Secondary Support Areas support high numbers of juveniles, and is geographically important in terms of encouraging site fidelity and establishing corridors as part of a widespread ecological network.
2. The site is a notable refuge for reptiles, with a large population of slow worms – a species of principle importance under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Thus, any development that will encroach on or damage slow worm habitat is strongly discouraged.
3. There have been records of European Hedgehog populations 0.28km south-east of the site. As hedgehogs are known to travel 1.8km, the proposed development site provides a suitable habitat. There is the potential that hedgehogs utilise the site for shelter and foraging. With British hedgehog populations declining, it is imperative that the development considers the threat to this species and provides a detailed mitigation strategy to offset the dangers.

The Board's Planning Sub Committee understands that the proposed development is part of Havant Borough Council's Five Year Housing Supply scheme, thus is likely to be approved. If this is the case, Langstone Harbour Board advises that tree protection fencing is installed and maintained prior to construction in order to protect trees and hedgerows adjacent to the site. This is advised because said trees are mature, meaning replacing them with saplings is not a viable solution as the benefits provided by the vegetation are not likely to be seen for a long period of time.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Roberts', written over a horizontal line.

Megan Roberts
Environment Officer
Langstone Harbour Board

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