

**APP/16/00568 | Erection of 33No. retirement apartments (Category II type)
with communal facilities and car parking accessed from St Marys Road. | 117
Elm Grove, Hayling Island, PO11 9ED 16.1052**

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is accompanied by an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Abbas Ecology, January 2016) which provides a basic assessment of the application site. In summary, the site is of limited ecological interest, comprising a public house set within areas of hardstanding and associated scrappy vegetation. There are a number of trees present although these are not considered to be of value in ecological terms. I do not have any overriding concerns in respect to the site's ecological features and do not consider that further surveys are justifiable.

The report does not acknowledge the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP): this site is situated within c.700m of the Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA and therefore would, in the opinion of Natural England, contribute to an in-combination 'likely significant effect' on the SPA. In line with LPA policy, there will need to be a contribution towards the SRMP of £176 per unit, in accordance with Policy DM24 of the Local Plan. The report should have highlighted the presence of several sites nearby which feature in the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) – these sites form a network of supporting habitat for SPA birds and the presence of new residential units in proximity to such sites may lead to increased recreational pressure, impacting the conservation objectives of European designated sites.

Overall, the site is generally unconstrained in terms of ecology and therefore I have no further comments to make other than to state that the ecology report makes no reference to ecological enhancements. Under the Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 all public bodies should seek to encourage environmental gains through development. In this instance, the provision of e.g. bat and bird boxes might be suitable options for site enhancements.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

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