

**Miss Verity Giles
Planning Advisor, Environment
Agency**

Direct dial 01794834590

Direct e-mail

[PlanningSSD@environment-
agency.gov.uk](mailto:PlanningSSD@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Our ref: HA/2013/115007/01-L01
Your ref: APP/10/00737

Date: 12 December 2013

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 7 - DECULVERTING AND NEW CHANNEL WORKS METHOD STATEMENT

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL DEPOT, SITE 4, HARTS FARM WAY, HAVANT

Dear Miss Giles,

Please see response below to questions raised in your letter dated 25 November. I have included your original questions in blue and our responses in red.

1) Scale drawings of the proposed streams works. Including existing and proposed cross sections, existing and proposed long section and plan form.

On reviewing drawing 13075/101/JED we consider that the proposed slope of the banks are too steep with particular reference to the lower reaches. We require the design to be amended with the bank slope reduced. Reducing the slope will increase the marginal diversity within the stream, helping to maximise biodiversity gain.

Please see updated drawings

- **Existing Plan View 13075/101/JED**
- **Proposed Plan View of works 13075/102/JED**

2) Details demonstrating, how the biodiversity value of the stream will be enhanced and protected.

At the planning application stage we did not object to the realignment of the stream corridor. This was due to our understanding that the proposed development would deliver biodiversity gain along the new channel corridor.

There have been a number of assessments of the stream corridor detailing the streams ecological value. In our letter sent to Cain Bio Engineering on 1 November 2006 (HA/2006/012557/01-L01), we highlighted the ecological value of the stream. The ECOSA ecological assessment dated August 2013 concludes that the stream value is of low ecological value. The streams value has therefore significantly deteriorated during

this short period. We require a statement that explains how the proposed design will achieve biodiversity gain.

Flows in the channel do appear to be lower than in 2006 however no flow measurements were ever taken for comparison.

The new stream will provide the basis required for a healthy chalkstream and will be adaptable to potentially fluctuating water flows.

Key features of the scheme include.

- Weir Removal reconnecting the stream and allowing in river species to move freely within the channel.
- Maximisation of the gradient by installation of a riffle below the ponded area.
- Retaining existing pond habitat by installation of a riffle below the ponded area.
- Clean gravel bed to be established during construction.
- Gravel bed to be built with deeper and shallower areas.
- Meander sequence producing a variety of fast and slow flow velocities within the channel
- Extensive marginal areas and bufferzone.
- 2 Stage channel providing resilience to changing flow regimes.
- 2 stage channel and meander sequence will maximise water velocities to provide areas of self maintaining clean gravel beds.
- Clearance of existing scrub areas and planting with native marginal species (planting list on drawing)

3) Details demonstrating, how the buffer zone will be protected post completion of the realignment and managed/maintained over the longer term. Including adequate financial provision and named body responsible for management plus production of detailed management plan.

The Buffer zone will be protected by fencing the channel works and buffer zone during construction of the rest of the scheme.

Homes Communities Agency (HCA) will retain the freehold of the communal areas of Site 4 and maintain them as required. It will be funded by HCA's own resources for vacant plots and service charge contributions for purchased plots. Once all the plots are sold there is provision and the intention to set up a management company which will take the freehold of the communal areas and hence responsibility to maintain them. The ownership of the management company will be transferred to the plot owners in due course.

Management Plan

Defects period

For a period of 1 year after construction the site will be inspected regularly by a competent contractor and adjustments carried out as required, this could include.

- Reprofilng of the gravels to achieve the optimum habitat diversity.
- Removal of self seeding saplings
- Replacement of any dead plants with new ones and adjusting the species mix if required.
- Removal of rubbish and in stream blockages.

After the Defects Period

- Removal of self seeding saplings – leaf litter and overshadowing of the channel will limit the potential of the stream
- Replacement of any dead plants with new ones and adjusting the species mix if required.
- The buffer zones and stream should be periodically cleared of rubbish and disposed of appropriately.
- If management of the in stream vegetation is required this would need to be carried out by a specialist in accordance with Environment Agency best practice to avoid environmental damage.
- Monitoring for the presence of invasive species should be carried out and if found managed in accordance with Environment Agency [guidelines](#)

4) Details of any proposed fencing, lighting etc, along the stream corridor.

There are no plans to fence the buffer zone and the road will be lit to highways standards.

5) We are in broad agreement with the proposed method statement. However, the method statement should include measures to remove fish from the current channel, before in filling. Unless it can be demonstrated that there is no significant risk.

This has been added to the method statement version 2, copy supplied.

If you have any question then please get in contact.

Yours sincerely

Peter Easton
01725 467003