

Karen Wooden

From: Daphney Haywood
Sent: 21 November 2013 13:07
To: bst shared
Subject: FW: APP/13/00639 Land north of Station Road/East of Furniss Way, West Town, Hayling Island 13.0759 Ecology comments for web and meridio

From: Norton, Tristan [mailto:Tristan.Norton@hants.gov.uk]
Sent: 16 October 2013 13:56
To: Daphney Haywood
Cc: 'Thompson, Simon (NE)'
Subject: RE: APP/13/00639 Land north of Station Road/East of Furniss Way, West Town, Hayling Island 13.0759

Hi Daphney,

Many thanks for sending through the recent comments made by the RSPB in respect to this application.

In summary, whilst recognising the RSPB's comments, I consider that the mitigation strategy proposed (which was influenced in no small part by the detailed discussions between the applicant, HBC, HCC and NE on 15th August 2013) is a sensible and pragmatic scenario which provides deliverable mitigation for the identified impacts – both Natural England and I considered the mitigation proposed to be perfectly reasonable. The two key threads of the mitigation strategy – the incorporation of H34D and the enhancement of H34C – will provide both replacement habitat for that being lost to the development as well as offering enhancement (in terms of secure boundaries) to an adjacent important Brent goose site. This would seem to be a sound result. Yes, there will not be a strict like-for-like replacement in terms of area (2.5 Ha lost to development, 1.5 Ha provided) but it was discussed and agreed at our meeting on 15th August that the two-pronged approach to mitigation here (plus developer contributions through SDMP) was robust.

The issue of crop rotation was discussed at our meeting. The applicant stated that to the best of his knowledge the existing farmer (there is apparently a single farmer responsible for the overwhelming bulk of agricultural land on Hayling) employs a crop rotation system (winter wheat every other year) and had done so for many years. If the RSPB are privy to different information then this is not something I can reliably comment on without evidence being presented to me. I should add that I do not see it as the applicant's role to attempt to influence the agricultural practices of local landowners in perpetuity: the mitigation proposed should seek to address, as far as is reasonably practicable, the identified impacts of the proposed development. If my understanding is correct and the winter of 2012/13 is the first winter in 19 years in which geese have not been seen on H34E, then this would suggest that the geese are not overly concerned with the existing crop rotation (whatever that happens to be).

In this case, the combined approach of providing a chunk of 'new' arable farmland (albeit not an exact like for like area, but nevertheless at least contiguous with the application site and thus more ecologically-coherent than off-site mitigation), increased security for an adjacent site and contributions to the SDMP Phase III scheme (when implemented by HBC) is a useful outcome – this is, I would argue, a perfectly sensible and above-all, realistic approach to ecological mitigation.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Senior Ecologist

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From: Daphney Haywood [<mailto:Daphney.Haywood@havant.gov.uk>]

Sent: 07 October 2013 12:19

To: 'Thompson, Simon (NE)'; Norton, Tristan

Subject:

Hi

Please see attached response from the rspb

They are not satisfied with the details/level of mitigation - your comments would be much appreciated.

kind regards

Daphney Haywood

Havant BC

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