



Environment Agency

Emsworth – Nore Farm Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme

Planning Application

Bio Diversity Statement

Date: 30th March 2014

Version 3.0

Application to Havant Borough Council for the installation of a Flood Alleviation Scheme and wetland habitat to the North of A27 Emsworth.

Biodiversity Statement:

This Biodiversity statement supports the planning application submitted by the Environment Agency for the development of a flood alleviation scheme to the area north of Bridge Road, Emsworth. The purpose of this biodiversity statement is to demonstrate how the planned works will address the following features:

- *Extent and location of habitats and features which could be affected*
- *Likely impacts to designations / priority habitats*
- *How alternative designs and locations have been considered*
- *How adverse impacts will be avoided*
- *How any unavoidable impacts will be mitigated or reduced*
- *How impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated, will be compensated.*
- *Any proposals for enhancements of bio-diversity*

This Biodiversity statement is to be read in conjunction with the completed Biodiversity Checklist included within this application.

Through the creation of wetland ponds and the landscaped embankments, the flood alleviation measures will also improve conditions for wildlife by providing approximately 2 hectares of water-dependent habitat.

The design will incorporate a number of key features intended to improve biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife. These key features include:

- Provision of grassland and shrub planting to the embankments and surrounding spaces,
- South facing slopes to the pond embankments to encourage reptiles.
- Wetland Ponds with aquatic planting
- Additional Hedgerows and trees to support those along the boundary of the A27 embankment in providing foraging habitat.

A walkover of the site undertaken in 2012, confirmed that the site is arable land which has low ecological value. Given the location of the site, the presence of protected species is unlikely and no evidence has been found through previous surveys. However consideration has been given to the potential presence of protected species and other species which may currently rely on this land and in particular the requirement to mitigate any adverse impacts during the construction process. A series of ecological surveys will be undertaken prior to commencement of construction, these will include:

Bats – The existing trees are not considered old enough to be habitat for bats, and thus the likelihood of the presence of bats is low. A survey will be undertaken prior to

construction. Trees removal would be avoided, if bats are identified during this survey.

Badgers – No evidence has been found of badger sets at this location to date, from previous walkover surveys undertaken. However a further survey will be undertaken to check for the presence of these species.

Water Voles & otters – No evidence has been encountered and the output of survey found no water voles or otters present. There will be an ecologist on site to survey and check for the presence of water voles and otters in advance of and during construction.

Reptiles – A walkover survey will be undertaken prior to construction to check for the presence of reptiles at the site or within the corresponding area of the A27 embankment. (Since there are no south facing slopes the presence of reptiles is therefore considered to be very unlikely). The land will be strimmed prior to construction, if reptiles are found to be present then a hybernacular will be provided to improve the capacity of the neighbouring areas they would move on to.

Wintering Birds and breeding birds – The presence of wintering & breeding birds will depend on the season of construction. Trees will be inspected for the presence of nesting birds prior to commencement of the works. Of particular consideration is the presence of Wintering Brent Geese. Brent Geese are known to be present locally however, currently their presence at this site is unlikely; monitoring and surveys will be undertaken prior to commencing works on site. It is of note that the Flood Storage Area once constructed will create a wetland habitat suitable for wintering Brent Geese.

Vascular Plants – Walkover surveys will be undertaken to determine the presence of vascular plants prior to construction, the likelihood is again considered low due to the previous arable land use. If vascular plants are found the area would be segregated by fencing off as a means of protection during the works.

Concluding Points:

The flood storage area will provide wetland habitat that will improve conditions for wildlife.

A programme of surveys is planned during 2014, which will monitor for the presence of protected species. These surveys will be undertaken by suitably qualified personnel. Where the presence of a species is observed the design will be reviewed to ensure habitat is incorporated.