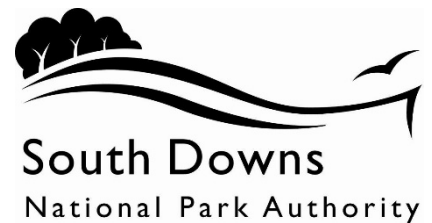


SDNPA Consultation Response
Havant Thicket Reservoir – Phase I
Reserved Matters
EHDC ref: 51680/003 REM
HBC ref: APP/22/00681



08 September 2022

Dear Mr Christie,

Thank you for your letters dated 09 August 2022 requesting the South Downs National Park Authority's views on the further application for reserved matters and the discharge of conditions relating to Phase I of the development previously approved for the Havant Thicket Reservoir Project.

The purpose of this SDNPA response is to consider the impact of the proposed development on the setting and statutory purposes of the National Park, which are:

- 1) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area;
- 2) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

This will be to support Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council in their duty to have regard to the impact of the development on the Purposes of the National Park, as required under S11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as inserted by S62 of the Environment Act 1995).

The principle of the development has been established and agreed under applications APP/20/00990 and 51680/001. We are pleased to note that the final scheme will remain a single track route with passing bays, as this will minimise the potential harm to the Ancient Woodland.

It is noted that the final details of the works to the B2149 and the access itself are subject to a S278 agreement. In determining these final details, we would remind the public bodies involved of their continued duty to have regard to the statutory purposes of the National Park in the ongoing decision making process.

We are pleased to note that no additional lighting is proposed either in association with the works on the B2149 or the new access route. The intention for gateway signage is noted and we would appreciate the opportunity to comment on this when further details are available.

We are also pleased to note the intention to create a permanent non-motorised user route towards the Horndean development site, and to connect to the public right of way network to the north and north-east. This will help provide improved links into the National Park, between the recreational hubs.

Based on the information submitted, it would appear that the more detailed mitigation and compensation strategy, as it relates to off-site works such as Southleigh Forest, will be forthcoming at a later Reserved Matters application. Officers from the SDNPA will continue to work alongside the applicant and other stakeholders in respect of the final details and plans for this strategy.

In conclusion, the SDNPA raises no objection to the details as submitted and will continue to work with the applicant and local authority, as well as other stakeholders, in order to deliver an appropriate mitigation and compensation package.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vicki Colwell (vicki.colwell@southdowns.gov.uk, tel: 01730 819280).

Yours sincerely,

Tim Slaney
Director of Planning

South Downs Centre, North Street,
Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH

T: 01730 814810

E: info@southdowns.gov.uk
www.southdowns.gov.uk

Chief Executive: Trevor Beattie