

David Eaves
Havant Borough Council

By Email only: planning.development@havant.gov.uk

30 August 2013

Dear Mr Eaves

Proposal: Application for Certificate of Lawful proposed development relating to taking off and landing of model helicopters and parking for members

Location: Verner Common, Copse Lane, Hayling Island

Ref: 13/00749

The above application has been brought to our attention. We wish to **OBJECT** to the proposal to legitimise the use of model helicopters at this extremely sensitive site.

We have seen the response from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (letter of 21 August 2013), and fully support their concerns regarding the disturbance of the activities to roosting and feeding waders and wildfowl which form part of the Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA). Our own observations confirm the Trust's view that the activity does certainly appear to displace wintering and passage waterbirds from the high tide roost at Verner Common.

While we understand the limitations of the Council's consideration of a Certificate of Lawful Development application, as the activity is likely to be causing disturbance to the SPA interest features, we consider that the tests of the Habitats Regulations should apply. We recommend that Natural England's advice should be sought on this matter.

Should the Council be minded to issue a Certificate of Lawful Development, we would strongly recommend that options are explored to secure restrictions on the activity in order to minimise future impacts on the SPA. For example, a restriction to prevent the use of the site during the core winter period (November to February inclusive), or to prevent the activity taking place 1 hour either side of high tide, when the site will be most sensitive to disturbance. As a minimum, such measures could be implemented via a voluntary Code of Conduct.

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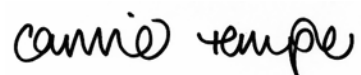
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I hope that these comments are helpful. Please do get in touch should you wish to discuss our comments in further detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Temple". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Carrie" and the last name "Temple" clearly distinguishable.

Carrie Temple

Senior Conservation Officer

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